

# **SKHC BOARD BULLETIN**

## **SPECIAL BULLETIN RE: 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

*April 19, 2024*

**There will be an election to the Board of Directors at the General Members' Meeting on Thursday May 23rd. This election will fill three vacancies on the Board.**

All members in good standing for at least one year are eligible to run for election. If more than three candidates come forward, all members are eligible to vote in this election.

**Nominations are open from Thursday, April 25 to the end of Thursday, May 9, 2024.** On April 25, the Nominations Committee will distribute one nomination form to each unit, with an explanation of the nomination process. Spare copies will be available from the office. If a general election is necessary, the Committee will provide further information about that process.

It is a great advantage to have both long-term and relatively new SKHC members on the Board, so we can enjoy the benefit of both experience and fresh outlook. Anyone who has been a member in good standing of the SKHC for at least a year, may run for election.

### **FAQs:**

**What does the Board do?** Self-governance defines us as a Co-op so a Board of Directors is vital to our operation. The Board governs by keeping on top of things and making decisions, many of which are informed by committees' recommendations. They draft by-laws and rules for governing, formulate policies and sets priorities, leaving the Co-op's daily operations to the Coordinator. The Board sets the tone for the whole Co-op.

**What are the benefits of Serving on the Board?** By choosing to serve on the Board, you:

- become an integral part of solving problems in our community
- represent the diversity and social culture of our community
- serve as a leader of an organization that serves others.
- expand your skills
- learn more about governance, finance, volunteer recruitment and strategic planning
- interact with community officials and members (for those seeking employment, this kind of volunteer work counts as job experience.)

**What if I don't know enough to be on the Board?** Life experience is a great asset. If you have held a job, raised a family, or run a household, you could likely handle being a director. You need common sense, willingness to work as part of a team, a sense of humour and an open and helpful attitude toward caring for SKHC.

You learn on the job, and you aren't obligated to learn everything. And you're not alone - we all come to the Board with different knowledge and skills but we help each other. Each new

Director receives materials and orientation. Workshops on effective leadership and other topics that will help you in your new position are available frequently and paid for by the co-op through the Cooperative Housing Federation of Toronto (CHFT) and the Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada (CHFC)

**What's it like being on the Board?** (From one of the Directors) *"The least I can say about my time on the Board is that, in terms of time and work, some months are very light, others more onerous. The best is that it has been very positive. It has certainly been interesting—one never knows what issues will come up. It has been satisfying, making decisions in SKHC's best interests. It has been a pleasure to work with the other Directors on the current Board. We discuss matters openly and come to decisions as a group. Those of us who will continue for the coming year bring with us this positive attitude."*

**How much time will it take?** The Board meets monthly at a time suitable for all Directors, but if the agenda is heavy there can be two meetings in the month (the Board works hard to keep that to a minimum). Between meetings, depending on your role there could be additional informal meetings to do research to help ensure the Board has accurate information to work with, as well as liaising with committees\* and the occasional Board training. Meeting preparation includes reading the meeting package and preparing any questions, comments, and suggestions you have to share at the meeting. For those wondering, we have had members with full time jobs and are grateful to those able to make being on the Board work with their work schedules. The other Directors will always work to accommodate each other's scheduling needs. (From a current and former Director) *"I have served on the Board while holding down a full time job and I won't lie, it wasn't a walk in the park. But I like to view the time and energy commitment of volunteering as not dissimilar to the amount of time and effort one would give to owning a home. In fact, the latter seems way more onerous (and less affordable) to me. My point is that Stanley Knowles is my home and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work at making it better for me, my family and the other members who live here."*

**I'm happy on a committee and don't want to leave.** Directors are assigned as liaisons\* to many of the committees, where their task is to listen and report back to the Board. You could maintain contact with your present committee that way. Board Members are allowed to serve on Supplementary Committees.

## **TO RUN OR NOT TO RUN?**

If you have even the slightest inclination to run for the Board, or are even Board-curious, give it a try. You will gain a whole new perspective of the SKHC and Co-op life. Governance is participation in its deepest sense.

**Nominations will open on Thursday April 25 and close at the end of Thursday May 9, 2024.**

**For further information,** please follow up with Michael Anderson of the Nominations Committee by email ([mike@wonkman.ca](mailto:mike@wonkman.ca)) or by leaving a note in his mailbox (#1404).