

Annual General Meeting of The Children's Bridge

November 19th, 2005

In attendance at the offices of The Children's Bridge, Ottawa, Ontario:

Loyde Henriques, Rick Kenny, Gail Carruthers, Martha Maslen, Jonathan Barker, Gail Carruthers, Lianne Thompson, Young Lee, Richard Norman, Jenna Ryan, Nick Paonessa, Melissa Henriques, Jasmine Bent, Jennifer Dawson, Cathy Murphy, Erin Given, Anne Lacroix, Jane Ottman, Bonnie MacGregor.

Erica Kerr joined the meeting via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM.

Minutes

Motion: Moved by Rick Kenny, seconded by Nick Paonessa
To accept the minutes of the AGM 2003 as presented.

Carried unanimously.

Motion: Moved by Rick Kenny, seconded by Lianne Thompson
To accept the minutes of the 2004 AGM as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

Presidents Report

Rick Kenny thanked the Executive Director Martha Maslen and staff for their hard work in managing and running the bridge over the past year. Rick outlined the decision of the board to pursue a Strategic Plan for purposes of assisting the board in guiding the bridge over the next 3-5 years.

Rick referred to the improvements made in information technology which has resulted in a significant increase in productivity of staff to handle the increase in file flow.

He also mentioned the significant surplus the Bridge has accumulated over the past several years. The amount has been invested conservatively with the intent to generate income for the foundation. The majority of the surplus has been set aside in a contingency fund as self- insurance in the event of a loss a program, or some other catastrophe.

Treasurer's Report

Motion: Moved by Loyde, seconded by Jonathan

To accept the audited financial reports for the year ending July 31st/2005.

Carried unanimously.

Motion: Moved by Loyde, seconded by Jonathan

To re-appoint McCay, Duff and Company as Auditors of Children's Bridge for the coming year.

Carried unanimously.

Executive Directors Report

There has been some discussion and plans to investigate opening programs in Cambodia, Nepal, and Mongolia. Looking to make the program opening in Honduras work.

We need to be realistic in the countries we look at to open a program. The following criteria must be satisfied:

1. Country must have an adoption law.
2. It must be feasible to create a practical adoption process.
3. Program has a chance to become viable.

Election of Directors

Motion: Moved by Jonathan. seconded by Jennifer Dawson

To accept the 3 candidates to board as nominated.

Carried unanimously. Introduced the new directors:

- Young Lee
- Richard Norman
- Lianne Thompson

Amendment to By-Laws

Motion: Moved by Rick Kenny, seconded by Lianne Thompson

To accept By-Law #4 as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Other Business

Citizenship Issue:

Erica Kerr - proposed that the Bridge formally lobby for government changes. Current standing of the board on subject is to maintain the status quo. The Bridge can provide administrative support to a group but lobbyists would not officially be from the Bridge.

Erica Kerr suggestion: To form a lobby group to push government issues and to help guide new families on issues related to them. Proposed a Children's Bridge membership committee to address these issues. Erica to be initial contact to form group and take action.

British Columbia:

Martha commented on the difficulty in working in British Columbia caused by restrictions requiring partnering with provincial agencies.

Post-placement reports:

Bridge staff have been sending reminders for post placement reports, which are crucial to continuing to work in China and other countries. We may have to introduce prepaid fees that will cover the social worker's fees for both 6 and 12 month reports.

Adjournment

Motion: moved by Rick, seconded by Richard Norman

To adjourn the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Carried unanimously.