

**Ontario Association of Landscape Architects
Draft Minutes
52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2020
Online Virtual Meeting: Resolve Collaborations Webcast**

President, Jane Welsh, presiding.

1. CALL TO ORDER

After reviewing various housekeeping details pertaining to the virtual online platform used for the first time for the OALA AGM, the 52nd Annual General Meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Jane Welsh, President.

The President acknowledged that our work takes place on traditional Indigenous territories across Ontario. We also wish to acknowledge that the Ontario Association of Landscape Architect's head office is located on the traditional Indigenous territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (a) A moment of silence was observed to remember those members of the Association who passed away since the last Annual General Meeting: Peter Hubbell, Barry F. Hughes, Robert Moote, Jordan Sadjia, Richard Strong and John Vieira.
- (b) A moment of silence was observed for all the loss in the past 6 months due COVID-19 and racial violence.
- (c) The President recognized and thanked friends of the OALA and members of allied professions who are taking time to listen in on our meeting
- (d) The President introduced OALA's Legal Representative, Denise Robertson, from Mills & Mills LLP who has been working with the OALA on various files for over two years now. Denise was not present at the meeting, but was available by phone.
- (e) The President introduced the Council members: Doris Chee – past president, Kendall Flower – vice president, Steve Barnhart – treasurer, Stefan Fediuk – secretary, Justin Whalen – councillor, Cameron Smith – councillor, Mark Hillmer – senior associate rep., Leah Lanteigne – junior associate rep., Peter Hersics – lay councillor, Brendan Stewart – UofG appointed rep., Liat Margolis – Appointed Councillor, UofG Student rep Devon Kleinjan and UofT Student Rep Morgan Quinn.
- (f) The President introduced OALA staff members: Ingrid Little, Registrar; Aina Budrevics, Executive Director; and Sarah Manteuffel, Program Coordinator for Communications and Marketing. As of June 1st, our team was also joined by Natassya Lu. Sarah is

leaving to embark her next adventure of returning to University of Manitoba for her Master's Degree in Planning in the fall. Natassya has an education background in Landscape Architecture from U of Guelph, so she may already be a familiar face to some of you. She is passionate both about the profession as well as marketing and communications, so we look forward having her on the team. Staff delivers core-business services and continues to capably provide value-added services to our members and Council.

(g) The President advised that the AGM is being recorded and reminded members of the process for asking questions during the meeting.

3. APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY

The President asked OALA Secretary Stefan Fediuk to act as Recording Secretary of this meeting. Stefan accepted.

4. NOTICE OF MEETING

The President confirmed that a notice of the Annual General Meeting was announced on the OALA website and e-mailed to the membership on June 2, 2020 along with a proxy form. Therefore, the bylaw requirement of fourteen (14) days prior notice was met. This notice also invited members to submit items of other business for the Agenda. No other business was received.

5. MEETING REGULARLY CONSTITUTED

The President addressed the Registrar to ask if the required number of full (voting) members was present in-person or by proxy to constitute quorum. The Registrar advised there were **202 voting members** present in-person or by proxy. The minimum number required was **104**. And out of interest, there is a total of **239** people in the meeting room.

The President declared that the meeting is regularly called and properly constituted for the transaction of business.

6. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Moved by: Doug Fountain **Seconded by:** Kendall Flower
CARRIED.

7. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda for the meeting was provided to all those in attendance when they registered. Items to be included are listed in the OALA Bylaws (section 7.2). The President advised that at the May 11 Council meeting, Council approved a motion to approve the reordering of business from that outlined in the bylaws (section 7.2) for ease of presentation of information.

The President asked for a motion to approve the Agenda, as presented.

Moved by: Lawrence Stasiuk **Seconded by:** Sarah Lynn Saari
CARRIED.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM

The President asked for a motion for adoption of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Association held on April 26, 2019, in Blue Mountains, Ontario. With the permission of the meeting, reading of the Minutes was waived since copies were distributed with the Notice of the meeting.

