



**Houselink Community Homes  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2019**

**Present:** Phillip Dufresne (Chair), Linda McNeil, Mary Modeste, Joann Sochor, Colette Snyder, Mark Guttridge, Natalie Ochrym, Douglas Jordan

**On Phone:** Richa Jagota

**Regrets:** Hugh Cameron, Charles Finlay

**Staff:** Brian Davis, Helen Cheung, Carol Thames, Monica Vaus (minutes)

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Mary Modeste

Seconded by: Linda McNeil

Carried

**Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest declared

**Consent Agenda Items**

Moved by: Colette Snyder

Seconded by: Joann Sochor

Carried

**Business Arising or Any Consent Agenda Items requiring action or further discussion**

This morning, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, was the first meeting of advocates who issued a media release requesting that the City of Toronto declare the Toronto homelessness and housing crisis a State of Emergency. With extreme cold warnings in place, a record number of people experiencing homelessness, an affordable housing crisis in our city, and an overflowing shelter system, it is time Mayor Tory and Toronto City Council declare a State of Emergency. By declaring a human rights crisis, the advocates hope to bring together the 3 levels of government to develop an urgent housing plan.

On January 30, Toronto City Council is debating whether or not they take action on our homelessness and housing crisis in Toronto. Many organizations will be presenting deputations. Brian will be presenting a deputation he is working on as Chair of the Development Working Group of the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness.

**Action: Brian to report more on the deputation and debate next month.**

## **Participant Funds Report**

Carol presented a report on the 2018 year of operation of The Peggy Birnberg Legacy Fund, the Families Moving Forward Fund, and the Participant Education Fund. These Participant Funds are the result of our collective fundraising efforts, including the generous annual donation from the Carole Tanenbaum family towards the Peggy Birnberg Fund.

Some noteworthy highlights of this good news report included:

- Repair of a scooter which provides much needed mobility and is not covered anywhere else
- 9 people who created a social gathering network to defeat loneliness and isolation often experienced by participants during the holiday season
- Graduation photos in celebration of the successful return to school of a participant after several decades had passed
- 9 skills upgrade for employment opportunities
- A boy who was bullied regained his self-esteem and new confidence after enrolling in a youth karate club

In summary, the Peggy Birnberg Fund processed 23 successful applications and distributed \$8,089.27. The Families Moving Forward and Participant Education Fund awarded \$13,289.55 to 46 individuals and families. Therefore, a total of \$21,378.82 was distributed to 69 Participants.

The Board thanked Carol for the report and agreed that the Participant Funds Report is a particular favourite as it demonstrates the significant intangible as well as tangible benefits resulting from these unique funds.

## **Motion to Receive the Participants Fund Report**

Moved by: Mary Modeste

Seconded by: Natalie Ochrym

Carried

## **Risk Management Framework**

The Risk Management Framework distributed prior to the meeting was reviewed.

Some of the highlighted key changes to the report included:

- Repeal of Bill 148 and some movement in the supportive employment program
- Adding the work we have done to improve staff and participant safety
- Development of a de-briefing template for major catastrophes ie. fires
- The TCLHIN's roll out of community rate harmonization

## **Motion to Receive the Risk Management Framework**

Moved by: Joann Sochor

Seconded by: Colette Snyder

Carried

**Generative Discussion: Retreat Planning for Spring**

The Board considered a few options for the retreat. The Board decided to spend time tweaking or renewing the strategic plan as we are entering the third year of our strategic planning cycle.

**Action: Brian to pull dates from March and April for the Saturday retreat and Monica to send out a doodle poll.**

**In-Camera Check-in Motion**

Moved by: Mary Modeste  
Seconded by: Natalie Ochrym  
Carried

**Out-of-Camera Check-In Motion**

Moved by: Colette Snyder  
Seconded by: Linda McNeil  
Carried

**Adjournment**

Moved by: Douglas Jordan  
Seconded by: Mary Modeste  
Carried