

Wiccan Church of Canada - AGM

May 5, 2012

Meeting called at 4:30 pm, by Chairman Marlyn King.

Proxy votes:

- George holds the proxy for Janice, with the note that she is not available for any position.
- Marlyn holds 2 proxy votes. Robb gives Red his vote to use how she pleases. He does not want any position on any committee. Paul gives his voting rights to Red to use the proxy as she wishes.

All 3 proxy votes were given to the secretary to keep with the minutes.

Bella as secretary read the minutes from the previous years' AGM. As she did not have a copy on the notebook computer she borrowed Mara's copy that she (Bella) had sent earlier to Mara. As for the year since the meeting, the Steering committee has for the most part taken place on-line. The discussions over charitable donations, the mirror incident and any other business were mainly on-line.

- All discussions held by the Steering committee not on the forum will be made available upon request.
- Bylaws and minutes of the Wiccan Church of Canada to be put on the WCC Forum board and will be available on that site.

Brad asked a question as to the actual cost of the mirror, and that will be answered as part of the Financial Report.

- Food share back to school campaign was quite successful.
- Newsletter has gone down due to time commitments. And people who have volunteered info have not been forthcoming.

Chair's report with many a sides. The Sky Dragon / Homegrown Café it is a coffee house, so please keep them in mind when going for things as beverage and food.

Marlyn held up our portfolio of the things that our Temple has done. She spoke of being grateful to the community, for the contributions made by all.

The Chair's report to be included with AGM.

WCC Hamilton Temple, AGM

2011/2012

Chairs Report: Marlyn

Food Share: Hamilton Temple & PPD collected 632 lbs of food for the "Back to School" campaign. This wonderfully generous community opened their hands & hearts to feed a real need in our city. Well done, Friends!

From Samhain to Beltane we have raised 734 lbs, with another tally expected due to a recent drop off :)

Bringing this year's total 1366+ lbs

Children of Christmas Past: The Children of Christmas Past, a local, grassroots organization, has passionately taken it upon themselves to be a strong voice with a loving, helping hand for seniors who are alone...It reminds them that they are remembered, respected and appreciated by their communities."

Maria wished for a medium sized cardigan - so we found a lovely cardigan w/ a pashmina & accessories to leave under a tree for her :)

Danny hoped for a pair of brown pants - we hope he likes the chocolate brown trousers ... and the tabletop horse-shoes game, lol ... and each received a large tin of candy or cookies.

Notre Dame Project: This winter the Hamilton Temple looked back at the Notre Dame Youth shelter once again. Notre Dame House is a 20-bed, 24-hour emergency shelter and multiagency resource centre for homeless and street

involved youth 16 to 21 years of age. The Temple purchased 20 new backpacks and proceeded to fill each one with “needful things” such as toiletries, winter wear, food, shirts & socks, and anything else we could offer to brighten someone's day; as well as 4 gifts bags of extras for the House. The result was an overwhelming statement of care and warmth for the youth on our streets in need.

Events: Great North Wrestling donated a share of their proceeds back in November towards our backpacks. Unfortunately, the community did not buy many tickets, but Paul and I attended and enjoyed the show.

Earth Day Yard sale did not get a space permit in a timely manner from the SkyDragon Coop, and was not able to proceed with the planned fundraiser.

SkyDragon / Homegrown Cafe: The Hamilton Temple strives to maintain a good working relationship with the Co-Op as it is very difficult to find permanent quarters for this temple on the good will and donations of our membership. Having said that we appreciate your cooperation in helping to maintain that relationship through keeping the space clean and being good neighbours with the dancers and yogi that we share this space with. We have an open sign-up sheet with the steering committee for anyone wishing to donate time or supplies to the bi-weekly cleaning we give this space ... all help is welcome :)

In regards to the Homegrown Cafe ... it IS a coffee house and it is difficult for them as a business when we stroll through their space with trays of Timmies coffee and visible food. We would like to ask you to consider them as an option for your beverage of choice, and/or dinner as well as exercising discretion should you opt otherwise. Either way, we ask you to not leave your garbage behind and clean up after yourself ... that simple courtesy is deeply appreciated by the staff that runs the temple and the SkyDragon CoOp.

In closing:

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for giving me the opportunity to work with you on the many projects we have done for our temple and the greater community. It is a real pleasure knowing that this pagan temple

doesn't only Talk the Talk, it Walks the Walk ... you should all be very proud of the changes you have made in other peoples' lives.

FoodShare knows us and actively looks to us to help feed the community, because we KNOW there are hungry kids out there and it's unacceptable. This attitude makes the difference for many kids, something I can tell you from personal experience that having a meal in the morning has a huge impact on our children ... as a mother, an educator and child advocate ... thank you.

