

Glebe Report Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, by Zoom

In attendance: Jennifer Humphries, Andy Joyce – Co-Chairs, Beatrice Keleher-Raffoul – Recording Secretary, John MacNab, Louise Rachlis, Martha Bowers, Lynn McAuley (guest speaker), Vaughn Guy, Valerie Bryce, Line Lønnum, Paul Wu, Liz McKeen, Patricia Lightfoot, Jeanette Rive, Murray Kronick, Judy Field, Barbara Riley, Sophie Shields, Steve Zan, Marian Read, Paul Wernick, Tamara Merritt.

1. Co-Chair Andy Joyce opened the meeting at 7:03, welcomed participants and set out some of the meeting protocols.
2. The draft Agenda was proposed by Andy Joyce, seconded by John MacNab, and carried.
3. Guest Speaker, Lynn McAuley, was welcomed and spoke to “Local Journalism Matters.” She referred to her experience over a career of 40 years in journalism; she retired last July. She spoke about the importance of newspapers in reporting and demanding accountability, while noting that 300 newspapers and local radio stations had closed in recent years. In addition she highlighted that people are desperate to read news, despite all the negatives. She noted that the most-read pieces remain investigative journalism articles due to their exacting standards, the length of time to properly document – she referred to stories involving restaurant inspections, safe drinking water in schools, the garment industry overseas, highlighting how projects are chosen for investigation. She responded to a number of questions regarding the value of local journalism and journalists’ responsibility to get at the truth.
4. Approval of Minutes of last AGM held September 21, 2020
 - Moved by Patricia Lightfoot, seconded by Steve Zan. **Approved.**
5. **Co-Chairs’ Report:**
 - Co-Chair Andy Joyce indicated that 2020-21 had been a difficult year due to the pandemic, including business closures and a decline in advertising. Difficult decisions were taken to provide May and June editions of the *Glebe Report* on line only, going back to both print and on-line in August. As well, January and February issues were consolidated. Nevertheless the Report continued to offer excellent, pertinent articles.
 - Financially the *Report* saw a small negative balance for the year.
 - An insurance review resulted in lower costs.
 - A review of telephone and internet requirements resulted in obtaining superior service at lower cost.
 - The newspaper boxes continued to be well used by Glebe and Old Ottawa South residents.
 - We continued to place more emphasis on social media over the year.

- New editorial and advertising policies have been developed.
- Andy Joyce thanked advertisers and readers without whom there would be no report.
- Liz McKeen, Judy Field and John MacNab were recognized for their extraordinary contributions.
- The tremendous and large number of volunteers were thanked profusely.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Line Lønnum highlighted the challenging year, noting that 2020-21 ended with a deficit while there had been a profit the year before. However we still maintained a strong cash position.
- The Board recommended the reappointment of the firm Baker Tilly as Accounting and Audit firm for the fiscal year ending November 30, 2021.

Motion to appoint by John MacNab, seconded by Patricia Lightfoot. **Approved.**

7. Editor's Report:

- Editor Liz McKeen referred to 2020 as an annus horribilis. The pandemic began for the production team on Friday, March 13, 2020 when they put finishing touches on the March issue, sent it to press and walked out of their office at the Glebe Community Centre. They have been working from home ever since.
- The April issue became the pandemic issue covering travel trauma getting home from abroad, having a pandemic baby, working at home, etc. Since then coverage has mostly been about distractions, environment and sustainability. She said that the team is trying to reflect the Glebe pandemic experience – feelings, thoughts, concerns, reactions, and how people are coping. Emphasis on distractions: films, nature, birds, books, poetry, food.
- She has tried to bring in students, seniors, profiles of Glebites, letters to the editor, local artists. Cover art & photography spotlights local artists.
- No shortage of contributions!
- Editorial and advertising policies were approved over the past year and posted on the website.
- Increased on-line and social media presence. Continued sending an e-Newsletter alerting subscribers to each new issue. Now have 1839 Twitter followers, 936 Instagram followers, 444 Facebook followers, 534 e-Newsletter subscribers, and 4,500 page views last month.
- In conclusion, Liz extended thanks to Roger Smith, Jock Smith, Sophie Shields, Peter Polgar, Micheline Boyle, JC Sulzenko, Martha Bowers and Jeanette Rive. She offered many thanks to all of the excellent production team and to the many regular columnists and contributors.
- She encouraged all AGM participants to consider sending in an item – a memoir, a news item, or a startling photo.
- She said the *Glebe Report* is a composite of all of residents' contributions and it gets richer the more they participate.

8. Confirm Special Resolution Amending Section 32 of the General By-Laws, permitting a one-year extension of a director's term after expiration of second consecutive term:

Andy presented the Special Resolution: "The Directors in their sole discretion may extend the term of a Director whose second term of three years as a Director has or is about to expire for a period of one (1) year or until the next following Annual General Meeting whichever shall first occur."

- Moved by Vaughn Guy, seconded by: Jennifer Humphries. **Approved.**

9. Extension of Directors' Terms and Elections:

- Motion by Jennifer Humphries and seconded by Steve Zan that the terms of John MacNab, Beatrice Keleher-Raffoul and Andy Joyce be extended for one year. **Approved.**
- Motion by John MacNab and seconded by Beatrice Keleher-Raffoul that Jennifer Humphries and Line Lønnum be elected for a second term. **Approved.**
- Motion by John MacNab and seconded by Line Lønnum to elect Shabana Ansari and Vaughn Guy for a first term of three years. **Approved.**
- It was noted that the remaining Directors, Steve Zan and Patricia Lightfoot, will continue until their current terms expire.
- Andy noted that there are openings for Directors and a call was out. Participants were asked to consider coming forward and to share the opportunity with friends and family.

10. Other Business:

A question was asked about whether we had ever applied for not-for-profit dollars through the Canada Summer Jobs program or any other program. Also asked was whether we are considering setting-up a TikTok account. Consideration will be given by follow up with GRA members.

11. Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Steve Zan, seconded by John MacNab. **Approved.**