Moved by: Arnis Budrevics

Seconded by: Sarah Culp

CARRIED. 99.4% in Favour; 0.6% Against

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Annual Highlights, Strategic Plan, Recognition of Volunteers, Chapters and brief CSLA report

Jane Welsh presented a report to the membership accompanied by visual presentation reflecting on the OALA's past year and the association's accomplishments related to the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. Jane began the presentation recognizing that the last six months have experienced major disruptions by the global pandemic and the Black Live Matter's movement and expressed her hope that the attendees and their families find themselves in good health mentally and physically.

- A. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** - In acknowledgement of the Black Lives Matter movement, Jane recognized the voices of the many landscape architects and landscape architecture graduates who prepared and signed a petition to ask the OALA and CSLA to more fully address diversity and inclusion both in the membership and the work that we do. She further identified that landscape architects play a role in promoting through sensitive design, safe places for diversity, equality and inclusion. Council has discussed and responded to the authors that the OALA is committed to continuing conversation, with membership support and engagement.
- B. **Practice Act Legislation** - Activity towards Practice Act Legislation was celebrated as 2019 was an amazing year! Acknowledgement was made for members' success in increasing the awareness of landscape architecture to all levels of government across all political parties. Meeting with politicians emphasized the important role that OALA members play in creating safe, accessible places, while protecting natural features and functions in addressing climate change and climate resilience. Highlighted were two separate Queen's Park Days in November 2019 and March 2020. Separate meetings with various politicians were underscored as well as a one-pager on 'Why Ontario needs a Practice Act for Landscape Architects' as requested by Attorney General of Ontario, Doug Downey.
- C. **Climate Change** - Jane also stressed our role as landscape architects having a critical role in addressing climate change and in recovering from the pandemic by citing Frederick Law Olmstead's philosophy to 'immerse visitors in restorative and therapeutic natural landscapes' and to prepare for a more resilient world, as per Ian McHarg. The disruption that we are experiencing provides opportunities to rethink and make important changes, as well as apply collective skills in raising awareness of our role and a political voice as important ingredients to effect substantive and lasting change in addressing climate change, diversity and equity.

D. **Membership** – Attendees were notified that the 60 New Full Members were recognized (scrolling) on the screen prior to the start of the meeting and are also listed quarterly in GROUND magazines and in the Registrar’s annual report. As of December 31, 2019 the OALA has 2,016 members as follows:

- 55% Full Members
- 19% Associates
- 19% Student Members
- The remainder are Honorary and Affiliate members

E. **Progress on Strategic Plan Initiatives** – Jane identified that the work in Council and the Committees is aligned directly to advancing our Strategic Plan Priorities. Each priority and the actions related to them was highlighted.

- **Priority #1 Promote and Strengthen the Profession** – Support for Practice Act Legislation has been sought through meetings with elected officials from all three levels of government. Achievements with respect to Priority #1 were also highlighted through:
 - (a) The 2019 **Association of Municipalities of Ontario** conference provided excellent conversations with; 7 provincial ministers, including Minister of Finance Rod Phillips, 20 MPPs from various parties including MPP Joel Harden, 9 Mayors and various City Councillors.
 - (b) The newly formed **Municipal Outreach Committee**, assistance in increased awareness of the profession at the municipal level.
 - (c) Strengthening outreach to **allied professions and other associations**, by maintaining membership in the Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO) as well as participating in the annual meetings and conferences of the OPPI, the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO), and Landscape Ontario (LO) as well as had several meetings with OAA leadership.
- **Strategic Priority #2 Achieve financial stability and accountability** – This past year the focus was to remain within the approved balanced budget. In order to provide services to our members in a fiscally responsible manner we continue to investigate opportunities for additional non-dues revenue. Jane thanked Treasurer Steve Barnhart, Vice President Kendall Flower and Registrar Ingrid Little for their work on the 2020 Budget and for renewing the endowment agreements for the Universities of Toronto and Guelph.
- **Strategic Priority #3** is to improve the OALA’s membership experience as a service provider and community of professionals. Achievements highlighted included:
 - (a) Publication of the first annual edition of the OALA Product Directory
 - (b) Launching the Notarius digital seal for the use of a secure electronic signature for our membership.
 - (c) Supported activities of our 2 regional chapters (LASW and LAO), which are organized by volunteers to increase awareness of landscape architects and landscape architecture in their respective regions.

