**Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation**

**Annual General Meeting**

**June 21, 2021 by Zoom**

**Present Board:** John Heinegg – Chair, John Grayson – Vice Chair, Jack Hornstein – Treasurer, Katherine Ronan – Secretary, Carlyn Bishop, Peter Wardle, Bee Wolf-Ray, Rudy Rogalsky

**Staff:** Karen Ross – Economic Enhancement Office, Rowan Morse – Administrative Assistant, Bryn Weiner-Visitor & Ambassador program

**Members:** Dan Bruiger, Janet leBlancq, Darren Bond, Jan Kennedy, Laura Chalfin, Donna Tuele, Sheila McDonnell, Meredith McEvoy, Lynn Nunley, Ellen Leonard, Jan Kennedy, Rachelle Chinnery, Michelle Easterly, Vicki Bale, Brian Pannell, Ilze Rawlins, Daniel Siegel, Reina LeBaron, Arifin Graham, Maggie Ellis,

**CALL TO ORDER (Chair – John Heinegg)**

President John Heinegg chairing. HICEEC AGM called to order at 7:02pm.

**INTRODUCTION OF BOARD, STAFF & COMMITTEES (Chair – John Heinegg)**

Each board member and staff member introduced themselves. John Heinegg welcomed everyone, reviewed Zoom information and acknowledged First Nations Territory.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM (Secretary – Katherine Ronan)** 10% of membership/141 members

29 Participants. 26 members and 3 staff members. Quorum is met at 18.4% of membership.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Chair – John Heinegg)**

Agenda was approved by general agreement (poll) – 21/21 100% in favour.

**REPORTS**

I.      Minutes of the 2020 AGM (Katherine Ronan)

Minutes were read aloud by Katherine Ronan and approved as presented by general agreement (poll) - 21/21 100% in favour.

II.     Chair Report (John Heinegg)

Received. Presented by John Heinegg. It was noted that HICEEC original plans for 2020 were knocked sideways due to the pandemic. HICEEC released social media messages letting visitors know that Hornby was closed to the public. Karen Ross ran weekly, then bi-weekly “State of the Economy” meetings with local businesses & organizations. The Board authorized upgrading their 50% ownership of the www.hornbyisland.com website, without using tax payer funds. HICEEC worked with a Denman (Denman Island Ratepayers Association Internet Committee) group to improve the islands’ internet. John noted that some projects were sidelined by the pandemic – MRDT, Community Bus, and the Vision – but are getting back on track now.

III.    Treasurer Report (Jack Hornstein) (Refer to Financial Statements)

Received. Presented and reviewed by Jack Hornstein. Report will be posted on HICEEC.org website.

**M/S/C Jack Hornstein/Katherine Ronan** Appointment of accountants:  Motion to appoint Tara Smith, of Courtenay, to complete a Notice to Readers accounting for the 2021 fiscal year.

“That Tara Smith of Courtenay be appointed to complete a Notice to Readers for the 2020 Fiscal year to be presented at the 2021 AGM.” 23/23 100% in favour (in poll)

**M/S/C John Heinegg/John Grayson** “Waive requirement for an audit”20/20 100% in favour (in poll)

**M/S/C Sheila McDonnell/Jack Hornstein** “That the 2020 Financial Statements be accepted as presented.” (Hands Raised Function – 20 hands raised)

**Financial Questions:**

**Question from Lynn Nunley :** Is MRDT in operation now? Who does it apply to? Do all short-term rentals have to pay?

**Answer from Jack Hornstein :** No, not yet. We have a funds carried over to this year. We are shooting to have it operational for 2022. As it stands, MRDT is only applied to fixed roof transient accommodation providers. Yes, all short term rentals will have to pay

**Question :** Do camping/glamping/moorage not have to pay pillow tax or PST?

**Answer from Karen Ross :** Currently no, but that could be subject to legislative change in the future.

Special resolutions:  Appointment for Accounting and Bylaw Changes.

