

Minutes of
St. James Town Family Literacy Services
Board Meeting
December 18 2015 (10:a.m)
Telephone Meeting

Attendance: Margaret, Sandy, Doug, Chris

Regrets: Dianna, Beth, Shabana

1. Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by Chris. He noted that this was a special meeting to discuss an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation to include the following:

To relieve poverty by providing basic necessities of life including clothing and shelter to refugees, individuals or families who are poor or low income or in need: and

To provide education, counselling and other support services. for refugees and immigrants in need, including language instruction, employment training' job search programs, translation services and information programs on Canadian culture and life.

At the previous Board Meeting it was felt that although these purposes reflect actual programs and services of Community Matters and there was general agreement that those present were in support of this amendment it was felt that all members should have the opportunity for input.

The directors expressed concern about the impact these changes would have on the direction of Community Matters in the long term. There was concern voiced that this could lead to activities such as accumulating clothing and furniture for refugees along with other activities which the organization is clearly not prepared for nor wishes to engage in.

There was general agreement that Community Matters should support newcomers including refugees in the community and continue the settlement approach which has been established from the beginning of the organizations existence.

However if the articles were to be amended the board wished it to be recorded in the minutes that

- 1) The support of refugees is a significant change from current practices for Community Matters
- 2) If Community Matters as an organization is to sponsor refugees under the current Syrian Refugee effort that there should be clearly defined and publicized rules and procedures which

ensure a fair and equitable process by which refugees would be selected and that there was transparency in this process which ensured no favouritism in the selection process.

3) Community Matters clearly define and publish their support plan for Syrian Refugees which should include for example whether settlement automatically included participation in Community Matters programs

With this direction on a motion by Sandy and seconded by Doug, it was unanimously agreed to pass the motion as stated. Beth had indicated her support of this motion by email

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.