- (i) **Landscape Architecture South West Chapter (LASW)** - Commended for all their efforts to organize “the best conference that never happened” in London; as well as supporting the sold out Plant Symposium (Landscape Ontario) in February.
- (ii) **Landscape Architecture Ottawa Chapter (LAO)** - Held 11 events/meetings and met with the OALA past president and CSLA president.

Attendees from other regions with like-minded group of OALA Members were encouraged to form other Chapters though borders are currently undefined. The OALA will assist and support the formation of new regional chapters.

- **Strategic Priority #4 Support for OALA members and their engagement with the profession.** Achievements highlighted included:
 - a) **New Membership Categories** – Implementation of the New Full member sub-categories of **Inactive, Semi-Retired and Retired** approved at 2019 AGM to provide more flexibility as members transition from full-time work to remain engaged in the Association.
 - b) **Recognition of Volunteers** - Programs and services were delivered with assistance from over 334 volunteers who mentor emerging professionals, sit on committees, task forces, represent the OALA at events or external groups, or have a role on Council. Jane shared the Association’s appreciation for the contributions of all volunteers who have given their valuable time, talents, and advice to promote, improve and advance the profession and maintain standards of professional practice and conduct consistent with the need to serve and protect the public interest. Volunteer names are listed on the OALA website in the members area, in a special thank you recognizing a donation on their behalf to the Indigenous programs offered to landscape architecture students at the Universities of Toronto and Guelph.

- F. **CSLA Report Card** – Jane acknowledged that the CSLA president this past year was OALA’s **Glenn O’Connor, past OALA president**, who has been advancing awareness of landscape architecture at the national level, meeting with over a dozen MPs to share how our expertise can address the current environmental concerns such as flooding and the rising temperatures of the earth. The new President for **2020-2021** is **Hope Parnham (APALA)**, and **Carolyn Woodland (OALA)** has been acclaimed as the CSLA President-Elect.

CSLA achievements this past year include:

- The **Reciprocity Agreement** has now been signed by each component association.
- The **Canadian Landscape Charter** which reinforces the diversity of characteristics to be found across provinces and territories while at the same time develops shared values and a common vision.
- The **Reconciliation Advisory Committee Action Plan**, led by Chris Grosset, NuALA with various groups and components and universities as to how the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action plan is being incorporated or addressed. Grant Fahlgren, BCSLA will be the new Chair of the Reconciliation Advisory Committee.

- The **Committee on Climate Adaptation** led by Colleen Mercer Clarke for the past five years focused on sharing and promoting opportunities to mitigate deterioration in local and global climates, and to advance instruments and tools that will assist in preparatory and adaptive planning for environmental change. Jane announced that Colleen will be move the climate file on IFLA.

In conclusion, Jane thanked this year's conference organizing committee, as well as Council and Staff for navigating the change to our online virtual conference and AGM and encouraged attendees to take part in some of the online speaker sessions being offered. Jane also expressed her thanks to all in attendance for navigating with us through these changing times and being a patient, willing and understanding participant in our first ventures into an online Conference and AGM.

The President paused to answer any questions:

Aina interjected to provide technical clarification for members on how to ask questions. Also provided how non-voting members could view motions.

10. TABLING OF THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2019 Annual Report was posted on the OALA website on June 1, 2020 for members to access. The Annual Report was tabled without any formal presentations and entertained only questions for clarification.

The President asked for a motion to adopt the 2019 Annual Report.

Moved by: James McCracken **Seconded by:** Cynthia Graham

CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: Timothy Dobson asked for clarification for why we were addressing diversity, equity and inclusion issues. This question would be answered under other business.

