



**OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation held at 7:00 PM on June 5, 2024 in the Social Hall of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario, K2A 1R9.

**Recorder:** Solange Ashe

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Sandy Pollack, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Sandy gave a special welcome to all past chairs, clergy, agency representatives, and fund holders.

**ISRAELI AND CANADIAN ANTHEMS AND MUSICAL SELECTION**

The Tamir Choir performed the Israeli and Canadian anthems and afterwards, performed a brief musical selection.

**D'VAR TORAH:**

Rabbi Adina Lewittes delivered the D'var Torah.

**PRESENTATION OF NEW FUND CERTIFICATES:**

Sandy acknowledged the new funds that were opened in 2023.

**APPROVALS AND MOTIONS:**

**Approval of the Financial Statements of the Foundation:**

Be it resolved that: The presentation of the financial statements of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2023 as audited by GGFL, together with the audit report thereon, as approved by the Board of Directors, is hereby accepted.

Moved by: Adina Libin  
Approved Unanimously

Seconded by: Brent Taylor

**Appointment of Auditors:**

A motion was made to appoint GGFL as auditors until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor is appointed, and that the remuneration of such auditors be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Moved by: Sabina Wasserlauf  
Approved Unanimously

Seconded by: Lawrence Soloway

**Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2023 Annual General Meeting:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Moved by: Debra Viner  
Approved Unanimously

Seconded by: Erin Zipes

**Approval of the Acts of the Officers and Directors:**

A motion was made that all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Foundation since the last Annual General Meeting on June 8, 2023 are hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed.

Moved by: Sabina Wasserlauf  
Approved Unanimously

Seconded by: Susan Viner Vered

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Lawrence Soloway, presented the committee's report for the coming year.

Lawrence advised that the Governance Committee has recommended the following names to stand for election to fill the board vacancies for 2024/2025: returning board members Sharon Appotive, Debra Viner, and Susan Viner Vered and new board members Chuck Merovitz and Charles Mirsky . The proposed board slate was provided in advance of the meeting and has also been posted online.

As the nomination period closed on May 29, 2024 with no additional nominations submitted, Lawrence asked for the following motion:

Be it resolved that: The Board member slate is declared elected and approved by acclamation to their respective positions.

Moved by: Lawrence Soloway  
Approved Unanimously

Seconded by: Sabina Wasserlauf

Lawrence thanked the members of the committee for their hard work, and welcomed Chuck Merovitz and Charles Mirsky to the Board.

**PRESENTATION OF THE GEORGE JOSEPH COOPER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:**

Erin Zipes announced the George Joseph Cooper Scholarship Award winner.

This year's recipient is Lindsay Cogan. Lindsay plans to attend the University of Cambridge where she will be studying for her Masters in Environmental Policy. This year, the scholarship awarded was \$21,629.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ILANA AND STEVEN RUBIN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:**

Erin Zipes announced the recipient of the Ilana and Steven Rubin Education Scholarship Award.

This year's winner is Naomi Marcelino. Naomi received a scholarship award of \$1,800.

**PRESENTATION OF THE NORMAN LESH PHILANTHROPY AWARD:**

Cherly Lesh-Ibghy presented the Norman Lesh Philanthropy Award.

This year's \$10,000 grant was awarded to Rabbi Adina Lewittes for the Jewish Cemetery Project in the Laurentians.

**PRESENTATION OF WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT**

Eileen Melnick McCarthy and Lynne Oreck-Wener presented the Women's Collective Endowment Fund Grant.

This grant supports initiatives that strive to expand and improve opportunities and choices in the lives of women and children in Ottawa.

The 2024 recipient of the WCEF grant, in the amount of \$4,500, is The Period Project with House to Home Ottawa. The goal of The Period Project is to ensure that each household served has access to sanitary napkins, tampons and toilet paper.

**CHAIR'S ADDRESS**

Sandy Pollack reflected on the past year as Foundation Chair, and in particular, the Hamas terror attack of October 7<sup>th</sup> on Israel and the ensuing rise in antisemitism, highlighting the importance of the work of the Foundation.

In 2023 investments saw a return of 8.6%, and the annual disbursement quota was increased to 5%, resulting in an additional \$1M more than 2022 being disbursed. As the Foundation entered Year 4 of the Life & Legacy program, by the end of 2023, there was a total of 331 legacy donors, with an anticipated \$20M in expectancies. 2023 also saw an increase in regular and transparent communication with donors.

Sandy then recognized the hard work of the Foundation's outgoing board members and their dedicated years of service ensuring the Foundation's success.

- Lawrence Soloway, past chair of the board and also past chair of the investment committee.
- Jonathan Freedman, who has been on the board for the last six years, and was previously chair of the board of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

- And Tamara Fathi, who has served on the board since 2021 and even after moving for work to Colombia has maintained her volunteerism for Jewish Ottawa.

Finally, Sandy extended thank you to Micah Garten, whose 7 years as VP of Development for the Foundation and Interim CEO was incredibly impactful and included such critical achievements as the implementation of the Life & Legacy initiative. Additionally, Micah's work was integral in the development of the Generations Trust Endowment, which has already received \$22M in pledges, and will ensure access to day schools for all Jewish families.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER – MARK HALPERN INTRODUCED BY SANDY POLLACK**

Sandy Pollack welcomed Mark Halpern, the founder of WEALTHinsurance.com. Mark's expertise in financial planning is matched by his commitment to philanthropy. Through his philanthropic efforts, Mark aims to create \$100 million in new charitable giving annually, forging impactful partnerships with clients, generous donors, and charitable organizations.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mark is the Chair of the Planned Giving Advisory Council at Humber River Hospital Foundation and has held significant roles with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, SickKids Foundation, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation, TV Ontario, and many other esteemed organizations. He is also a faculty member contributing to the Master Financial Advisor-Philanthropy (MFA-P) designation.

Mark Halpern discussed options for maximizing legacy giving while minimizing taxes.

Sandy Pollack thanked Mark Halpern for his informative presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Sandy Pollack thanked everyone for attending and made a motion to adjourn the Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation for 2024.

Moved by: Brent Taylor  
Approved Unanimously

Seconded by: Jonathan Freedman

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM