

**103rd Report of the**  
**ELDON HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting held via remote electronic format, Thursday, February 18, 2021 commencing at 4:34 p.m.

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

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**GRIESMAYER AND HENDERSON**

That the Agenda **BE APPROVED** with the addition under item #9 for a report from the Strategy and Innovation Committee.

**CARRIED**

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

R. Koudys declares conflict of interest with agenda item #8 Farhi Holdings Development.

**3. Remarks – M. Donachie, Chair**

The Chair commended all board members and staff on the great offline activity especially the committee work being done recently. He also thanked those who submitted suggestions to the Farhi Development document. This document has established a starting point for future discussion with the developers.

**4. Approval of 102<sup>nd</sup> Report of the Eldon House Board of Directors (attached)**

**SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND GRIESMAYER**

That the 102nd Report of the Eldon House Board **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

**5. B. Keim – Overview of 2020 finances (attached)**

Chair M. Donachie welcomed Finance Manager B. Keim to provide a financial overview for 2020. The Chair also invited more regular updates and suggested a small workshop on finance documents for the Board. Comments on financial implications for the establishment of a Friends of Eldon House group were provided by B. Keim. The annual audit is scheduled to begin in late March.

**SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND MAJUMDAR**

That the 2020 overview **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

## 6. Overview of Staff and Financial Reports (attached)

The following update by Curator Director T. Wittmann was given:

- As London moves to orange level, visits by appointment will resume starting next week, though still plan for another possible closure in Spring if third wave of pandemic occurs
- Staff/Board portal on the Eldon House website is now active and links to set up accounts will be sent out tomorrow

A suggestion by M. Majumdar to get a replica produced of the c1860 Amelia Harris bust to allow for regular display opportunities was well received and the Curator Director will investigate further.

### **GRIESMAYER AND HENDERSON**

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

### **CARRIED**

## 7. T. Wittmann – **Curator Director's Goals for 2021** (see Staff Report)

A brief overview outlining the Curator Director's 2021 goals was provided, as follows: 1) To tell the Milly Harris story through a publication of her diaries; 2) To generate revenue through the creation of a store webpage and build on virtual tours being offered online; and 3) To create a reference tool on Amelia Harris to showcase her life story.

## 8. T. Wittmann/M. Donachie – **Farhi Holdings Development** (attached)

### **SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND GRIESMAYER**

That it **BE ACTIONED AND APPROVED** for the Curator Director and Board Chair to meet with City of London staff to discuss our concerns related to the Farhi Ridout Development Project using the discussion document that was reviewed and amended.

### **CARRIED**

Note: R. Koudys abstained from voting on the motion.

## 9. **Committee reports**

### Joint Marketing Committee and Strategy & Innovation Committee (R. Griesmayer)

The Marketing Committee Chair reported on high level activities of the joint meeting held on February 10. With a goal to eventually highlight Amelia Harris as a person of national significance, the discussion focused on establishing Amelia as a brand. A number of great ideas were brought forward, including a future publication to promote highlights of Amelia's story, expanded content on the website and Facebook page and within exhibits. Staff member N. Michienzi provided an advertising update. There was also a review of current Eldon House branding material to look at how to keep it fresh. A draft Social Media Policy was reviewed and edited. The policy will now go to the Communications and Policy Committee to discuss before it is brought to the board by this committee. M. Majumdar added the perspective of giving the gardens more prominence in how the

property is branded by moving forward with an enhancement to the name in future as ‘*Eldon House and Gardens.*’

M. Spencer Golovchenko asks that the Board acknowledge the many contributions of J. Jolliffe, Past Chair and active committee member, as she has resigned as an Eldon House volunteer after several years.

#### Strategy and Innovation Committee (M. Majumdar)

The Committee Chair reported on a discussion of the research that N. Michienzi gathered on the Friends of London Public Library and Friends of Fort George, specifically how such groups are structured and their ability to fundraise and issue tax receipts, once they receive charitable status. The main issue is figuring out the Friends of Eldon House dual mandate to fundraise and access other grant opportunities and to create a pool of dedicated volunteers that would liaise with the Board. The mandate is pivotal for the application for charitable status. The Committee will draft the structure of the Friends group and a communique to go out to potential members and donors. The Committee is also working on the Amelia Harris one-page summary document.

#### **KOUDYS AND HENDERSON**

That the verbal committee reports by R. Griesmayer and M. Majumdar **BE RECEIVED.**

#### **CARRIED**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

J. O’Neil raised the idea of applying for a permanent liquor license as an opportunity to host year-round events, especially those outdoors, if pandemic requirements continue in 2021 and beyond. This annual license fee may be a cost savings, if Eldon House hosts more than a few events, rather than applying for individual event licenses. The Curator Director will review the file of information gathered and is willing to re-examine the issue.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

##### **KOUDYS**

Motion to adjourn.

#### **CARRIED**

Adjourned at 6:42 PM.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, March 18, 2021