

**DRAFT Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting
Naramata Centre Society
June 22, 2024**

Approved: (DATE)

Authority	The Annual General Meeting of the Naramata Centre Society was convened virtually online via Zoom, and in person at Naramata Centre at 2:07 pm June 22, 2024. Linda McCandless presided as Chair, Karen Botsford as Recording Secretary.
Welcome	Linda McCandless welcomed everyone to the meeting. She gave basic protocols re voting and asking questions as a hybrid format of in person and zoom attendance was being used. Voting in person is by card being raised and on zoom there would be a poll. A test poll was conducted. The chat feature would be used for zoom participants for questions and comments. In person attendees would raise hands. She advised that the meeting was being recorded.
Devotional	Rev. Lori Megley-Best, Naramata Community Church and Janet Groen Pacific Jubilee and Naramata Board member led a Land Acknowledgement and Devotional.
Notice of Attendance and	Board Directors in attendance were Linda McCandless (Chair), Karen Botsford (Recording Secretary), Greg Best, Sharon Birney, Janet Groen, Kathy Hamilton, Dawn Hein, Alison Stewart, and Heather Amos (on zoom).
Regrets	Board of Directors unable to attend were Sidney Cooke and Jim Simpson.
Greetings from Pacific Mountain Region	Debra Bowman, PMR Naramata board representative, addressed the membership on behalf of Treena Duncan, Executive Minister of Pacific Mountain Region.

Volunteer Recognition	Linda McCandless included volunteer recognition under her Board chair report.
Registrar's Report	Karen Botsford declared that the meeting was duly called with 14 days' notice and a quorum was present. There were 18 voting members, and 3 staff in attendance.
Agenda	(M/S) Janet Groen/Kathy Hamilton moved and seconded that the Agenda for the General Meeting of 2024 be approved. CARRIED
Minutes	(M/S) Kathy Hamilton/Greg Best moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2023, held on May 20, 2023, be adopted. CARRIED
Chair's Report	Linda McCandless reported that there are five departing board members and five onboarding at this AGM. Recognition and thanks will be given later in the meeting. She expressed gratitude to Greg Best who will continue to serve on the Site Committee. At the Last AGM it was noted that we will focus on the Strategic Plan for the upcoming 5 years. The first phase was to focus on People, Site and Finances, in order to be sustainable. While much work has been done, we still have a lot of work to do. The Gwendolyn/Robson land sale is moving forward. After receiving Expressions of Interest from several developers, Robert Brown of Chesterman Properties was chosen. The McLaren land sale was put on hold due to current economic conditions. The RDOS (Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen) has approved the rezoning. Homes will be presold and range from \$989,000 to \$998,000. Remax Realty in Penticton will have the listings. Money from the land sale will be used to support the financial sustainability of the Centre. Linda thanked the passionate volunteers and contributors who continue to support the Centre including those who attend Hearts and Hands, the members who serve on the board, those who support as ambassadors for the Centre, those who provide programming support, and staff. She thanked the many donors who support the

Centre financially. Linda also thanked Sasha and his staff for their dedication and hard work. She expressed appreciation for Larry and Christie who are supporting the board at the AGM.

Linda noted the departure of Nancy Talbot, Pacific Mountain Region representative on the board who served until last September. Nancy was an insightful and thoughtful member. Debra Bowman is the new representative.

Executive
Director
Report

Sasha Viminitz, Executive Director reported that he is heading into his third summer and third AGM. He noted that it takes three years to fully grasp the ins and outs of the Centre.

He has heard from folks about the impact of the Centre on their lives. It is a safe, inclusive and sacred place, a place for transformation. Resilience is a keyword, and he believes things are hopeful and looking up. Last year was the 75th anniversary. Renovations to Cottage Courts and the campsite upgrades were completed. The Orchard Court grass area is complete and will add a new gathering space for music mornings and Lyall House was painted, and a new deck was completed at Hearts and Hands.

This past year more people were hired. This allows him to serve the mission and vision.

The campsites have been opened to outside folks. This allows new people to engage with our purpose and programming as people discover this place. We are drawing the circle wide.

He expressed thanks for the support from the community and board and commented that we now have enough staff to care for our facilities.

