

Parkdale Project Read (PPR)
1209 King Street West, Unit 2
Toronto, Ontario M6K 1G2

PPR Board of Directors' Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: October 26, 2021

Time: 6 - 8 PM (EST)

Location: Meeting was held virtually on Zoom*

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Claudia Calabro (she/her), Bev Bird (she/her), Linzi Manicom (she/her), Angie Chew (she/her), Laura Cameron (she/her).

Regrets: Phylicia Davis-Wessling (she/her), Kitty Bhogal (she/her), Amritha Bhagwan (she/her).

Collective members present: Jo Alcampo (they/them), Mary Brehaut (she/her), Alicia Simmons (she/her).

Members present: see attached Members' Attendance Sheet.

Opening items: 6.05 pm

Claudia Calabro introduced herself as Co-Treasurer of the Board and Chair of this meeting. She explained that the Board Co-Chairs, Phylicia Davis-Wessling and Kitty Bhogal, were unable to be present. She welcomed everyone to the 35th Annual General Meeting and gave a short statement on the current status of PPR.

The meeting was called to order at 6.10 pm. Claudia read the land/treaty acknowledgement which was shown on screen at the same time.

Linzi Manicom, Board member, read a message from Board Co-Chairs (in absentia) in which they thanked current Board members, noting the tragic loss of member Premal Laxman. They also thanked PPR Collective, program and administrative staff for their work in successfully delivering programs online.

Introduction of Board Members:

Claudia introduced current Board members: Angie Chew as Co-Treasurer, Linzi Manicom as Acting Secretary, Bev Bird, Laura Cameron, and Amritha Bhagwan.

Guest Speakers:

The Chair welcomed guest speaker, Bhutila Karpoche, MPP for Parkdale-High Park.

Bhutila praised what she called the foundational and important work that PPR does. Acknowledging PPR's 35th anniversary, Bhutila commended PPR's resilience as an organization, characterizing it as not so much volunteer-run as "people powered". She thanked PPR for inviting her to speak and offered her ongoing support.

Claudia thanked Bhutila and introduced Gord Perks, Toronto City Councillor and long-time supporter of PPR and adult literacy.

Gord noted that PPR is one of the organizations that makes Parkdale the unique neighbourhood that it is, where community organizations support one another and are committed to social justice as being fundamental to their practice. Gord echoed Bhutila's offer of assistance and support for PPR whenever needed.

Claudia thanked Gord for his message.

Business items

Approval of Agenda:

The Chair read the AGM agenda. Bev Bird moved and Laura Cameron seconded approval of the agenda.

Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes:

Bev Bird read the minutes of the 2020 AGM. Griffin Epstein moved to approve the minutes; Nada Ibrahim seconded.

Introduction of the PPR Team:

The current Collective staff introduced themselves: Jo Alcampo (they/them), Alicia Simmons (she/her), and Mary Brehaut (she/her). Jo explained that the Collective staff are responsible for the daily operations of PPR, and they work in a respectful collaboration with the Board. While in-person activities had been on pause, the Collective worked to ensure communication with everyone by phone, email, and mail-outs.

The Collective expressed gratitude to volunteers as an integral part of the team and introduced the newest members of the team: Martha Girvin (she/her), Digital Literacy Specialist, Maxwell Homes (he/him), Office Administrative Assistant, and Roma Safi (she/her), Community Literacy Worker.

Evaluation: Volunteer Survey & Community Meetings

Annie Luk (she/her), PPR volunteer tutor and Program Committee member, outlined the results of the Volunteer Survey conducted in summer by the Programming Committee. Following this Linzi reported on the key themes emerging from three Community Meetings held earlier in October which explored learners' experiences of the shift to online learning. (The reports are available on request).

Linzi thanked learners and the facilitators of the PPR groups for their constructive feedback and for giving their time to this activity. Jo thanked Linzi and Annie for this work.

Programming Highlights:

Jo shared PPR's programming highlights between April 2020 and March 2021.

Acknowledgements:

Mary and Alicia recognized past Program Staff who made significant contributions to PPR during the 2020–21 Program Year: Negin Jamali, Alicia Simmons, Ericka Delgado Flores, and Samira Khatib.

Mary and Alicia also recognized past Collective members for their significant contributions to PPR during the 2020–21 year and beyond: Musammat Badrunnesha, Arjae Chevalier, and Kai Wong.

Jo acknowledge and celebrated all of the learners, the Program and Administrative staff, the volunteer tutors, and Board for all that they give, in their own ways, to PPR.

Co-Treasurers' Report:

Angie Chew introduced the report noting that 2020 has been a challenging year for many in face of the global pandemic. She acknowledged PPR's main funder, the Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development, for its continued support of our program and thanked PPR's bookkeeper, Michele Williams, for her expertise and continued support in managing the organization's finances. She thanked all of PPR's community partners, donors and sponsors who contributed

their time and energy to helping raise funds for 2020-2021, and thanked the co-treasurers, auditor, and Collective staff for ensuring PPR meets its fiscal responsibilities.

Claudia thanked her Co-Treasurer for presenting the report (available on request).

Financial Report & Auditor Motions:

A motion to accept the Co-Treasurers' Financial Report was proposed by Griffin Epstein, seconded by Nada Ibrahim. The Co-Treasurers' Financial Report was accepted.

Claudia noted that the Financial Report was audited by Jarvis, Ryan and Associates who have served as PPR's auditors since 2019.

A motion to appoint Jarvis & Ryan & Associates as the auditor for the 2021–22 fiscal year was made by Bev Bird, and seconded by Chris Caron. Jarvis & Ryan & Associates were approved as the auditor for the 2021–22 fiscal year.

Board Elections & Acknowledgements:

A motion to accept the returning Board members (Phylcia Davis-Wessling (Co-Chair), Angie Chew (Co-Treasurer), Claudia Calabro (Co-Treasurer), Bev Bird, and Laura Cameron) was made by Martha Girvin, seconded by Griffin Epstein. The returning Board members were accepted.

Claudia acknowledged the contributions of outgoing Board members, Kitty Bhogal and Linzi Manicom.

Claudia thanked the Nominations Committee for their hard work in recruiting new Board members and introduced the four candidates nominated for election to the Board: Amanda (Ama) Scriver (she/her), Annie Luk (she/her), Arjae Chevalier (they/them), and Peter Steven (he/him).

The three candidates who were present spoke briefly about their skills and experience and their interest in joining the PPR Board.

Claudia asked for a membership majority to elect the 2021–22 Board of Directors. Anyone opposed was asked to raise their hands. The vote was unanimously in favour.

Adjournment:

Charlene Grandison moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting; Angie seconded. The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

***Note:** This was PPR's second online AGM, due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Motions and votes were captured using a mixture of voice and video, the Zoom platform "thumbs up" icon, and/or via users typing "approve" into the meeting chat window. While there were small technical hiccups along the way, everyone present did their best to preserve the sense of community and trust that has characterized PPR's AGMs until now.