11. CONFIRMATION & RATIFICATION MOTIONS

In the meeting packages members have the Recommendation Report for the Special By-Law to extend Full Member Councillor Terms by one year.

Council recommends the extension of Full Member Council terms in lieu of a Council election at the June 23, 2020 virtual AGM, for a variety of reasons as explained in the report and as shown in the shared infographic. In particular, Council has determined that an extension of these terms will provide continuity to OALA while navigating the global COVID-19 pandemic. This is an approach taken by other professional organizations similar to OALA.

After seeking guidance from the OALA lawyer at Mills & Mills LLP and considering what is in the best interests of OALA, Council unanimously passed the Special Term Extension By-Law and is now presenting it for confirmation by the voting Members at the AGM.

The President asked for a motion to confirm Special By-law No. 1 – 2020 permitting the extension of the terms of the current Councillors elected in accordance with paragraph 3.2(a) of the OALA General By-Laws by a further year which shall expire on the day before the next AGM of OALA presented to Members with the Recommendation Report and which appeared on the screen as passed by Council at the May 11, 2020 Council meeting.

Moved by: Sean Kelly **Seconded by:** John Collver
CARRIED. 98.8% for; 1.2% Against

DISCUSSION: None

Next item was the confirmation of the actions of Council for the 2019-2020 Council year.

The President asked for a motion that all actions taken by the Council since the last Annual General Meeting be, and the same are, hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

Moved by: Steven Vanderploeg **Seconded by:** Gunta Mackars
CARRIED. 98.5% in Favour; 1.5% Against

DISCUSSION: Cynthia Graham asked whether Councillors need to abstain. Council is advised to abstain.

12. COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Jane introduced the Committees and terms of process including that no vote is required on either update, and that questions would be welcomed after the conclusion of the second presentation.

A. PRACTICE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE (PLC)

Eha Naylor provided an information update on behalf of the Practice Legislation Committee (PLC). This was an information session, with no vote required from the membership.

Eha provided attendees with a brief history of the Task Force since its inception eight years ago to review the ongoing efficacy of our Title Act (1984) and to recommend a path forward. Review and research of the Practice Legislation in the US provided evidence that enhanced legislation benefited the local landscape architects that it governed, and better protected the public that were being served. Since then, there have been many changes in the political and regulatory environment in Ontario where Landscape Architects work, Council decided and members supported that advancing our legislation from a title act to a practice act was a cornerstone of our 2018-2020 OALA Strategic Plan and we have been working towards this goal ever since.

Eha further addressed why Practice Act Legislation is necessary by emphasizing that:

- It's paramount that in our work we protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. With a practice act, the OALA would **regulate the profession, in the public interest.**

- It would ensure that qualified professionals are working in the public realm through the requirement of the expertise of OALA members to be recognized, valued, and called upon to tackle complex assignments.
- Research, specifically in the US, found that this benefits both the members, government regulators and the public. It is a mechanism for ensuring that professionals qualified through education, examination and experience be able to undertake landscape architecture work.
- Ultimately, this builds the public's trust in landscape architects and further strengthens our legitimacy among the other regulated professions.

a) ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

Outreach in 2019 included 20 OALA members and involved:

- Meetings with 15 MPPs to showcase the value of landscape architecture
- A presence at Queen's Park attending question period
- Communicating with Ministry staff
- Participating in MPP events in local constituencies
- Hosting MPPs at the annual OALA meeting and conference

And through that process we have also strengthened our relationships with our allied professionals- architects, engineers, planners, interior designers and Landscape Ontario.

b) PRACTICE LEGISLATION SUBCOMMITTEE WORK

Two sub-committees that have made significant strides this year

- Risk of Harm Sub-committee** continued its work to develop the rationale and examples for the need for a Practice Act. In July 2019 this work culminated in a letter to the Attorney General. This past year the subcommittee also reworked the Scope of Practice from the Draft Act with a 'risk of harm to the public' lens.
- Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Sub-committee** drafted an update to the **Code** to guide professional conduct as a mechanism continuing to build the public's trust in landscape architects and further strengthening our legitimacy among the other regulated professions.

