

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Purchase Community, Inc. held via Zoom teleconference at 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 5, 2023

At 7:02 pm, President Shannon Anderson called the meeting to order. With respect to the Annual Meeting held December 6, 2022, Justine Gaeta made a motion to approve the minutes, and Scott Sherman seconded. The motion carried.

President's Report

Shannon thanked all those who took time to attend the meeting, and she gave her grateful acknowledgement for the full-time employees for all their hard work. She also thanked the board members for their efforts on behalf of the PCH. She also shared that the PCH counts 3,681 individual members who meet the criteria as residents in the Purchase Community, comprised of 1,857 households. These figures indicate an increase of 176 members from last year's count of 3,505 individuals, and an increase of 150 households from last year's count of 1,707. She brought attention to the financial reports in the materials, noting that the addition of new homes on Westchester Avenue is expected to have a positive impact on the future of the PCH.

Executive Director's Report

Jim Kelly noted that this is the 4th Annual meeting held by Zoom, which seems to have generated an improvement in attendance. He did note that the Board of Directors have returned to in-person meetings. He noted that the last few years have been uphill following the COVID restrictions, but after-school activities are on the rise, Purchase Day Camp has done well and the acquisition of the Purchase Children's Center has been a boost.

Jim wished to express his thanks to all those who participated in the most recent Annual Fund Drive. He also wanted to thank the full-time staff at the Community House for all their hard work, first of all acknowledging Barbara Paci, who retired this year after many years of service at Purchase Day Camp and the Children's Center. He highlighted Tom Havard and Frank Dellaripa, who have been staples at the PCH for many years, and also brought attention to two new additions to the full-time staff: Kat Berkowitz and Danny DeJesus, who have been working at the PCH for many years but only recently became full-timers. In addition, he told the members that there are two new faces this year among the full time staff: Jessica Wang has come onboard as the new Preschool Director, and Maggi DeJesus has joined as program director for the Children's Center. Jim thanked all the full-timers for all their hard work that helps him do his job better.

Jim also wished to acknowledge Donna Murray, director of the Purchase Free Library, Nicole Savino of the Institute of Dance, Adam Gutterman the principal of Purchase School, the Harrison Central School District, the Purchase Volunteer Fire Department, and the Harrison Police Department; Jim thanked them for their support and is grateful for the good relationships they have with the PCH. He also thanked the community for their support in contributing to the Annual Fund and participating in the programs at the Community House, and finally he wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Awards Presentation

Frank Dellaripa was pleased to announce the winner of this year's Hitchcock Award, given in memory of William Hitchcock's 20 years of dedicated service. The award is given on the basis of a sense of fair play, dedication to team spirit, demonstrated maturity, and strong leadership. This year's recipient has been a part of the PCH family since 2014, attending camp and after-school programs. On the days when they are not around, Frank said it feels like we are missing a team member. This person is cheerful, trustworthy, and a joy to have around. The final clue to the winner's identity was that he used to refer to Frank as "the Man". This year's winner is Cooper Flornes, who was on the Zoom teleconference.

Before Frank announced the winner of this year's Yubas Award, Jim noted that the award is named in memory of Jonathan Yubas, who was a long-time PCH board member and Little League volunteer whose children were participants at the PCH. After he passed away the PCH created this award and Jim acknowledged Jonathan's daughter Jessica's presence on the Zoom teleconference, adding that it meant a lot that Jessica was participating on the Zoom. Frank went on to indicate that this year's recipient has shown selfless dedication and volunteerism. The winner started volunteering last year in the winter session, caught on quickly, was responsible, and showed maturity and leadership qualities right away. This person is always smiling and engaging with everyone, and they continued to volunteer through to the summertime at Purchase Day Camp and all the kids really enjoy having them around. This person exemplifies all the qualities for award and her name is Ashlyn Roman.

Verification of quorum count

Shannon updated those present that there are some changes on this year's slate from last year. Two Board members are retiring: Clare Conlin and Lauren De La Cruz. Shannon thanked them for their contributions to the Community House. Lauren joined the Board in 2021, Clare in 2010. There are five new members on the proposed slate, and Jim announced a gift for each of the new Board Members: a portfolio to hold all their paperwork. Jim said he is looking forward to working with all the new board members.

Jim announced that in addition to the residents present on Zoom, the office has received 113 proxies that will be voted by Shannon. Shannon reviewed the role of the Nominating Committee in recommending and interviewing the candidates for the Board, and she thanked the other Nominating Committee members Carolyn Rodier and Spencer Weinkle for their efforts. The five new members on the proposed slate are Jennifer Ginter, Matthew Jossen, Farzie Khan, Jeremy Lang, and Sam Schusterhoff.

Shannon made a motion to approve the following slate proposed by the Nominating Committee, and Scott seconded. With the members present on the Zoom and the 113 proxy votes cast by Shannon, the motion carried and the new Board was approved.

2023-2024 Board of Directors of the Purchase Community, Inc.

Shannon Anderson	Chuck Atanasio	Andy Benerofe
Loren Canell	Justine Gaeta	Jennifer Ginter
Matthew Jossen	Farzie Khan	Jeremy Lang
Jessica Levinson-Andruk	Eleanor Mytych	Carolyn Rodier
Scott Sherman	Sam Schusterhoff	Spencer Weinkle

There being no additional old business or new business, Justine, seconded by Andy Benerofe, moved to adjourn, and between those present and the votes cast by Shannon on behalf of the proxies, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Clare Conlin, Secretary