Interval House and Notre Dame know of us ... the face of community paganism is slowly changing according to the works this temple has been doing over the last few years, and mainstream 'christian good will' organizations are being reminded that all of us have a investment in the future. This past year proves the love and determination you have to make a difference ... be it hungry families, battered women or street youth. Well done Hamilton Temple.

I am proud to be a member and friend to this temple ... your confidence while I have been Chairwoman of this past steering committee has been deeply appreciated, and it is my intent to continue to serve you, my gods and this community to the best of my ability in whatever capacity "They" deem necessary.

Thank you

Marlyn King.

Treasurer's report. Report by Mara.

Income

General Donations	**	1,715.
PPD – Net		199.
<u>Yule Auction</u>		<u>940.</u>
		2,854.-

Expenses

Rent	2,170.
PPD Fee	50.
Donation: Donovan	200.
<u>Replaced Mirror</u>	<u>350.</u>
	2,770.

- Net Total = \$84.

** Net of Temple expenses and 10% FoodShare Donations.

Opening Bank Balance -	999.80
<u>Net income -</u>	<u>84.00</u>
Ending Bank Balance -	1,083.80

Actual report was a handout with the above figures. Explanations given verbally. Will be added to report as an extra.

Website: Report from Kim.

- ❖ Forum added and for those who wish to have questions answered, Kim checks the site on a regular basis. George and Janice answer questions on a regular basis.
- ❖ Priesthood has been asked for interviews by people writing papers. Some have asked about ghost busting, Hand fasting, and for questions they do not have an answer for, George will pass to those more qualified.

Pagan Pride Day: Report by James.

- a) The table was well attended, and others joined to keep things lively. More people came to the table which could have been the result of exposure on two sides.
- b) Colouring book did not do too well, no idea as to why. Second colouring book copies not given to Gus.
- c) Robb's boxes, Carolyn's jewelry, and Kim's pictures did quite well.
- d) PPD has been moved to Sunday, September 16th 2012, due to other activities booked at Gage Park on Saturday September 15, 2012.
- e) As Amanda Hyde will be stepping down from the PPD organization, Drew Maddison and Samantha Holden Emmerson will be assisting with the co-coordinating of the event.

James stated that he rather enjoyed being chair of the PPD committee and would like to continue to do so.

***Question asked by Helene about whom to ask about joining the First-aid crew. Debbie responded she was responsible for that and noted that Helene is available to volunteer.

Scrutineers to count ballots: Shannon nominated by Mara, and 2nd by Heather.

Joe nominated by Kim, 2nd by Mara.

Business:

Original Motion 1:

- A member has proposed a change to the 6:2:2 By-Law “Rights & Privileges of Priesthood” (*priesthood retains all the rights and privileges granted to members of the particular member temple or member coven to which they belong as stated by the By Law*) ... the proposal is that priesthood be stripped of their right to stand as a serving member of the steering committee. Does that member still wish to proceed? – If yes, would that member please stand and make their proposal... – if not, then the By Laws stand unchanged.

Mara stood up and said she stands by the motion but stated that the words used were biased.

- Mara stated that the existing By-laws were not legally binding because the Wiccan Church of Canada is not a legal entity having lost its’ charitable status and charter; and therefore, should not be recognized as a legal directive by which the Hamilton Temple should be governed.
- Mara and Leora handed out “Good Governance” leaflets but did not explain why.
- Chair held up a copy of the Bylaws and read the front page: “1988 and revision 1991,” and asked Mara if she recognized these bylaws, Mara said no.
- Mara who joined the Temple over 18 years ago recited a story which began with...Once upon a time there was a WCC Hamilton Temple and the corporation lapsed, but the association continued.... The end result is that the bylaws as they stand are not legally binding – they are not a legal document anymore; therefore, the bylaws should not be recognized. As they are not legally binding too this Temple, the Temple should create its’ own governing rules.

It should be noted that I have asked for a written copy of the speech given for this minute transcript so it can be added. As of May 21, 2012, this speech has not been received

- Chair refused to argue with Mara on this point at which time she demanded that the refusal to argue the point noted in the minutes of this AGM.

Heather Wright spoke up at this point and pointed out that the By-laws cannot be changed without the Board of Directors involvement. Only way to change By-laws means having 2/3rds present at a meeting specifically set up change them.

- Mara then questioned why the rules had been changed the previous year concerning who had a right to vote?
- To which the Chair stated that is why amendments are allowed as the run for only a year.

George spoke up and said regardless of what Mara's opinion of this Temple is, he believes in the legitimacy of those bylaws and has the right to uphold them as any church, organization or club has a right to their rules.

Don stated that if a member did not accept and recognize the Bylaws, they should not in good conscious accept a position on the Steering Committee.