Municipal Outreach Committee (MOC) co-chaired by Cynthia Graham and Robert Norman was formed to build awareness for the Practice Act at the **municipal level**. It is strengthened by the OALA's participation the Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual conference.

c) FORWARD 2020

As part of our outreach to Ministry of the Attorney General, a double sided '1 pager' was developed responding to their questions that Doug Ford's government had raised of "Why Ontario Needs a Practice Act for Landscape Architects". This was shared with members in the April Progress Post. The priority in 2020 is to meet with the Attorney General, to provide the evidence that has been compiled by our sub-committees and to demonstrate how the OALA's request for a Practice Act aligns with the government's mandate. Members of the committee will continue to meet

with key influential MPPs focusing on decision makers to remind them on how we can support in developing important policies related to the environment, public health, safety and welfare, and our essential role in mitigating climate change. Meetings in 2020 will also help in prioritizing goals for the upcoming Strategic Plan considerations and also consider the other significant impacts in society where the association would like to address and affect change.

d) COVID-19 Reflections

Eha reflected on the health emergency we are experiencing worldwide, underscoring positive aspects important to our profession to human health. Citing from a study that by spending 20 minutes in nature reduces stress and by protecting, restoring and creating these environments we help to keep our communities safe. The pandemic has day-lighted:

- Importance of public parks to human health.
- The need to design and build safe public spaces to reduce risk of injury from overcrowding and to enable social distancing.
- The rise of linear parks and the prominence of green space systems has been elevated from an 'amenity' to core infrastructure that is needed for the health and well-being of society.

In closing, Eha identified that the OALA's practice legislation pursuits demand persistence, particularly in a dynamic and continuously changing political sphere. She recognized that inclusion of current President and Past Presidents of the organization are members of PLC and have made very important contributions in working towards our practice legislation objectives. She expressed sincerest gratitude to the many volunteers who have moved the 2019 initiatives forward with noted recognition to the PLC committee, Jane Welsh, Doris Chee, Glenn O'Connor, Shannon Baker, Tim Dobson, and Virginia Burt for their ongoing, sustained guidance, as well as the OALA Staff and legal and government relations consultants who have provided timely advice, coordination and liaison with members and external stakeholders. She also recognize the extraordinary effort of many OALA members who have connected with, and left an indelible impression on their MPPs.

B. PLC SUB-COMMITTEE: CREATING CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Tim McCormick updated the membership with a brief presentation on the work of OALA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct sub-committee.

It was reported that the subcommittee was tasked at the 2019 AGM with the responsibility to review and update the current Code of Ethics and Professional Practice. Over the past year, more than 30 different code of ethics, practice acts and standards of professional practice from various ASLA Landscape Architecture Chapters as well as the BCSLA policies, and the policies from allied professions including the OAA, OPPI and PEO to were reviewed to provide more context within the Ontario market. Based on these reviews the committee identified key areas of improvement for the document to provide clear guidance for the Membership and Association as it relates to the ethics and standard of professional practice within Ontario. The following have been recommended:

- Name Change from *CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE* to be changed to *CODE OF ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE* for clarity purposes.
- Addition of clearer **Stewardship Mandate** that outlines expectations of the Membership and the stewardship of the land.
- Addition of clearer definition and **Membership Responsibilities**.
- The **ETHICAL PRINCIPLES** section has been updated to a true **CODE OF ETHICS**.
- Section Addition: A **PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT** section has been added to clearly define the expectations of the Association and its Members.
- Section Addition: An **INSURANCE** section has been added to inform the Membership to carry proper insurance to protect themselves and the public.

Tim thanked committee members Cameron Smith, Joanne Moran, Patrick Li, as well as PLC, Council and Aina Budrevics for their support.

