

Citizens for Public Justice
2022 Annual General Meeting
May 26, 2022

Attendance: 25 (meeting held on Zoom)

Recorder: Karri Munn-Venn

Minutes

1. Opening

Cherilyn Spraakman opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all who joined this evening. She acknowledged that we are on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples. She followed with a prayer by Julian of Norwich.

2. Agenda Review

Motion: To approve the agenda as distributed. M/S Marlene Bergsma / Charles Kooger Carried

3. Minutes of 2020 AGM

Motion: To approve the 2021 minutes as distributed. M/S Ian Van Haren / Marlene Bergsma Carried

It was noted that the 2021 minutes included an addendum from the June 2021 Board meeting, during which returning Board members were reaffirmed.

4. Chairperson's Report

Cherilyn noted that 2021, another year under pandemic restrictions, has featured highs and lows for CPJ. A high note was the Seeking Justice Together Conference in May. She acknowledged the talent, imagination, and resilience of the CPJ staff demonstrated throughout the year. She also highlighted, with sadness, the death Stephen Kaduuli. Cherilyn noted with thanks the work of Communications Coordinators, Brad Wassink who resigned in May, and Deb Mebude, who filled in for the summer, and Maryo Wahba join the staff in the position in November. She expressed gratitude that in 2021 CPJ returned to having a full-time intern, Ruva Gwekwerere. Cherilyn thanked retiring Board members: Adrienne Castellon, Martha Wiebe, and Nick Van Dyk; she also welcomed those who had joined in June 2021: Keira Kang, Tanielle Patterson, Monica Tang, and Ian Van Haren. Cherilyn thanked all members of the Board of Directors for faithfully attending the many Board and committee meetings, engaging in honest and amicable conversations, and embracing the commitment to equity and anti-oppression in CPJ's work. Finally, she thanked CPJ's generous supporters and celebrated the bounty of blessings.

5. Executive Director Report

Willard Metzger noted the profound impact that the sudden death of Stephen Kaduuli, our refugee rights policy analyst, had on staff. He expressed with gratitude the healing embrace of God felt through the tremendous outpouring of support that compelled us forward. Willard emphasized CPJ's ongoing commitment to ensuring that our research and advocacy has been aimed at persuading the government to protect the most marginalized people in Canada. He noted that our faith-inspired work continued to strengthen the call for more ambitious climate action and to raise awareness about the disproportionate impacts and risks of contact among those who are already living in poverty. Despite advancements, however, he noted that more

needs to be done to transform commitments into concrete impact. In closing, Willard expressed appreciation for the care and commitment of CPJ members, allowing CPJ to remain strong through this second year of pandemic impact. New hires in the fall equipped us to recover our stride. We are ready to press forward, to be all we can be, so that all can be who they were created to be.

6. Treasurer Report

Having been impacted by the storms that hit Ottawa, Nick Van Dyk was unable to attend the AGM. In his stead, Cherilyn read his written report, referring to the financial statement that was included in the Annual Report. Generous donations, government pandemic support, a successful justice conference, the new refugee rights fund, and CSS interest income all contributed to a surplus of \$10,000 for 2021 (despite having approved a projected deficit of \$71,000). Cherilyn also noted David Pollock's recent retirement and thanked him for his many years of service.

Motion: To receive the financial statement for 2021. M/S David Pollock/ Michael DeMoor.

Carried

Motion: To approve the 2022 budget has distributed. M/S Lee Hollaar / Michael DeMoor.

Carried

(projected deficit of \$88,000)

Motion: To appoint the firm Ouseley Harvey Clipsham LLP as the auditors for 2021.

M/S Ian Van Haren / Michael DeMoor. Carried

7. Election of new board members

The slate of new Board of Directors was presented as follows:

Cathy Rogers and Vincent Yagayandi

Motion: To affirm the above board nominees. M/S Ian Van Haren/ Daniel Cho. Carried

Motion: To approve the election of Daniel Cho for his second three-year term.

M/S Marlene Bergsma / Joe Gunn Carried

Motion: To approve the election of Paul Berry for his second three-year term.

M/S Marlene Bergsma / Michael DeMoor. Carried

Motion: To destroy the ballots. M/S Charles Kooger / Michael DeMoor. Carried

8. Questions from the floor

- 1) Given the long-time engagement of the same auditors, might it be time to look elsewhere?
Michael DeMoor responded that this question was considered by the finance committee, and they will be looking to recommend a change soon.
- 2) What strategy is in place to address the deficit?
Willard responded that it is anticipated that over time the establishment of local chapters will serve as a source of new members (and resources). Some grant requests also remain outstanding while others are in the works. Michael DeMoor added that the deficit is in part due to the Cooper office lease and that that ends in July.
- 3) Were the results of the mail-in ballots tabulated?
Michael Krakowiak confirmed that all of the 28 ballots collected were all positive votes.

9. Closing

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm EST.