



**Houselink Community Homes
Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2020**

Present (zoom): Phillip Dufresne (Chair), Carole King, Steve Rogers, Mary Modeste, Joann Sochor, Colette Snyder, Natalie Ochrym, Linda McNeil, Douglas Jordan, Charles Finlay, Richa Jagota

Guest: Andy Ip, future Board Director

Staff: Brian Davis, Helen Cheung, Karen Hazelton, Monica Vaus (minutes)

Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Steve Rogers
Seconded by: Carole King
Carried

Conflict of Interest

None

Consent Agenda Items

Moved by: Colette Snyder
Seconded by: Linda McNeil
Carried

Business Arising & Any Consent Agenda Items Requiring Action or Further Discussion

The good news is that the Federal Government recently announced a Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) to help address urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians by rapidly creating new affordable housing. This \$1 billion initiative will cover the construction of modular housing, as well as the acquisition of land, and the conversion of existing buildings to affordable housing.

Financial Health First Quarter Report

Joann reported that the first quarter is tracking fairly close to previous years. While Covid remains the wild card, the expenses are not unusual and there is not much variance from previous years.

Motion to Receive

Moved by: Natalie Ochrym
Seconded by: Joann Sochor
Carried

Management Letter

The letter dated July 31, 2020 from the Houselink auditors Prentice Yates and Clark was distributed prior to the Board meeting. The auditors suggested that the Houselink Board review all the adjusting entries prior to end of year.

Action: Joann and Karen will review the adjusting entries every quarter.

Motion to Receive the Management Letter and Adopt the Suggestions

Moved by: Joann Sochor

Seconded by: Natalie Ochrym

Carried

Board Work-plan

Brian reviewed the key changes to this year's schedule as outlined on page 2 of the ED report.

Integration/CWG Update

September has marked a very busy time re-invigorating of our integration work with Mainstay as well as our leadership work in integrating the supportive housing sector in Toronto. The Community Housing Transformation Centre has been an incredible support to us, supporting our tenant engagement activities by \$50,000, and moving forward on integrating our financial and property service functions with \$65,000. Just a week ago, we have had the confirmation that we are being awarded \$300,000 to establish a development organization to support the Supportive Housing Growth Plan's goal of housing renewal and expansion. The "we" being the TAEH SHGP planning table with Mainstay as the trustee.

A decision needs to be made on how best to involve participants in the upcoming vote, and making sure that those who are interested in being a voting member, are well informed and receive the amalgamation package which is a fairly dense legal document.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to a targeted approach of sending a letter to all participants/members along with a membership form. The letter will come from the Board of Directors with a deadline of October 23rd to become a registered voting member of Houselink. The letter will encourage Houselink participants to get in touch with someone on the engagement team so they are fully aware of the rationale, and the forthcoming agreement.

Action: Joann volunteered to go through the Houselink Membership Policies in our By-laws #7 to make certain the Board is doing its due diligence and not missing a step.

Black Lives Matter Statement

During the summer, the Anti-Oppression Committee in collaboration with the Black Caucus created this statement and Brian promised to bring it to the Board for endorsement. The committee and Caucus are only comprise of staff.

Houselink stands with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities who are fighting for justice against racism in all forms. We stand ready to do our part to ensure that racism is never an issue that only BIPOC care about. People within these communities, experience overt, covert and systemic racism on a daily basis, and only when this is acknowledged, understood, and challenged can it be eliminated. Each of us MUST commit to educating ourselves, to be aware of our white privilege and to begin to dismantle our internalized biases. We have the responsibility to make a change by standing up, and calling out injustice and racism whenever and wherever we are witness to it.

As a first step towards this goal, our Anti-Oppression and Anti-Racism Committee is working on a training curriculum designed to build more awareness in how white privilege and racism is experienced here at Houselink, as well as strategies we can use to combat it. Houselink will seek advice, guidance and leadership from the Black Caucus for all of this work.

Houselink is committed to do the work that is necessary to eliminate Anti-Black racism, Anti-Indigenous racism and all other forms of racialized and systemic oppression, in order to move toward to a fair and just society.

This statement will appear on our Houselink website.

Action: To flag to the Committees the point that it is important to consult with Indigenous people and ensure participants of Houselink services are engaged in this work.

Motion to Endorse the Statement of the Staff Anti-Oppression Committee and the Staff Black Caucus

Moved by: Steve Rogers
Seconded by: Colette Snyder
Carried

Motion to go In-Camera

Moved by: Carole King
Seconded by: Joann Sochor
Carried

Motion to go Out-of-Camera

Moved by: Carole King
Seconded by: Steve Rogers
Carried

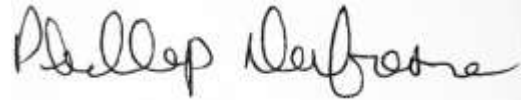
Adjournment

Moved by: Mary Modeste

Seconded by: Joann Sochor

Carried

Minutes approved as presented

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Dufresne", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Phillip Dufresne, Chair

October 27, 2020