The President paused to invite any questions from either presentation:

- No Questions

13. TREASURER'S REPORT

Steve Barnhart Treasurer for the OALA provide this report on the association's financial performance over last year and also a look ahead at the budget for this year 2020. The detailed budget information is included in the Treasurer's report. He focused on key items from that report that provide the basis for membership approval.

A. Report of the Auditor

The Auditor's Report and accompanying financial statements for the 2019 fiscal year form part of the 2019 Annual Report posted online. Our association performs an audit through a third party as is best practice for review of our association's internal controls. The report provided by Kriens Larose provides the financial position of the OALA as of December 31, 2019.

It is the opinion of the external auditor that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects and they indicate a reasonable assurance that financial statements are free from material misstatement.

The Treasurer moved the acceptance of these financial statements and the report of the auditor for the fiscal year 2019.

Moved by: Steve Barnhart

Seconded by: Barbara Magee-Turner

CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: None.

B. Appointment of the Auditor

Voting item for the appointment of the 2020 auditor, to stay with Kriens-Larose as they have been performed well for the association and respond in a timely fashion.

Motion: That Kriens-LaRose Chartered Accountants be appointed auditors of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects for the fiscal year, 2020

Moved by: Steve Barnhart
CARRIED.

Seconded by: Joanne Moran

C. 2020 Budget Strategy

The OALA Treasurer reported that Council had approved a more conservative budget for 2020 given the uncertainty of financial impacts related to COVID-19 on its members and the associations' sponsors and advertising partners. It was further clarified, while the majority of members' dues have already been collected for 2020 there could be further financial challenges ahead in 2021. The budget strategy has several key considerations in anticipation of more financial impacts during 2020 related to Covid19 pandemic, and maintain a balanced budget strategy:

- Utilize the \$25,000 reserve fund withdrawal approved by membership last year.
- The 2020 income of \$1,057,000 will be key to advancing the strategic plan priorities and ongoing activities required to meet the fixed budget goals.
- Anticipated 47% decrease in variable revenue from events and sponsorship.
- Anticipated program expenses for 2020 can be met in part due to the carry forward and reserve fund contributions as revenues overall are down only 2.5% from last year while expenses have gone up by 2.7%.
- Recognizing that CSLA fees are essentially flow through funds, there is \$865,600 income to fund our operations and strategic initiatives. Membership fees represents approximately 71% of our income for 2020. Continuing education events, and advertising from Ground, the OALA newsletter, website and Product Guide make up 15% of the budgeted income. Events which have been cancelled make up the remainder.

Membership was reminded that the expenses are in two categories; Fixed costs and Variable costs. For transparency, Fixed costs (approx. 66% of all expenses) are reoccurring expenses that are necessary to maintain operations, whereas Variable costs (approx. \$290,100) are more strategic in nature and may be adjusted by Council based on the programs and initiatives identified in the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan.

Motion: that members approve the allocation of \$290,100 toward variable costs associated with the delivery of strategic initiatives identified in the 2020 budget.

Moved by: Eriks Kalvins

Seconded by: Lawrence Stasiuk

CARRIED. 98.2% in favour; 1.8% against

DISCUSSION: It was clarified for Zara Brown that the budget accounts for in-person meetings.

F. Fixing of 2021 Membership Dues

Council is not recommending an increase to annual membership dues starting in 2021 due to COVID19 – we will continue to monitor financial trends through 2020, and maintaining a conservative approach to budgeting for 2021 will likely be necessary, a cost of living increase adjustment for 2021 is not anticipated.

Steve asked for a motion that members approve no increase to the 2021 membership dues from 2020 amounts.

