

DRAFT

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES OF PARKDALE & TORONTO

Monday, November 28, 2022

Minutes of the 35nd Annual General Meeting

In Person at Bonar-Parkdale Presbyterian Church and Online Zoom

Ronald Charlemagne chaired the meeting.
Clement Kent welcomed members arriving on Zoom.
Barbara O'Malley represented the OHA.

1. Call to Order: Ron Charlemagne called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.
Ron Charlemagne spoke the Land Acknowledgement, and welcomed Barbara O'Malley from District 15, Ontario Horticultural Association.

2. Report on Quorum: There were approx. 15 members present in person and more than 25 members on zoom. At 20-member quorum was confirmed.

3. Additions to / Approval of the Agenda:
- Clement Kent moved to approve the Agenda and was seconded by Helene Murray.

4. Approval of the November 28, 2021 AGM Minutes:
Emieke Geldof moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Clement Kent.

5. President's Report — Ron Charlemagne:

Ron opened his report with thanks to everyone at the Hort, volunteers, participants and supporters. The year was a challenge to ***'adapt and respond'*** to any changes and circumstances that came our way.

We maintained Many Hort activities in spite of Covid 19 restrictions. We continued our speaker series on Zoom and were able to record them on YouTube. We organized a Mini Plant Sale. 11 garden projects were funded. The Educational and Outreach Committee resumed in person working with KEYS-TO-INclusion to plant a vegetable garden/workshop at Humbercrest United Church. Hort members presented a lesson to students at George Brown College's Seniors Recreation Management Program, titled 'Contemplative and Active Gardening for Older Adults'. Project Swallowtail continues to grow, expanding eastward this year.

In September we started hybrid meetings: in-person at the Bonar-Parkdale Presbyterian Church with connections to Zoom. We have had to improve the church's WiFi in order to do this and are still working out the glitches.

For 2023 our outlook and goals will be ***'expanding our activity'***.

(President's report is attached.)

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Acceptance of the President's Report: Clement Kent moved to accept the President's Report and was seconded by Eduardo Barnett. Carried.

6. Treasurer's Report - Emieke Geldof:

The majority of expenses this year has included support for the 11 garden projects, speaker costs, and purchasing and implementing the Wild Apricot program for our membership, communications and website. There was \$6512 in income, \$10,118 in expenses, with a total loss of \$3,600.00. The Hort has reserve funds to cover this amount.

Costs that have gone up this year include the OHA fee-per-member fee, insurance and speaker fees.

We currently have 149 members.

The financial details were mounted on screen while Emieke spoke.

Thank you to this year's financial reviewers Ann Wong and Mary Mosser, who reviewed the financials for the year of October 1, 2021 through to September 31, 2022.

(Treasurer's report is attached.)

Appointment of Financial Auditors: Patty McKnight and Ingrid Whitaker have kindly agreed to be next year's financial reviewers and will therefore be reviewing the financial statements from October 1, 2022 through to September 31, 2023 once completed.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and the reviewed financials for the year of October 1, 2021 through to September 31, 2022:

Ruth Dobb moved to approve the Financial Report and was seconded by Dianna Fancher. Carried.

7. Vote on the raising of membership fees:

Wording was posted in the last Bulletin:

"The Board approved a motion to increase annual fees to \$25 for a single membership or \$35 for a family membership."

The motion was opened to discussion:

There was general discussion regarding comparisons to fees from other horticultural societies which are in the \$20 - \$30 range. One suggestion was that the increase was too little and it

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should be \$30/individual and \$40/ family. It was noted that as our location is Toronto and Parkdale, we would like to be affordable – not in the high-end range. Another comment was that a small increase would be better tolerated by most people. Emieke reminded members that the Hort has a generous reserve amount, more than typical for a nonprofit, so we do not urgently need to bring in funds, but costs are rising, and we do not want to fall behind.

Approval of the amendment: Clement Kent moved to approve the amendment and was seconded by Emieke Geldof. Ron reread the motion and a vote was taken by a show of hands, including zoom. There was no one opposed. The motion passed.

8. Handover of virtual gavel to Barbara O'Malley:

Barbara took the virtual gavel and expressed thanks to us from the District 15 of the OHA (Ontario Horticultural Association).

She reminded Hort members that there is a 50/50 lottery going on to raise money for the OHA with cash prizes. Information is on the OHA website. The annual OHA Convention will be held in person in July of 2023 in Kanata, near Ottawa. All members are welcome, and rooms are available at convention rates at a nice hotel. Finally, she presented Clement Kent with the District Service Award for 2021.

Elections of the 2022 - 2023 Board of Directors:

Barbara O'Malley opened the elections by reading out the names of those standing for election and/or re-election:

New Nominee for a 2-year term (2023, 2024):

Misbah Mukri-Tasci

Board Members Re-Standing for Another 2-Year Term (2023, 2024):

Ron Charlemagne, Annelies Groen.

Board Members Completing the Second Year of their 2-Year Term (2022, 2023):

Emieke Geldof, Clement Kent, Barbara Japp, Helen Vorster, Judy Whalen, Sarah Michelle Rafols.

Barbara O'Malley asked if anyone from the membership would like to add their names to the slate. She asked three times, no one came forward.

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She noted that Sarah Michelle Rafols has volunteered to take over the Hort Bulletin, and that the financial reviewers for next year will be Patty McKnight and Ingrid Whittaker.

9. Installation: The board voiced their willingness to be directors and the membership accepted the slate of directors. There were no objections either from a hand raised or from the chat feature. Barbara declared the Board installed for the year.

10. Handover of virtual gavel to Ron Charlemagne who thanked Barb O'Malley and closed out the meeting.

11. Adjournment of the 2022 AGM. Anna Leggatt made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ruth Dobb.

12. Introduction of the Speaker: Helen Vorster introduced Helen Battersby, giving a talk titled 'Gardening in a Changing World'.

(Note; the Zoom connection repeatedly cut out at the start of the talk, resulting in the need to shut down the Zoom side of the presentation.)

Respectfully submitted by Helen Vorster, Secretary.