



McMaster University Retirees Association
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Nora Gaskin, Secretary

**The 37th Annual General Meeting
Of the McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday June 7, 2022, 1 PM, Zoom**

The meeting was preceded by 15 minutes of online social time involving 47 participants and at its peak, had 54 attendees.

BUSINESS MEETING

MURA President Hank Jacek called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to MURA's third Zoom Annual General Meeting. Hank explained that the meeting had been restructured to permit "essential" business to be conducted first to ensure a quorum, followed by the presentation, and then the remainder of the meeting agenda.

A head count established that we met the requirement for a quorum as specified in article 4.06 of MURA's constitution: "At any meeting of members thirty regular members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business."

1. Nominating Committee Report (Helen Barton) – written report

Helen Barton, chair of the 2022 Nominating Committee, presented the **Nominating Report for 2022-23**, which was circulated to members via email. The members of the Nominating Committee were Helen Barton (Chair), Helen Ayre, Barry Diacon, John McKay and Kathy Overholt. Helen explained that the Nominating Committee report as included in the agenda package was accepted by Council in March and published in the Spring *MURAnews*. Our constitution permits new nominations to be made up to 7 days before the AGM.

Helen called for any additional nominations to be telephoned in to Mary Gauld at 905 906-5604 within the ensuing ten minutes, and explained that she would resume her report, with possible additions from the floor immediately after the Treasurer's Report.

2. Approval of minutes

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Susan Birnie

"that the minutes of 36th AGM, June 23, 2021 be approved as distributed"

Carried.

3. President's Report (Hank Jacek)

Hank Jacek acknowledged and thanked the members of the *MURAnews* team, especially news editors Helen Ayre and Helen Barton, and production editor Denise Anderson, as well as all the other MURA members who contributed to the newsletter over the past year. He also thanked outgoing Council members Barb Carpio and Phil Wood, who stepped down before the end of their terms.

Highlights of MURA's activities this year included welcoming new retirees with a "virtual lunch", orientation session, and talk by guest speaker Margaret Denton on "Moving Towards an Age-Friendly Hamilton". In April, MURA joined the McMaster Institute on Research on Aging (MIRA) Community Partner Network, who will be requesting our input and participation, where applicable, in their research projects.

Other activities have included ongoing discussions with university and employee groups about how salaried pension plan administration and expenses are handled, helping members solve issues and concerns with pensions, benefits, and technology, participating in pre-retirement workshops, and fundraising for the MURA graduate scholarship.

MURA has also been engaging with Human Resources on a proposed new definition of a McMaster retiree, which would exclude people in the group RRSP who retire before the age of 65 from retiree status, and from associated supplementary benefits such as parking, library access, etc.

4. Treasurer's Report (Nancy Gray) – written report

Nancy noted that as usual our major expenses were the newsletter and web site. We can now accept e-transfers, which will simplify some of our financial transactions. There was a surplus of \$3,500 this year with a transfer of \$5,000 set aside for the graduate scholarship fund when it gets closer to being fully funded.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Mahendra Joshi

"that the MURA Financial Report for the year ended April 30, 2022 be accepted as circulated"

Carried.

5. Auditors' Report – written report

Nancy thanked Beth Csordas for preparing the auditor's report.

Moved by Nancy Gray, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

"that the MURA Auditor's report for the year ended April 30, 2022 be accepted as circulated"

Carried.

6. Election of Executive and Council (Helen Barton)

6.1 Completion of Nomination Procedure (Helen Barton)

The nomination list as circulated was:

Executive

Past President (ex officio):	Hank Jacek
President (Nominated):	Susan Birnie (One-year term, to 2023)
Vice President (Nominated):	Kathy Overholt (One-year term, to 2023)
Treasurer*:	Nancy Gray
Secretary*:	Nora Gaskin

Councillors

Nominated for office, three-year terms until 2025:

Mary Gauld
Jan Nicholson
Richard Stubbs

Continuing in office until 2024:

Cliff Andrews
 Barry Diacon
 Dina LoPresti
 Kathy Overholt

Continuing in office until 2023:

John Horsman
 Betty Ann Levy

*appointed

Moved by Susan Birnie, **seconded** by Kevin Sulewski

“that nominations be closed”

Carried

6.2 Election of Executive and Council (Helen Barton)

Moved by Helen Ayre, **seconded** by Fred Hall

“that the slate of nominees for the 2022-23 MURA Executive and Council be accepted as presented”

Carried

Special Presentation by Doug Welch

Susan Birnie introduced Dr. Doug Welch, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Vice-Provost, and Dean of Graduate Studies, who gave a fascinating presentation, **“Listening to Nature - All Day and All Night - in McMaster Forest”**. The

presentation described his project that involves bioacoustic monitoring of bird sounds in the McMaster Forest.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Hank thanked Doug for the unique and interesting talk, and presented him with a gift certificate. There was a draw for two gift certificate door prizes, which were won by Halina Hanas and Mary Johnston.

7. Reports on Pensions

7.1 Salaried Plan (Brian Beckberger) – written report

In addition to his written report, Brian noted that:

- The plan is doing well
- Markets have gone down, due to the military action by Russia in Ukraine, as well as countries who went into deficit during COVID and are now trying to rebuild.
- Even though the asset value has gone down, the transfer ratio has gone up slightly, because the liabilities to the pension plan have gone down, mainly because the mortality tables that actuaries use have been overstating longevity.
- In response to the question of what the plan is doing about climate change, Brian noted that in the next fiscal year, targets and strategies for implementing them will be set.

7.2 Hourly Plan (Cliff Andrews) – written report

8. Incoming President's Address (Susan Birnie)

Incoming President Susan Birnie recognized Hank Jacek for his leadership role over the last year, during which MURA Council had to meet virtually owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as all MURA Council members who stepped in to contribute their time and talents. She also welcomed new Councillors Jan Nicholson and Richard Stubbs, and returning Council members Mary Gault and Kathy Overholt. She acknowledged that the past two years have been difficult for many individuals and organizations, and MURA is no exception. MURA exists to maintain connections between retirees, and personal contact is integral to feeling connected, but for the past two years in-person events have been on hold. She expressed the heartfelt hope that the coming year will bring a return to in-person events. She encouraged MURA members to get involved, and promised anyone who wants to volunteer a warm welcome.

9. Other Business (none)

10. Adjournment

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Susan Birnie

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried at 2:20 pm