Motion: That Members approve the 2021 membership dues to remain the same, in the amount of:

\$586 Full Member
\$161 Associate Member
\$445 Associate+7 Member
\$188 Affiliate Member

Moved by: Amanda Berry **Seconded by:** Sarah Culp
CARRIED 97.6% In Favour; 2.4% Against

DISCUSSION: None

Summary statements from Treasurer highlight the key objectives behind the 2020 budget:

- Council continues to maintain a balanced budget approach even through these uncertain times
- Since membership dues represent the majority of income for the association and the majority of dues have already been collected for 2020 our cash flow to continue operations is quite sound for the remainder of 2020.
- In the year of a global pandemic caused by Covid19 the financial impacts are still uncertain so we have taken a conservative approach to this budget projecting lower income from sponsorship and trade show contributions as a result of switching to a virtual AGM. Uncertainty around timing for larger future events or gatherings is still unclear making budget for social committee activities a challenge.
- Council is not recommending an increase in membership fees for 2021 anticipating that there may be potential financial challenges ahead for our membership as the year continues on.
- Council is pausing the contribution to the university endowment programs for 2021 until the full financial impacts from Covid 19 are understood.
- It has been a privilege to serve as you treasurer for the last two years and I am looking forward to better times ahead.

14. ELECTION OF COUNCIL (MOTION TO EXTEND COUNCIL TERMS)

The Members have confirmed Special By-law No. 1-2020. As permitted by this Special By-law, the Members may, by majority vote, extend the terms of our current Full Member Councillors by one year. As has been explained in our communications leading up to today's AGM, this means that we will not hold an election this year.

Motion: to extend the terms of office for Full Member Councillors by one year to expire at the next AGM.

Moved by: Francisco Martire **Seconded by:** Corrine Latimer
CARRIED. 99.4% In-favour; 0.6% Against

DISCUSSION: None

15. ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you for members' understanding and cooperation, and also the Councillors staying on. We will get through this together!

While there is no Full member Councillor Election results to report, there are Associate Councillor Election results to report.

Leah Lanteigne, currently Junior Associate representative, will be the Senior Associate representative on Council for the upcoming Council year. A Junior Associate representative was elected earlier by Associate members and joining Council is Chen Zixiang.

Associate representatives are nominated and elected by Associate members and held via email voting. This year the election was held in March and three candidates were nominated. Chen will serve a two year term as the Junior Associate Councillor.

With this announcement of the new Associate Rep, it also means that we say good bye to our current Senior Associate Rep, Mark Hillmer. Mark has provided a thoughtful and insightful voice at the Council table.

Our appointed members on Council are:

Lay Councillor	Peter Hersics
University of Guelph educator	Brendan Stewart
University of Toronto educator	to be filled
Appointed Councillor	Liat Margolis
Student representatives	
Morgan Quinn, University of Toronto	
Devon Kleinjan, University of Guelph	

The 2020-2021 Executive Councillors will be elected among the Councillors at a meeting being held tomorrow, and will be announced to the members in the July newsletter.

16. SETTING OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE - 2020 OALA AGM VENUE

The date of the next Annual General Meeting of the OALA will be held in conjunction with the CSLA Congress, in Ottawa, May 27 – May 29, 2021. The theme of the Congress is: Nature-Based Solutions in a Changing World. More details about that exciting program are already available on the CSLA website.

17. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other business items brought before the meeting when the agenda was approved at the beginning of the meeting. The President took a moment to highlight a few comments in the meeting chat:

- 1) Lawrence Stasiuk thanked Council for taking on an extended term
- 2) Tim Dobson asked for discussion on the response letter for Black Lives Matter. Expressed that he does not support the letter. Jane Welsh responded that this is a needed conversation to ensure that the spaces we create must foster safe, healthy environments void of prejudices.

No further questions.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The President asked for a motion to adjourn the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Motion: That the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the OALA be adjourned.

Moved by: Jennifer Hill **Seconded by:** Andrew Johnson

CARRIED. 99.4% in-Favour; 0.6% Against

The President thanked everyone for attending. Thank you staff, council, our great technical support from Resolve Collaboration and all of you listening for making this work today. Jane reflected that she hopes we can collectively use this time of disruption to raise awareness of the work that we do and to advance real substantive and lasting change in addressing climate change, diversity, equity and inclusion. We need to apply our collective skills – those of our experienced practitioners and our emerging professionals – together to achieve this.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.