

Region of Waterloo
Community Services
Seniors' Services

To: Regional Council

Meeting Date: June 19, 2024

Report Title: Appointments to the Sunnyside Foundation Board

1. Recommendation

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo ratify the appointment of Kyle Urech, Sarvesh Singh, Daniel Graham and Bryan Stortz to the Sunnyside Foundation Board for a term to expire June 2027 as outlined in Report CSD-SEN-24-001, dated June 19, 2024.

2. Purpose / Issue:

Ratification is needed to complete the appointments of Kyle Urech, Sarvesh Singh, Daniel Graham, and Bryan Stortz to the Sunnyside Foundation Board.

3. Strategic Plan:

This report related to the Homes for All strategic priority of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Seniors' Services, and by extension, the Sunnyside Foundation is committed to providing housing that meets people's needs as well as supports for aging-in-place.

4. Report Highlights:

Following the completion of the recruitment process, applications for the following four individuals were approved by the Sunnyside Foundation Board on April 23, 2024:

- Kyle Urech is the National Director & Chief Operating Officer for EMRG Canada.
- Sarvesh Singh is the Manager of Human Resources with the Seneca Student Federation at Seneca College.
- Daniel Graham is a Music Consultant & Voice Actor for his own company and has a long history of volunteering.
- Bryan Stortz, now retired, was the Director of Corporate Communications for the Region of Waterloo

5. Background:

While the Sunnyside Foundation operates independently of the Region of Waterloo, appointments to the Board of Directors are approved by Regional Council.

Founded in 1998, the Sunnyside Foundation is a registered charity that has successfully raised over \$3 million to enhance the quality of life for those participating in Seniors' Services residential and community programs. Based on the suggestions made by Regional Council in March 2021, the Sunnyside Foundation made the following improvements to the board member recruitment process:

- Posting the openings for a period of two months on the Sunnyside Foundation website, VolunteerWR website, CharityVillage, and LinkedIn
- Advertising the job posting onsite at Sunnyside Home and via the Sunnyside Foundation's social media accounts
- Including three essay-style questions in the application to get a better idea of why each applicant was drawn to working with the Sunnyside Foundation
- Including the following statement in the application: "The Sunnyside Foundation is committed to an equity-driven, inclusive, accessible, and barrier-free recruitment and selection process, and to ensuring our board reflects the full diversity of the community we serve. We welcome applications from Indigenous, Black, racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ persons, as well as other equity deserving groups."

All applicants were interviewed by committee consisting of the Sunnyside Foundation Chair, Vice-Chair, the Director of Seniors' Services, and the Coordinator, Fundraising and Promotional Events. Based on the recommendations of this committee, four applications were brought to the entire Sunnyside Foundation Board for a vote during their meeting on April 23, 2024. The Board voted to admit each of these applicants pending their approval from Regional Council. Details for the four applicants are as follows:

- Kyle Urech is the National Director & Chief Operating Officer for EMRG Canada. Mr. Urech has a long-standing connection with the Sunnyside Foundation. His mother-in-law was a Sunnyside Home resident and Mr. Urech's wife is one of the pivotal volunteers who operates the Sunnyside Home Fabulous Finds Gift Shop. Mr. Urech also brings many years of board experience to this role.
- Sarvesh Singh is the Manager of Human Resources with the Seneca Student Federation at Seneca College. While Mr. Singh doesn't have a Sunnyside-connection, he brings many important human resources skills and a strong passion for wanting to give back to the community.
- Daniel Graham is a Music Consultant & Voice Actor for his own company and has a long history of volunteering in this community. Mr. Graham has a very strong connection with Sunnyside as his father lived at Sunnyside for many years and brings many years of board experience to this role.
- Bryan Stortz, now retired, was the Director of Corporate Communications for the Region of Waterloo. While working for the Region, Mr. Stortz became very familiar with the Sunnyside Foundation and brings many years of board experience to this role.

Pending the approval of Regional Council, all four new members will be officially appointed to a term expiring in June 2027, with the option of serving up to two additional three-year terms.

6. Communication and Engagement with Area Municipalities and the Public

Job openings for the Board are posted publicly.

7. Financial Implications:

Nil.

8. Conclusion / Next Steps:

Ratification is needed to complete the appointments of Kyle Urech, Sarvesh Singh, Daniel Graham, and Bryan Stortz to the Sunnyside Foundation Board.

9. Attachments:

Nil.

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