He spoke about the many partners of the Centre, including Pacific Jubilee, and the United Church of Canada Pacific Mountain Region. Other groups who have come to the Centre include 13 moons indigenous group, solution keepers, art retreats, wellness retreats, BC Mountain Bike Association, and indigenous retreats. People and groups who come to the Centre are inspired to come back.

Rev. Lori Megley-Best asked if there is a plan for the Centre to extend the opening season. Sasha responded that the demand for the Centre is May to September and we are looking at breaking even during

those months. Once we cover our operating costs we can extend openings in the shoulder seasons. We need successive bookings to maintain staff. He indicated that the Centre is not completely closed during winter fallow. Orchard Court and the Chapel are open year-round for retreats.

Treasurer's
Report

Sharon Birney, Treasurer provided an overview of the financial statements. By the end of 2026 revenue will exceed costs. That is the plan. She noted that tangible capital assets increased by the improvements made and that the sale of the properties will help cover capital improvements and the debt owed to Pacific Mountain Region. Questions were asked regarding interest, and lower donations. In response to when did the sale of the land conclude, she responded that it is still in process and the subjects haven't been removed. The anticipated closing date is the beginning of September.

Auditors,
Review
Engagement

(M/S) Sharon Birney/Dawn Hein that the reviewed financial statements and report for the year ended December 31st, 2023, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

(M/S) Sharon Birney/Kathy Hamilton that a full audit be completed for the fiscal year 2024. **CARRIED**

A question was asked about having an audit vs review. Due to the number of capital transactions with sale of property a control-based audit is preferred. It provides a deeper dive vs a review.

(M/S) Sharon Birney/Greg Best to appoint KPMG to conduct the 2024 audit and the Board be authorized to fix their remuneration. **CARRIED**

Election of
Board of
Directors

Janet Groen presented the Nomination Report, noting that four members are leaving the Board: Heather Amos, Greg Best, Kathy Hamilton and Jim Simpson. Kim Follis left in April 2024.

The board is endorsing the following candidates:
Erin Harvey, lifelong attendee and 20 years in community service.
Jenn Frolich has been attending the Centre since she was a baby and attends with her family every year. She has a background in education and is a registered dietician.

Jeremy Church has had a connection with the Centre since 1986. He has 30 years in leadership with youth and children and has served on the board before and is back.

Linda Sahli has been attending the Centre for 18 years and has attended Hearts and Hands. She is a Lawyer specializing in Administration, Political Environment and Governance.

Samantha Palmer has been coming to the Centre for the last decade with her partner and children. She has experience with boards, volunteer fire training and she worked for the federal government in the penal system.

Janet called for nominations three times and hearing no additional nominations from the floor, nor objections, the slate of candidates was appointed by acclamation. New board appointees are: Erin Harvie, Jenn Frolich, Jeremy Church, Linda Sahli, and Samantha Palmer.

Appreciation of
departing
members.

Janet Groen thanked Heather Amos. She served for 3 years as vice chair and was chair of the HR Committee. She stepped up to chair at an in-person weekend of meetings in the chair's absence. She brought a wealth of experience to the board and will be missed.

Janet thanked Kim Follis for his one-year service. During his year he made some big contributions and always came prepared to meetings and asked questions from a fresh perspective.

Greg Best thanked Kathy Hamilton for her service to the Centre. She moved to Naramata not long after her first experience at the Centre. She joined the board during the closure and quickly was dealing with maintenance, plumbing and the ongoing demands of the property. After those years, she took a break and then came back on the board for two more terms. He expressed a deep gratitude for her gifts and talents including her expertise in governance and finance and the fact that she was a master as board chair. She never lost sight of the Centre. Her contributions and countless hours have moved the Centre forward. Greg thanked her partner Char, and her two daughters, Carly and Abby who supported her. In closing he commented on her grace and depth of contribution has left a lasting mark.

