

2020 OVCA AGM Minutes - October 26, 2020

1. Meeting called to order

This is the first OVCA AGM that has been held virtually instead of an in-person gathering at the RA Centre because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the official start of the meeting, at 7:07 pm Paul Hennessey, OVCA Communications Director, provided the member club participants with a quick orientation for how voting (1 vote per club) and asking questions would be handled via the raise hand feature on MS Teams, and how to unmute/mute during the meeting to ask questions/provide comments and/or feedback. There were 44 participants including the OVCA Board members that joined the virtual meeting. The meeting was also recorded via MS Teams.

The President called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Al McPhee introduced himself, welcomed all members, and explained that the AGM had been postponed from its usual September date to this evening because of all the uncertainties around the ongoing pandemic. Unfortunately, there is no clearer view today. The OVCA Board has been using the MS Teams platform to conduct its virtual meetings since mid- March when the pandemic was declared.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Marc Pilon – Cumberland
Seconded by: Bill Cheliak – Pembroke

That the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion is approved.

3. Introductions

The President introduced a key sponsor of the OVCA, Goldline. Joe Drouin representing Goldline, informed OVCA member clubs that clubs can contact Goldline to purchase products at wholesale prices that can then be sold at their clubs at marked-up/retail prices, allowing clubs to make some profit to help offset their operational costs.

4. Moment of Silence

The President asked for a moment of silence to remember those in our community who have passed in the last year.

5. Approval of Minutes from the AGM of September 23, 2019

Moved by: Robert Mahon – Cornwall
Seconded by: Stephanie Duggan – Navy

That the minutes from the AGM of September 23, 2019 be approved as presented.

The motion is approved.

6. Business Arising from Minutes from the AGM of September 23, 2019

None.

7. Acknowledgement of Partner Associations

The President acknowledged the Partner Associations that the OVCA works with:

- a. Ladies Curling Association (LCA)
- b. Canadian Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club
- c. Curling Outaouais
- d. CurlION
- e. Curling Canada

The President also mentioned that a key reason that the OVCA does not run an annual Ladies bonspiel event is because of the events run by the LCA and the Crystal Hearts Tournament.

8. President's Report

Al McPhee presented his report. He provided a brief history of the OVCA and restated the OVCA's mission statement. Last year, the OVCA started with 46 clubs in the Ottawa/Outaouais region, but with the agreed to by-law change from last year that member clubs must also be members of their respective provincial organization, the number of OVCA member clubs is now approximately 40.

AI talked about the OVCA Development Fund which has been running since 1979 based on revenues received from “Special Events”, most recently the Brier (2016) and the Roar of the Rings (2017). This fund is administered by a separate Board (the Board of Administrators) outside of the OVCA Board of Directors to provide loans to member clubs to help them fund capital projects. The income received from the OVCA Development Fund in turn has been used to fund the OVCA operational budget.

AI talked about the OVCA Operational Fund which is managed by the OVCA Board of Directors in support of the OVCA mission statement and its operations, and whose budget is subject to approval by club members at the AGM.

All OVCA events for this year have been cancelled (Junior Superspiel, Mixed, Men’s, Little Rocks Championship) due to the pandemic situation.

The LGT World Men’s Curling Championship event is scheduled for April 3 –11, 2021 at TD Place with backing from the OVCA. Curl Canada is expected to provide an update on November 4,2020 regarding this event.

Youth activities are ongoing with a possible symposium update in December 2020.

The OVCA is trying to avoid duplication of activities that CurlION has been taking on. For example, based on “Learn To Curl - Train the Trainer” training completed in previous years and programs offered by CurlION, there is low demand for these sessions in 2020/21. Ice Tech Workshops did not take place last year and currently there are no workshops scheduled for this year. This will be assessed as the year progresses to determine if a session is required.

