

Inaugural AGM for the Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba

NOVEMBER 25TH 2016, WESTEND COMMONS 641 ST. MATHEWS AVE

ATTENDING:

Introduction and Background

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Welcome Hennes Doltze, MC Michael Redhead Champagne, Prayer Lieutenant Brian Bobolo

Restorative Justice and the Province Then

Presented by Dave Brickwood **former title?**

Restorative Justice and the Province Now

Presented by Dillon Halter **title?**

Dave spoke about the process of the developing the province's five year plan on restorative justice while Dillon spoke to what her current department, Innovation and Restorative Justice Manitoba is doing. Dillon highlighted the success the department is seeing in such programs as the John Howard Society of Brandon and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak. Both Dave and Dillon agreed that the current rate of incarceration is unsustainable, that alternatives are needed and restorative justice is gaining support as one such alternative.

Name Announcement

An email vote was held and the majority vote went to Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba (RJAM).

History of the Association to Date

Presented by Kate Kehler

Forming the association came out of 2014 discussions by the organizations that usually hold events to celebrate National Restorative Justice Week, Mediation Services, Initiatives for Just Communities, Onashowewin, Southern Chiefs Organization, Manitoba Interfaith Council, the John Howard Society of Manitoba and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak. This was prompted by the announcement of the Restorative Justice Act of Manitoba. The events of the 2014 week were geared to engaging other organizations, practitioners and community on the value of restorative justice and the idea of an

association. On Friday, November 21st, 2014 a final meeting was held at Mediation Services and it was agreed by the approximately 50 participants that a community, grassroots association would be of value. A steering committee was formed and tasked with more outreach, securing a seat on the Minister's Advisory Council and investigate next steps in forming an association. The steering committee reported back at a community meeting on June 3rd, 2014 at the West End Cultural Centre. The above tasks were completed and a facilitated planning discussion focusing on what the association could and should focus on was held. There was wide support for the association to promote the increase use of restorative justice. The steering committee became the pilot committee tasked with developing draft mission, vision and values, investigate funding models, investigate pursuing charitable status and more community partnerships. The pilot committee formed subcommittees with additional community members to work on the four areas. The pilot committee reported back on November 18th, 2015. A full discussion was held as it was felt that the mission and vision were not 'grand' enough. Decisions to hold an email vote on the name, develop by-laws so as to pursue incorporated status (and not pursue charitable status that would curtail advocacy ability), expand the vision and mission and for the pilot committee to become the interim board of directors were made. The interim board worked on the above with the goal of reporting back at the inaugural AGM. Minutes of all mentioned meetings were circulated widely and are available upon request. The invitation to the AGM was open and widely promoted. Membership fees for the 2016/2017 year were waved to encourage membership.

By-law Approval

Facilitated by Josh Brandon

Josh explained that the goal today was to get all the by-laws approved so that the board could go ahead with incorporation so asked that the group not try and 'wordsmith' the document. It had been circulated widely and feedback was requested. There was one response from Barry Colby. He was contacted and agreed that he would bring his concerns to the AGM himself. Josh asked that while small changes could be made here and now as well as any serious concerns mentioned for later discussion, given that the board has included a process to amend the by-laws going forward which will be presented next can the membership agree that what we currently have is good enough to proceed.

Article 1

Discussion:

- David Newman commented that the acronym **RJAM** should be included in the bylaws.

- A new name was suggested from the floor by Barry Colby: “STARS-RJMB” (Standards of Truths Alternatives and Reconciliation Systems – Restorative Justice of Manitoba). However, as an e-vote had been held as directed with names suggested at previous meetings it was decided that it could not be changed at this time. .
- David Newman commented that **Inc.** should also be included in the bylaws after **Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba**

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 1 WITH AMMENDMENTS TO SECTION 1.1 TO READ: *The name of the Corporation shall be Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba Inc. (RJAM Inc.)*

1st – Karen Swain

2nd – Maria Bromilow

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Articles 2.5 to 7.1

Josh presented on how the by-laws can be amended by the membership. No concerns were expressed.

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLES 2.5 TO 7.1 AS PRESENTED

1st – Gail Schellenberg

2nd – Megan Bowman

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Article 2.1 to 2.4

Mission, Vision and Values

Presented by Hennes Doltze (Hennes – would you like to hit the highlights of your notes? Sorry this did not get captured)

Discussion:

- There was discussion about the grammar of section 2.3.1, whether it should be experience as opposed to experiences. It was decided to stay with experiences to emphasis how diverse those can be.
- Joan Johannson commented that the mission fails to mention advocacy directed specifically at governments. Kate Kehler responded saying that this will come with the operationalization of the bylaws. David Newman commented that as written the mission statement should ensure that RJAM is fully supported in advocating to governments in multi-partisan ways. Megan Bowman commented that she interpreted outreach to include outreach to both the public and governments.
- A note was made that section 2.4.4 included a grammatical mistake. It should read “*We undertake regular review, evaluation of evidence and continuous improvement of our organization’s efforts in light of best practices.*”

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLES 2.1 TO 2.4 AS PRESENTED with amended 2.4.4:

*"We undertake regular review, evaluation **of** evidence and continuous improvement of our organization's efforts in light of best practices."*

1st – Allan Wise

2nd – Alfred Koyen

MOTION CARRIED with one abstention by Joan Johannson.

Election of the Board of Directors

Gail Shellenberg presented the report from the nominating committee. The process outlined in the by-laws was followed and by presenting the current slate, the nominating committee is confident they have met the required criteria. Finding a board member with direct personal experience was not met but it is hoped that the Youth and Elder Council might be a better avenue for that participation. Biographies of the proposed members were circulated with the AGM invitation and made available at the AGM.

However, as the by-laws stipulate nominations from the floor are possible so she asked if there were any. There were none. The proposed Board of Directors stands as:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| ○ Travis Blaine | ○ Neil Funk-Unrau | ○ Gail Schellenberg |
| ○ Megan Bowman | ○ John Hutton | ○ Karen Swain |
| ○ Maria Bromilow | ○ Kate Kehler | ○ Allan Wise |
| ○ Hennes Doltze | ○ Alfred S. Koineh | ○ Bonnie Woodhouse |
| ○ Shauna Fontaine | ○ Heather Leeman | |
| ○ Kate Kehler | ○ Tashina Monias | |

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SLATE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUT FORWARD BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1st – David Newman

2nd – Hennes Doltze

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Post motion, Barry suggested an oversight committee for the board given other organizations such as Red River College have had issues in the past. Josh commented that currently the membership served as the oversight committee and that everyone who has attended this meeting is currently a member,

though in the future this will be an opt-in process with a fee. Kate commented that since we were in such early days, there was no funding as of yet so no executive director or staff to populate and maintain an oversight committee perhaps this could be revisited once the organization is more established and structured. No actual motion was made as there was general agreement the subject could wait.

Next Steps

Presented by Kate Kehler

The next steps for the organization include incorporation, branding the organization and seeking out funding.

Closing Prayer

Elder Wally Swain