

96th Report of the
ELDON HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held via remote electronic format, Thursday, June 18, 2020, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

Present: M. Donachie (Chair), M. Spencer Golovchenko, T. Regnier, R. Griesmayer, L. Henderson, J. O'Neil, R. Koudys, M. Majumdar, T. Wittmann, B. Ardiel

1. Approval of the Agenda

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND GRIESMAYER

That the Agenda **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

R. Koudys advised that the Farhi Developments project at 435-451 Ridout Street has been put on hold due to a refocus on a higher priority downtown project on Queens Avenue.

3. Remarks – M. Donachie, Chair

M. Donachie said it is a real honour to be Chair following in great company and incredible to participate on this board. He looks forward to what we are going to achieve together, as we build on the work already done. As a new Chair, his main goal is to build on strategic plan priorities. He encourages an engaged board in whatever expanded role that may be, by maximizing our opportunities to be involved in Eldon House.

Due to the resignation of Past Chair M. Tovey at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), M. Donachie has discussed the process for filling the vacant board position with C. Saunders, London City Clerk. A new posting will be advertised for this position to get a new pool of applicants. It is the board's wish that we expand diversity for a wider representation of the community on the board, and also that we secure the best candidate for the position. With the renewed civil rights call for inclusion, we need to proactively reframe our organization as anti-racist and take an active role in what is going on in our society.

4. Approval of 95th Report of the Eldon House Board of Directors (attached)

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND HENDERSON

That the 95th Report of the Eldon House Board **BE APPROVED** with the following changes: add title of Heritage Planner to L. Dent in Present; #5) change text under Part II to 'That the Governance Policy be amended to include Part I above once bylaw changed' and M. Tovey adjourned the meeting.

CARRIED

5. Approval of 2020 Annual General Meeting Report (attached)

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND KOUDYS

That the 2020 Annual General Meeting Report of the Eldon House Board **BE APPROVED** with the following corrections: Present: include title of Heritage Planner for L. Dent and K. Gonyou; #2) revise sentence to 'Effective today, the Chair is departing his role as a director but is happy to be continuing his involvement through the new membership program.' #6) 2019 instead of 2020 Annual General Meeting minutes; and #10) insert (the Eldon House ghost) after Wenman Wynniatt.

CARRIED

6. T. Wittmann – Overview of Staff and Financial Reports (attached)

Additional information was given during verbal report:

- Regarding a recent societal call to remove icons representing racism, colonialism or imperialism, Eldon House staff are reconsidering the context in which we display our cultural collection pieces (such as the elephant foot); staff are proactively addressing messaging, positioning and programing, plus revising the community policy to have clear expression of position on inclusion and diversity.
- A new interpretive panel is being created with content to reflect story beyond colonialism and how cultural collections like Eldon House came to be established. At the July board meeting, an appendix will be presented in the staff report on this proactive approach for online engagement and discussion panels. One of the new panels will have prominent location in the front entry hall.

HENDERSON AND MAJUMDAR

That the Staff Reports and Financial Report, as distributed **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

7. T. Wittmann – Covid-19 planning update (attached)

Updated information provided as follows:

- Province gave okay for museums to open as of June 12; Eldon House is taking a careful approach and strong focus on safety first, allowing ability to be flexible and pivot as needed with plans and procedures put in place for staff and visitors. Planning is under way to open by appointment only, possibly in 1st or 2nd week of July so staff may control who comes into Eldon House or the Interpretive Centre. Families bubbles are welcome up to 6 people and maximum of 20 people on site (including staff and construction workers) at one time. But this is a high number and prefer lower activity at the property. Interest of general public to visit heritage sites is considered to be very low at this point.
- Summer Tea program not likely to be viable if no decision on funding by June 19th due to the following issues: late grant decision, hiring and training delayed, unable to get two repeat hires from 2019, extra sanitization and need for physical distancing for sittings, and actual interest unknown. Traditional tea is not feasible due to additional work required by servers for extra sanitation, so not financially viable.

- On Canada Day, visitors can enjoy self-directed walking tours of the Eldon House gardens only (House is closed).

8. M. Donachie – **Committee Review**

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND GRIESMAYER

That the following actions **BE APPROVED**:

- a. Two new Committee Chairs: R. Griesmayer replaces M. Donachie as Chair of the Marketing Committee and T. Regnier replaces M. Tovey as Chair of the Collection & Policy Committee;
- b. M. Majumdar will draft terms of reference for a new committee related to strategy, innovation and special initiatives for board review;
- c. The Special Events and Fund Development Committee is renamed the Special Events Committee, as the function of fund development will better serve as a component in the new committee being created.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

M. Donachie reminded everyone that to create our agenda any board member is welcome to submit agenda items in advance.

After polling members, the July board meeting will be held in virtual format. There will be no board meeting in August.

ADJOURNMENT

MAJUMDAR

Motion to adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2020