- At this point Mara launched into a speech about separation of Church and State. How that WCC Priesthood cannot be trusted, that they have secret rights and privileges – which were not explained. That the Steering committee should be the private domain of the “Common Joe.”
- When Chair asked if this included Latvian or Alexandrian Priesthood, Mara did not respond.
- Mara then stated that Priesthood should be stripped of their voting rights at the AGM and any Steering Committee meetings.

Kim read out loud section 6:2:2 – Rights and Privileges of Priesthood. In this section it clearly states that priesthood has a right to vote and be on any committee if they are elected.

***Question arose as to who has the authority over the WCC Hamilton Temple. To which George stated that would be Janice and himself.

Carolyn asked if priesthood is allowed to attend the meetings but not vote. The answer was yes.

Kim pointed out that any member can vote at a meeting as stated in 6:3:2. It does not specify that this be a Steering Committee.

- According to Mara, the Steering Committee is not a place for priesthood to vote.
- According to Mara, as told to her by Richard James, in 1997, the corporation lapsed, when the charter was cancelled. Mara will be happy to spend the \$65.-, to PROVE that they no longer exist as the WCC Toronto has not filed a tax report.

***It should be noted that Mara the Treasurer for the Hamilton Temple does not prepare the taxes for the Toronto Main Temple.

***Paul Nizol asked for a 2nd clarification. Do we have to be incorporated before we become non-profit/charitable organization?

Mara stated that a **Nuance Report** is required, and she will be happy to go through the records to find the proper information regarding the WCC as a charter.

If requested, Mara will have the information for next week's gathering.

- Mara put forth the motion that Priesthood from the Wiccan Church of Canada not hold voting positions on the Steering Committee of the Hamilton Temple.

Heather pointed out that as far as she understands things, changes can be made if they go to the Board of Directors. The Priesthood liaison brings the proposal to the High Priests and they get an un-biased opinion returned to them.

- Mara has it that the Steering Committee has always been part of the checks and balances. Why is there a sudden push to keep priesthood on the committee?

***Leora stated that it is important to keep things separate; this is about the principle that within the priesthood to avoid nullifying the community's vote.

Kim pointed out that priesthood would not get on the committee if they are not voted on by the membership. If people do not think a person is not worthy, they will not be voted on.

James asked, what had changed.

Chair (Marlyn) stated that Don Rees was right. We operate as a group and try to meet the changes within the community. The Steering Committee has tried to be transparent as possible, and we need to vote on the proposal.

The voting positions = (Chair if there is a tie,) Secretary and Treasurer.

Proposal put to vote. Further clarification made that this be: the Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Members at Large.

Mara's Motion: 2nd by Leora.

Mara moves that WCC Priesthood not hold a voting position on the Steering Committee of the Hamilton Temple.

Votes: Yes = 13.

No = 16.

Motion Opposed.

Original Motion 2:

- A member has proposed a change to the 6:3:1 By Law "Determination of Membership within a Member Temple" (refer to By-Laws ...) ... the proposal is regarding *part D which states those who have attended worship at the member temple at least once within the last 3 months.* * Please note 6:3:2 refers to voting privileges. Does

that member still wish to proceed? – If yes, would that member please stand and make their proposal... – if not, then the By Laws stand unchanged.

Mara Stood by this motion and stated that someone who shows up for Class or ritual once in three months prior to an AGM should not have voting privileges.

Bruce disagreed and suggested a modification and Mara agreed.

- Mara motioned that voting privileges at an AGM not be granted to a member who shows up for class or ritual once in 3 months prior to the AGM and that the incoming Steering Committee be charged with defining voting right and privileges prior to the AGM.

Motion 2nd by Bruce.

The question would be – what would be considered active, would be decided by the new Steering Committee. This is in order to avoid any parachute voting or vote loading. The new committee must decide what ‘Active’ means.

Mara’s Motion: 2nd by Bruce.

That attendance at least once in the past 3 months is not sufficient to be classified as an active member of the Hamilton Temple at the AGM. The Steering Committee be charged with investigating what constitutes acceptable membership requirements for voting at the AGM.

Votes: Yes: 23. No: 06.

Motion Passed.

Original Motion 3:

- A member has proposed a change to the 7:4:3:4 “Other Officers” (*refer to By Law*) ... the proposal is regarding an amendment that these 3 Members At Large positions that have been functioning positions within the last 10 years that they be made permanent positions that are voted on by temple membership, as part of the

due process of electing a steering committee, maintaining permanent Officer status. Does that member still wish to proceed? – If yes, would that member please stand and make their proposal... – if not, then the By Laws stand unchanged.

Kim read the Bylaw statement and put forth the motion. 2nd by Debbie.

