

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday December 13, 2023
In-Person and Online via Zoom



Call to Order	Annie Brothwell, President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Karen Diederichs, Secretary, recording.
Territorial Acknowledgement	Sherry Niles acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen (Esquimalt and Songhees) and WSÁNEĆ (Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum) peoples.
Quorum	A Quorum was established and the meeting deemed to be in order.
Agenda	Motion proposed to accept agenda: Tom Rock. Seconded: Heather Love. Approved
Minutes	Motion proposed to approve (with edits) the Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on December 14, 2022: Mike Waters. Seconded: Anne Silver. Approved
President's Remarks - Annie Brothwell	<p>The VTRA programs are amazing due to the horses! We have so much anecdotal evidence of the everyday miracles that are happening – the first smiles, the changes in behaviour and the feeling of belonging for our participants and their families, our volunteers and our staff.</p> <p>Special thanks from Annie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our horses: each one has its own incredible qualities that we observe daily.• Our Board: for their work in supporting me.• Our Staff: who, with dedication and professionalism, have gone through enormous turmoil with changes in leadership and the loss of horses. You are amazing!• Our Volunteers: you are incredible, and we couldn't run our programs without you.• Our Funders and Supporters: you are critical to our ability to offer our programs.• Carol Dohan, who has completed her term as Director, for the significant body of governance and legal amount of work during her tenure. <p>I want also to acknowledge the loss of Maryke and Danny this year.</p>
Executive Director Remarks – Yolanda Meijer	VTRA continues to offer its core programs – early intervention, adaptive riding, adaptive driving and stable management. We offered our third year of Summer Camps for over 50 participants, and we supported delivery of Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) to three classes from Shoreline School.

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

In spring 2023, VTRA received a substantial grant to support our volunteer program which allowed us to create a new position dedicated to volunteer development. We also had several successful fundraising events throughout the year.

Treasurer Remarks – Annie Brothwell (on behalf of Matt McNeill)

In the past year, VTRA has had to contend with rising costs and a challenging fundraising environment (as many grant providers had less funding available to distribute). In the coming year, the Board and staff will focus on strengthening our financial position. We continue to improve our processes in response to recommendations from our auditor (KPMG).

MOTION proposed to accept the approved audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2023: Anne Silver. Seconded: Tom Rock. Approved

MOTION proposed to elect KPMG as auditors for 2024: Anne Silver. Seconded: Tom Rock. Approved

Election of Board Members

Nominations for directors closed on November 17, 2023. Two candidates came forward after the call for nominations was issued.

The following directors are presented for re-election for a 2-year term:

- Matt McNeil
- Tom Rock
- Anne Waterhouse

The following new candidates are presented for election for a 2-year term:

- Jodi Goodrick
- Christina Stevens

There were no questions asked regarding the proposed candidates.

MOTION proposed to elect the presented slate of candidates for a 2-year term: Anne Silver. Seconded: Heather Love. Approved.

Executive positions will be announced after the next Board meeting in January 2024.

Adjournment

Annie adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Presentation

We close this year's AGM with an optional, pre-recorded video presentation from VTRA's program participants.