AI provided more details on the status of the Development and Operational Funds:

The status of the Development Fund:

- \$413K funds available for loans to member clubs for capital projects, up to \$50K per request
- \$167K balance owing based on outstanding loans to 10 clubs

Given the current COVID-19 situation, for the 10 clubs with outstanding loans to the OVCA, the OVCA is offering the option for these clubs to pay interest only on their outstanding loan for this year and to defer principal repayment to future years. Clubs interested in this option should contact the



OVCA treasurer so that they can sign an updated agreement with the amended payment schedule.

The status of the Operational Fund:

- Typical sources of annual funding are:
 - approximately \$40K (\$20K in member fees from 40 clubs and \$20K in investment income),
 - sponsorship (e.g., \$5K from Goldline) and,
 - “Special Events” funding if such an event occurs in the curling year (e.g., the next event scheduled is the World Men’s Championship, with CurlION to provide an update on November 4th)
- This year, the OVCA is forecasting a \$22K deficit
- The OVCA Board has agreed to waive club membership fees for this year for current member clubs
- Current Operational Fund balance is \$235K

9. Directors’ Reports

Director reports were included in the AGM package, and no presentations were scheduled for the AGM. The President opened the floor for questions. There were no questions.

10. Financial Report

Al McPhee introduced Gord Butler to present the financial information. Gord informed members that the Engagement Report for 2019/2020 is still in the process of being reviewed by the external auditor, BDO, and that the report would be distributed at a later date. Gord noted that a \$52K deficit for 2019/2020 is being forecasted: ~\$27K based on planned deficit in the budget and ~\$27K based on loss on investments in the Development Fund due to COVID-19 related market downturn.

Gord provided a summary of the proposed budget for 2020/2021, re-iterating that there are no club membership fees for this year for current club members and that a \$22K deficit is being forecasted.

Moved by: Theo Hunter – North Grenville
Seconded by: Robert Mahon – Cornwall

That the 2020/21 budget be approved as presented.

The motion is approved.

11. Motion – Board Members 2020-2021

Al McPhee introduced the new Board Members and acknowledged the members leaving the Board. Al also mentioned that Jim Stewart had been nominated by the OVCA Board of Directors to CurlION for recognition of his 15-year tenure with the OVCA. In early October CurlION confirmed that they will be presenting Jim with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Moved by: Bill Cheliak – Pembroke

Seconded by: James Doonan – Lancaster

That the OVCA Board of Directors for 2020/2021 be appointed as follows:

- President – John Tobias (Russell)
- Vice-President – John Blythe (Hunt Club)
- Director Finances – Gord Butler (Navy)
- Director Communications – Paul Hennessey (Cityview)
- Director Development – Bill Duck (Hunt Club)
- Director Youth Development – Ron Guilbault (Russell)
- Director At Large (Secretary) – Lidia Cormier (Huntley)
- Director At Large (Club Liaison) – Linda Cox (Navy)
- Special Director – 2021 WMCC Bid – Elaine Brimacombe (RA)
- Director At Large – 2021 WMCC Bid Support) – Anne Davis (Metcalf)

The motion is approved.

12. Ken Thain Awards

One of the highlights of the AGM is presenting the Ken Thain awards. Given that this year's meeting was held virtually, the winners were announced and their awards will either be presented at their respective club or at next year's AGM. The Ken Thain award winners for this year are:

- Lucy Ladouceur (Russell)
- Ken Wyman (Smiths Falls)
- Neil Dufour (Prescott)
- David Johnston (Ottawa Hunt)

13. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Al McPhee thanked all for participating in the AGM that was held virtually. Prior to adjournment, Richard Sarabura (City View) raised a question regarding using OVCA finances to provide loans to clubs to help clubs out with their operational costs given the COVID situation. Al McPhee responded that the OVCA does not currently have plans to change the Development Fund to provide loans to cover clubs' operational costs. John Tobias mentioned that he had received an email from City View with their loan request and that he would be following up with the Board of Administrators of the Development Fund regarding the request.

The OVCA Annual General Meeting is adjourned at 8:04 pm.