**M/S/C John Heinegg/Jack Hornstein:** “Special resolution to allow electronic meetings” (poll) – 18 of 26 (69%) voted. 16/17 88% in favour. 2/17 11% opposed.

IV.    Staff reports

1. Karen Ross – 2020 overview

Received. Presented by Karen Ross. “Working for our future”.

Priorities for 2020: Diversify and strengthen economy; fiscal prudence; advocate for improved affordable, universal internet; optimize community transportation; collaborate with other groups and government agencies; facilitate skills development; support environmental protections; update Hornby Vision and Economic Action Plan.

Thank you to the volunteers on the HICEEC Board; the HICEEC Ferry Advisory Committee, (Pete Kimmerly, Ron Tuele, Brian Pannell and Harry Fearman); and the Bus Steering Committee, which includes Daniel Arbour (CVRD), Sheila McDonnell (S.D. 71) and Daisy & Arne Olafson.(home grown site, www.hornbybus.com)

**Hornby Statistics shown. (School registration, census population, Coop sales, ferries ridership)**

Karen welcomes HICEEC’s two newest staff members – Bryn Weiner and Rowan Morse.

**BUSINESS**

I. Approval of new members. MOTION TO APPROVE NEW MEMBERS

**M/S/C John Heinegg/Katherine Ronan** -20 of 26 (73%) voted. 20/20 100% in favour.

II.Dues:  The annual dues for members shall be fixed at each annual meeting by an ordinary resolution of the Active Members in good standing.  (Treasurer – Jack Hornstein). *Motion to approve membership dues set at $0.*

**M/S/C Jack Hornstein/John Heinegg** “That the annual membership dues for 2020 be set at zero.” (poll) - 20 of 26 (73%) voted. 20/20 100% in favour.

III. Appointment of accountants:  Motion to appoint Tara Smith, of Courtenay, to complete a Notice to Readers accounting for the 2021 fiscal year. – VOTED ABOVE.

**M/S/C Jack Hornstein/Katherine Ronan** Appointment of accountants:

“That Tara Smith of Courtenay be appointed to complete a Notice to Readers for the 2020 Fiscal year to be presented at the 2021 AGM.” 23/23 100% in favour (in poll)

IV. Special resolutions:  Appointment for Accounting and Bylaw Changes. – VOTED ABOVE.

**M/S/C John Heinegg/Jack Hornstein:** “Special resolution to allow electronic meetings (poll) – 18 of 26 (69%) voted. 16/17 88% in favour. 2/17 11% opposed.

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**(Chair – John Heinegg, Secretary – Katherine Ronan)

As HICEEC seeks to recruit Directors with particular skills, nominations must be pre-approved. Nominations from the floor require the support of 5% of members present.

Jack Hornstein’s term as Treasurer has expired and he is willing to stand for re-election.

Peter Wardle’s terms has expired, but he will be moving back to Mexico in the fall and will not be available to participate as a Board Member.

Jim Bulmer and Jeff Zamluk have resigned. Donna Tuele applied for election to replace them.

**M/S/C John Grayson/Carlyn Bishop** “That the nominations of Jack Hornstein and Donna Tuele to the Board of Directors be approved.” - (poll) – 22 of 26 (84%) voted. 22/22 100% in favour

It was also noted that HIRRA appointed two members to the HICEEC Board, for one year terms, and the Corporation Canada records will show them as normal, voting Board members – Rudy Rogalsky and Bee Wolf Ray (aka Debra Tomusiak)

**GENERAL DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS**

**Q: Meredith McEvoy – Housing – “A lot of staff time is dedicated to internet, bus, tourism, etc. How can we have more staff hours allocated to housing?”**

A: John Heinegg – At the moment, the internet is not requiring any staff time. As far as housing, in the next few months we will decide how we want to proceed in regard to housing. We didn’t have concrete projects for staff to work on.

A: Peter Wardle – Our current staff members have specific skills that do not relate to housing. We need lawyers, and trained individuals to help move this project forward. This is a big legal fight and all the Hornby non-profits need to work together on this project.