- In the past we have had 3 Members at Large and Kim proposes that we make them permanent positions. The 3 Members at Large positions within the last 10 years be made permanent positions that are voted on by the Temple membership as part of the due process of electing a Steering Committee maintaining permanent office status.
- It was explained that at present, according to the Bylaws these positions could be dissolved at will by the Chair, Secretary and the Treasurer at will, and she (Kim) felt that they serve a valid and functioning purpose to the Temple and should be given permanent Officer Status.

Kim's Motion: 2nd by Debbie.

That the 3 (three) Members at Large positions with the last 10 years be made permanent positions that are voted on by the Temple Membership as part of the due process of electing a Steering Committee maintaining permanent officer status.

Votes: Yes = 23. No = 06.

Motion Passed.

Original Motion 4: from the Floor.

- A member brought forward the motion that the outgoing secretary post the minutes of the AGM to the Temple forum within 1(one) week of the AGM, and that response, comments etc by Temple members posted within 3 (three) week of that posting be read alongside the minutes at the following years' AGM before the vote to adopt or amend said minutes.

Motion put forth by Leora and 2nd by George.

Leora's Motion: 2nd by George.

The motion that the outgoing Secretary post the minutes of the AGM to the Temple forum within 1 (one) week of the AGM and that the response, comments etc by Temple members be posted within 3 (three weeks) of that posting be read alongside the minutes at the following year's AGM before the vote to adopt or amend said minutes.

Voting: Yes = 23.

No = 03.

Motion Passed.

Original Motion 5: from the Floor.

- A member put forth the motion that the incoming Steering Committee recognizes the existing 1991 WCC Bylaws as a valid governing directive to maintain its' consistency and faith within the WCC Hamilton Temple.

Marlyn the Chair put this motion forward.

- Bruce argued that the motion was invalid and that the chair could "not tell the Steering Committee what to do."
- Marlyn (Chair) maintain that this could be done, if you charge them to implement and investigate voting privileges and hold them accountable to those same rules.
- George agreed and reminded Bruce that the Bylaws are our governing body and it needs to be made clear that the incoming Steering Committee would honour that.
- Mara then stated that the Chair was NOT allowed to put forth a motion.
- Debbie picked up the motion and it was 2nd by Kim.

*****Motion put forth by Debbie and 2nd by Kim.**

- James asked the question that we are operating under the rules of 1991 for our Temple.
- Chair (Marlyn) answered Yes.

Debbie's Motion: 2nd by Kim.

The motion that the incoming Steering Committee recognizes the existing 1991 Bylaws – WCC Bylaws as valid governing directive to maintain its' consistency and faith with the WCC Hamilton Temple.

Voting: Yes = 17.

No = 11.

Abstain =01.

Motion Passed.

Election of Officers: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 (three) Members at Large.

Nominees:

Chair:

Bella = Nominated by Leora, 2nd by Carolyn. Declined Nomination.
Kim = Nominated by Marlyn, 2nd by Paul N. Accepted Nomination.
Marlyn/Red = Nominated by Kim 2nd by Bella. Declined Nomination.
Shannon = Nominated by Mara, no second. Declined Nomination
Dawn = Nominated by Leora, 2nd by Shannon. Declined Nomination.
Paul, S. = Nominated by Mara, 2nd Leora. Accepted Nomination.
James = Nominated by Joe, 2nd by Miranda. Accepted Nomination.

End Result: Kim = 13; Declared and new Chairman.

Paul, S. = 05;

James = 11.

Secretary:

Bella: Nominated by Marlyn, 2nd Kim. Accepted Nomination.

James: Nominated by Leora, 2nd Joe. Accepted Nomination.

End Result: Bella = 18; Declared and remains as Secretary.

James = 11.

Treasurer:

Mara = Nominated by Heather, 2nd Carolyn. Accepted Nomination.

Nichol = Nominated by George, no second. Declined Nomination.

End Result: Mara acclaimed as Treasurer. No vote needed.

Members at Large:

Don = Nominated by George, 2nd Shannon. Accepted Nomination.

James = Nominated by Debbie, 2nd Kim. Accepted Nomination.

Marlyn = Nominated by Bella, 2nd Jeff. Accepted Nomination.

Paul, S. = Nominated by George, 2nd James. Accepted Nomination.

Nicole = Nominated by Shannon, 2nd James. Accepted Nomination.

Joe = Nominated by Leora, 2nd Debbie. Accepted Nomination.

End Result: Don = 19.

James = 17.

Paul, S. = 19.

Other Business & New Business for Committees:

Kim, as New Chairman, put forth a motion that due to the late hour that any new business etc., be postponed until later date when the new committee will be meeting.

Due to the fact that it is almost 8 pm. George calls that as no Priesthood has shown-up for the ritual, we call the ritual null.

Meeting ends 7:55 p.m.