Karen Botsford thanked Greg Best for his service noting he has been contributing to the Centre since he was 15. He joined summer staff and met his partner of 40 years at the Centre. He continued to come with his family as they raised four boys. His dedication and passion is evident. His contributions to the Site Committee and the work on the land sale have been huge contributions to the Centre. At the board table he is always prepared and asks thoughtful questions and interjects appropriate humour. Greg will be missed. The good news is he will continue to serve on the Site Committee. Kathy Hamilton also thanked Greg for his wealth of experience and business acumen.

Kathy Hamilton thanked Jim Simpson who wasn't in attendance. He is moving from the village of Naramata. She segued to the Honorary Membership nomination received from Sarah Vollett indicating that her submission outlined Jim's extensive service to the Centre. He was a board member in the 2000s for six years including a year as board chair. They moved to Naramata in 2013 and Jim took on a consultant role for the Centre. During the closure Jim supported the board and did day-to-day tasks supporting the finances, operations, etc., and also consulted with the board on strategic visioning. Jim and Donna were also part of a core community team supporting the ongoing weekly Sacred Pauses, regular potlucks, and other community events that kept the heart of the Centre going during the closure and initial reopening period. Jim rejoined the board in 2017 as a mid-term appointment and has served for 7 years his second set of terms for a total of 13 years of board service. Donna supported Jim and the board and often provided meals during the time when the kitchen was decommissioned. Jim worked tirelessly with volunteers. Jim worked with Naramata Slow forming a crucial community engagement and was instrumental in the sale of the beach property. Twice, Jim stepped in as acting managing director to support the Centre, working almost full-time during the transitions between Executive Directors. Kathy expressed her appreciation for Jim's support on the financial and site side as he had such hands-on experience with the Centre, and he supported her immensely as she stepped into the role of Board Chair.

Linda commented that all retiring board members have contributed greatly during their tenure and will be missed.

Honourary
Membership

(M/S) Kathy Hamilton/Greg Best that Jim and Donna Simpson become
Honorary Members. **CARRIED**

Jim and Donna Simpson nominated Ian Fraser and Janet McDonald for honorary membership. Janet started as summer staff at the Centre in the mid 1970s as a lifeguard and came with her family in the 1980s. Ian started coming with his family in the 1980s. Both attended and led programs in the summer and led leadership programs in the off season. In 2010 Janet became Executive Director and Ian managed deferred maintenance, infrastructure including the septic system equal to approximately 5 FTE. Janet led a key restructuring of the Centre consolidating the debt to the region and away from the bank. This was an instrumental step in saving the centre. Janet and Ian spearheaded and led both the fund development and capital project resulting in the building of Creekside Commons.

Janet and Ian organized Hearts and Hands for many years working alongside the Centre volunteer group. They continued to serve the Centre by providing grounds maintenance weekly up cutting the lawns until 2023. They both have a deep connection with the Centre and the United Church.

(M/S) Kathy Hamilton/Jean McLeod that Ian Fraser and Janet McDonald become honorary members. **CARRIED**

Thanks, and gratitude from the attendees included:

- Sarah Vollett thanked the leaving board members and expressed appreciation for the new members and their commitment moving forward.
- Gord Oakes expressed his appreciation for Jim and Donna and Ian and Janet commenting that they were well deserving of the honorary memberships.
- Greg Best offered thanks as a resident of the village for the support the Centre provides to the Pickleball Club and to Naramata Slow. The Centre provided the Club with winter indoor space and provided a venue for the community harvest dinner.
- Kathy Hamilton thanked Linda for stepping up to lead the board as chair and thanked the staff for their hard work.

- James Clendenan thanked staff for the work done upgrading the site and for the work in the background including irrigation, supporting programs and welcome posts, noting it is a complicated site. He noted there has been significant work done between April and June.
- Gord Oakes thanked the new staff, volunteers and board members commenting that the world is changing, and the centre is changing. He thanked everyone for their energy.
- Janet McDonald commented on the ups and downs of the Centre noting the highs and deep-rooted past. She noted that the most valuable asset development moving forward will be to empower young people. She quoted a hymn and said, *From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery.....*

Next Meeting (M/S) Kathy Hamilton/Janet Groen to defer the setting of the date of the next AGM to the Board. **CARRIED**

Adjournment There being no other business, Linda McCandless declared the meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm

Chair: Linda McCandless

Secretary: Karen Botsford