A: Karen Ross – Beulah Creek is currently still on the docket, and it is difficult to get approval for more funding until this project is completed.

Note: Ellen Leonard – Housing – Ellen notes that she believes that there could be a lot done at a grassroots level for housing. Ellen would like to be involved in a Housing Committee if one is formed.

Meredith McEvoy would also like to be included in any future committee.

**Q: Meredith McEvoy – HICEEC Office/Visitor Centre – “Where is the HICEEC Office currently located? I am concerned about that location choice. Have you reached out to the Comox First Nations about occupying that space?”**

A: John Heinegg – This office change was not actually a choice. We were forced to move out of our old office location by the landlord, HIRRA, and our board member Jack Hornstein graciously offered this location for our office when we had nowhere to go.

A: Karen Ross – We are extremely grateful for Jack Hornstein and The Thatch for offering us this office location when we were without an office. It is a temporary location and we have actively been searching for a new location since we were forced to move. Karen spoke about the Hornby Exit Survey.

A: John Heinegg – We recognize that there are discussions taking place with the Comox First Nations. We feel that it may not be our place as unpaying tenants to step in, but we will discuss as a board.

**Q: Meredith McEvoy – Funding allocation for the Arts – asking for Andrew Mark – “What are this year’s plans to benefit the Arts?”**

A: John Grayson – We have been supporting the Arts over the years, but our grant budgets are minuscule compared to the Arts Centre budget now. We are designed to help small projects in little bits.

F/U: Rachelle Chinnery – It is more about ongoing Arts support as per the studies that were done in 2015 that show the arts as a driver of the Hornby economy. HIAC has done a ton of work to secure the budget but will need help ongoing.

F/U : Sheila McDonnell – To be fair, this past year disrupted everyone’s plans. Just because HICEEC doesn’t have concrete grand plans to support the arts, doesn’t mean they won’t be added. I see that HICEEC does a ton of work to support the arts on their website, tourism tours, etc.

A: Carlyn Bishop – We will be promoting the Arts on social media, website, events calendar in the coming months.

A: Karen Ross – We also have core funding that we give directly to HIAC. We are doing work around tourism to drive business towards artists and we feel this important work. We also see the benefit of supporting artists through affordable housing and also improving the BC ferries situation, not just to bring clients to the island, but also so artists are able to ship their products off island or travel to art shows, markets, etc.

A: John Heinegg – We are also committed to setting up an internet store for Hornby artists, but we did not receive the grant we were hoping for. HICEEC is committed to providing seed money, and not maintenance and operating funding.

Note : Rachelle Chinnery acknowledges the past support from HICEEC.

Q: Ellen Leonard – MRDT – Ellen had a few questions about the MRDT plan. Ellen is happy to read about the MRDT on the hiceec.org website. Karen offered to send her further information by email.

Q: Ellen Leonard – I would appreciate a little bit more information about the nature of the corporation. The corporation is organized under the Canada Non Profit Laws. How does HICEEC fit together with HIRRA and Islands Trust? Why is HICEEC organized under the National law instead of Provincial non profit law?

A: Karen Ross – Initially we were re-patriating tax dollars. The money used to be sent off island, and we brought it home.

A: Sheila McDonnell – HICEEC was actually incorporated before that occurred. At the time, it came out of a workshop to increase the community’s economy and based on the Community Futures Model, which the Federal Government and Western Diversification were putting a lot of money into. There was a Community Futures in Campbell River which covered the North Island, so we were not able to become a Community Futures committee. Incorporating federally gave a much more powerful tool compared to registering as a provincial non-profit. It is extremely difficult now to switch back. Sheila offered to discuss this further over the phone if anyone wanted to give her a call.

**ADJOURNMENT -  *Motion to adjourn AGM***

**John thanked everyone for attending, and becoming more informed on the work that HICEEC does.**

**M/S/C John Heinegg/Katherine Ronan.**

Adjournment approved by general agreement at 9:00pm (poll). 20/26 (77%) voted. 20/20 100% in favour.

HICEEC AGM Adjourned at 9:00pm.