

The International Women' Club - Bermuda

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

May 17, 2023, held at The Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club, Paget, Bermuda

1. Welcome and come to order.

There being over 20 members in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm. IWC President, Jessica Ray, welcomed all attendees. She noted that copies of the draft Minutes from last year's meeting had been circulated and posted on the website shortly after last year's meeting and had been included with the Notice for this meeting. Copies were also available on each table.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the last AGM held May 11, 2022

The Minutes were **APPROVED**.

3. Financial Highlights

Treasurer, Angela Parry explained that the Club's financial year end is the 30th of June. Financial Statements for YE June 30, 2022 had been produced, circulated to all members and are available for viewing on the IWC Website. She therefore referred members to the one-page handout, "Key Financials" that were available on each table. Membership income had gone up this year largely due to an increase in our membership which now stands at 268 members. Last year at the Annual General Meeting, members had approved an increase in membership dues, however those fees did not go into effect until October which meant that the increase in membership income was a result of increase in our membership base. Membership renewals have already started, so if anyone has already paid, that income will be reflected in next year's financial results. Thank you to those members who have already paid their membership fees for the upcoming year.

A massive thank you to all who contributed to the Relay for Life. She was happy to advise that the Club had raised \$5,500 which was way above expectations. A special thank you to Lucy Hales who chaired the committee and to Tiffany Stutzman for decorating and pulling together our kiosk. In addition to the Relay for Life, the IWC had raised \$7,640. in donations / gifts for the food hampers and gifts to seniors in December. The IWC has also received \$1000.00 from the PGA for all our members who volunteered at the event.

Over the last couple of years, Angela in her role as Treasurer, has been reviewing our cashflow as required under our own Bylaws, policies and procedures and our requirements under the Charities Act. In doing so, we have gradually been reducing the amount of cash held in the bank. Based on our cashflow projections and making sure that we maintain sufficient funds to pre-fund social events, together with maintaining 2 years' worth of operating expenses, the Board is proposing that we donate \$14,000.00 this year in grants.

The annual accounts should be completed by August or September and will be posted on the IWC website once available, typically in September or October after the Board reconvenes after the summer recess.

Once again, a heartfelt thankyou to all who pay on time.

4. Annual Grants

Philanthropy Chair, Sandra Christensen advised that this year the Board's focus for giving was on food security, family and mental health.

Sandra reminded members that we had reached out to the membership for suggestions for this year's annual grant donations. From that process we had received suggestions for approximately 9 charities and a couple were rejected as they did not meet the criteria. She had reached out to the remaining charities. A few of these either did not respond or were then rejected explaining that they did not fall within the scope for this year's giving. Five charities were then short listed where the Board gathered more detailed information.

As a result of this process the Board is recommending that the annual grant be donated to 2 charities:

- 1) \$10,000 – Champions Program, Gina Spence Productions.

The Champions Program is the only one in Bermuda that tracks and supports children (newborn to 18 years) who have lost a parent due to gun or gang violence. The Program seeks to advocate for and provide social support and community growth through performing arts, education, therapy and essential needs outreach. If left unchecked, the pattern of violence would likely repeat itself.

- 2) \$4,000 - Big Brothers and Big Sisters – Cooking 4 Life Program.

Sandra explained that last year we had donated the grant to Big Brothers/Sisters – Boys 2 Men/Girl Power for mentoring, counselling and/or other professional services. This year, due to a huge demand and need from their families, and a growing number of Bermudians with diabetes and other health issues, Big Brothers and Big Sisters are wanting to introduce a new program "Food 4 Life" which is designed to teach their "littles" how to shop for food, price compare, and how to cook and eat healthier.

Productions – Champions Program.

After receiving a question from the floor, Beth (Secretary) explained that the Board had given a lot of consideration as to whether the IWC could or should donate funds to the same charity as done in the previous year. The Board had given this a lot of consideration. There was nothing in the Bylaws or the Standing Rules, nor could anything be found in previous Board minutes that would prevent us from doing so. It was genuinely felt that the Club should consider each and every request on its own merits and the financial need for that charity in order to assist those in need that met the Club's pillars for giving.

APPROVED \$10,000 being donated to Gina Spence

APPROVED \$4,000 being donated to Big Brothers/Sisters – Boys 2 Men/Girl Power – Food 4 Life Program,

Jessica advised that representatives from both charities would be invited to attend the President’s Coffee which, this year will be held on June 14th at Coco Reefs on the Terrace wherein they would be presented with their cheques. They would therefore be available to provide more details on the charity and how the funds will be used. Invites will be circulated in due course.

5. Appointment of officers to the Board

Jessica thanked the Nominating Committee, chaired by Tiffany Banner assisted by Alexandra Anella and Liza Zaychenko, who had worked tirelessly to recruit new members to join the Board.

Tiffany Banner announced the following Nominees for the slate of Officers for the July 2023 – June 2024 Board:

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| 1. President | Angela Parry |
| 2. First VP, Membership Chair | Sharon Haney |
| 3. Second VP, Philanthropy Chair | Lucy Hales |
| 4. Hospitality Chair | Shannon Brennan |
| 5. Secretary | Tanya Risk |
| 6. Treasurer | Ingrid Hendel |
| 7. Social Chair | Hannah Pustejovsky |
| 8. New Islanders Chair | Alexandra Anello |
| 9. Communications Chair | Priya Suagh |
| 10. Webmaster | Liza Zaychenko |

The Slate of Officers was **APPROVED**.

6. Any other business

None raised

7. President’s Closing Remarks

Jessica wrapped up the meeting by providing highlights of the various activities and events that had taken place during the year. Jessica thanked the membership for their support through the year. She then thanked Board members individually for their support and dedication and with special thanks to those board members who were retiring from the Board.

A full copy of the President’s Remarks can be found attached to these Minutes.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

In attendance:

Alexandra Anello
Andrea Brown
Angela Parry
Annie Shalian
Beth Vesey
Carmen Domarco
Donna Smith
Hannah Pustejovsky
Ingrid Hendel
Jackie Walsh
Jennifer Bull
Jenny Smart
Jessica Ray
Joanne Richardson
Joanne Russell
Jude Barton
Kerrie Ahronson
Lucy Hales
Mandy Brooks
Nicky Medway
Sarah Keane
Sharon Haney
Sylvie Elliott
Tara Hall
Tara Sullivan
Tiffany Stutzman
Tiffany Banner
Tiffany Whitehurst
Vanessa Stott