

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Purchase Community, Inc. held via Zoom teleconference on December 3, 2024.**

**Minutes:** President Shannon Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Loren Canell moved to approve the minutes from the last Annual Meeting of Members held on December 5, 2023. Spencer Weinkle seconded. All were in favor; the motion carried.

**President's Report:** Shannon Anderson thanked all of those who took time to attend the meeting and shared her gratitude for the full-time employees and all of their hard work. She then shared the eligibility criteria for voting and that in 2024 there are 3930 individual members comprising 1979 households eligible to vote. In 2023 there are 3911 individual members comprising 1963 households voting which is a decrease of 19 members and 16 households attributed to the removal of members who have moved. The largest influx of new residents came from the new Broadview Senior Living community at Purchase College.

**Executive Director's Report:** Jim thanked all participants in the call for attending and noted that the House has made significant progress since COVID years - camp, after school, and preschool enrollment are all up. He furthered on by thanking those who participated in the capital fund drive including those that gave on Giving Tuesday. Finally, he shared thanks to the full-time staff – Tom Havard, Frank Dellaripa, Kat Berkowitz, Danny DeJesus-Wilson as well as Jessica Levinson-Andruk and Maggi DeJesus-Wilson who joined the preschool program. Jim also wished to acknowledge the Board and staff at the Purchase Free Library, Nicole Savino of the Institute of Dance, Adam Gutterman the principal of Purchase School, the Harrison Central School District, the Purchase Volunteer Fire Department, the Harrison Police Department and Old Oaks Country Club; Jim thanked them for their support and is grateful for the good relationships they have with the PCH. He also thanked the community for their support in contributing to the Annual Fund and participating in the programs at the Community House. Finally, Jim shared extra appreciation to Loren Canell who is retiring from the Board as an officer and a committee member for her 19 years of service to the House. Jim closed by wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

**Award Presentation:** Frank Dellaripa was pleased to announce the winner of this year's Hitchcock Award, given in memory of William Hitchcock's 20 years of dedicated service. The award is given on the basis of a sense of fair play, dedication to team spirit, demonstrated maturity, and strong leadership. This year's recipient is an active participant in the afterschool program and constantly demonstrates respect to his fellow students and the House staff with exemplary behavior. He's one of the most studious participants that Frank has known and remarked on his excellent penmanship. He's an example to others and truly deserves this honor. This year's winner is Sacha Fournier-Bourdier, who was on the Zoom teleconference.

Before Frank announced the winner of this year's Yubas Award, Jim noted that the award is named in memory of Jonathan Yubas, who was a long-time PCH board member and PCH volunteer whose children were participants at the PCH. After he passed away the PCH created this award and Jim acknowledged Jonathan's daughter Marisa's presence on the Zoom teleconference, adding that it meant a lot that Marisa was participating on the Zoom. Frank went on to indicate that this year's recipient has shown selfless dedication and volunteerism. The winner started volunteering last year and continued to participate in the summer program as well. He can be recognized for his magnetic smile and his standout karaoke performances. This person exemplifies all the qualities for this award and his name is Ethan Cora.

Jim took a moment to share that the Yubas Playground honoring Jonathan Yubas and will be reoutfitted with new equipment as a result of an incredibly generous donation from the DeJesus-Wilson family. Jim shared his deep thanks to the DeJesus family.

**Board Member Retirements:** Loren Canell is retiring after 19 years as an officer and member on the board. Jim shared his heartfelt thanks to Loren for her guidance, thoughtful suggestions, and dedication to the House. He asked her to ensure that she stopped by to pick-up a gift as a token of his gratitude for her and her service.

**Verification of Quorum Count & Nominating Committee:** Jim announced that in addition to the residents present on Zoom, the office has received 113 proxies that will be voted by Shannon.

Spencer Weinkle reviewed the role of the Nominating Committee in recommending and interviewing the candidates for the Board and thanked the other Nominating Committee members, Jennifer Ginter and Justine Gaeta, for their efforts. We are losing one (1) Director this year but added five Directors last year, so we are not nominating any new Directors this year. The entire Board felt that 14 was still a good size for the Board and we will let our newest Directors settle into their roles.

Spencer Weinkle made a motion to elect the following residents as Board Members for 2025. Justine Gaeta seconded and the motion carried.

| 2025 Board of Directors of Purchase Community, Inc. |                 |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Shannon Anderson                                    | Chuck Atanasio  | Andy Benerofe           |
| Justine Gaeta                                       | Jennifer Ginter | Matthew Jossen          |
| Farzie Khan                                         | Jeremy Lang     | Jessica Levinson-Andruk |
| Eleanor Mytych                                      | Carolyn Rodier  | Scott Sherman           |
| Sam Schusterhoff                                    | Spencer Weinkle |                         |

There being no additional old business or new business, Matthew Jossen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Jeremy Lang seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion carried. Shannon adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Ginter, Secretary