

105th Report of the
ELDON HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held via remote electronic format, Thursday, April 15, 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, T. Wittmann, R. Armistead, B. Ardiel

1. Approval of the Agenda

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND GRIESMAYER

That the Agenda **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

R. Koudys declares conflict of interest with agenda item #5 Farhi Holdings Development.

3. Approval of 104th Report of the Eldon House Board of Directors (attached)

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND KOUDYS

That the 104th Report of the Eldon House Board **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

The Chair provided an update as informed on April 8 by C. Saunders, City Clerk that recruitment for our 9th board member will start in next few weeks. The City of London has created a new site for this application process. A reminder to board members to suggest or encourage good candidates for this board position.

4. Overview of Staff and Financial Reports (attached)

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

- Visitors are enjoying the grounds during the Spring season
- The Mother's Day Tea To-Go boxes will be an opportunity as a trial for possible model for our Summer Tea
- B. Ardiel gave information on artifact purchase and development of two new Memory Lane kits for Music and Taking Tea. Also, the test pilot of virtual tours with three Tillsburg school groups was a very positive experience and greatly engaged the students.
- The number of Eldon House artifacts is likely close to 10,000, rather than a previous estimate of 3000; 5-10% of the collection is planned to be worked on annually, with between 25-30% of artifacts being in storage.

HENDERSON AND O'NEIL

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

CARRIED

5. T. Wittmann – Farhi Holdings – verbal update

The Curator Director provided a brief update that she reached out to the Farhi Development team, and heard they are busy preparing various reports due to the City of London on April 15. A public participation Zoom meeting regarding the proposed development is being planned by the City for late May.

A short discussion was held surrounding the potential for a heritage conservation district along Ridout Street to Eldon House and the terrace and garden improvements to connect to the Thames River and Harris Park.

6. M. Donachie – Interim Strategic Plan – discussion of approach and timing

The Chair reminded the board that the multi-year Eldon House Strategic Plan expired in December 2020. A discussion was held on a viable approach to take to extend the Plan to the end of this Board term. The existing Strategic Plan will be re-distributed by the Curator Director for review by all directors regarding current priorities.

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND GRIESMAYER

That an Interim Strategic Plan be developed for the next 18 months and this matter **BE REFERRED** to the Strategy and Innovation Committee to work on the process.

CARRIED

7. M. Donachie – Format of AGM

After brief discussion, the board agreed a guest speaker is desired as a component of the Annual General Meeting on May 20th. T. Wittmann, M. Spencer Golovchenko and T. Regnier offered to contact potential speakers.

8. Committee reports

Strategy and Innovation Committee (M. Majumdar)

The Committee Chair gave a brief summary of activities. The One Book/One London event at the London Central Library is deferred until 2022, which will allow development of an Amelia Harris book project. This publication will support the museum's goal to eventually submit the Harris matriarch for consideration as a person of national significance. To this end, T. Wittmann prepared and presented a draft of the publication's proposed chapters. The Curator Director also advised she is seeking further quotes for an Amelia Harris bust restoration, as the initial quote is very expensive. The Committee is exploring a potential Friends of Eldon House group and will be connecting with possible interested members to help in preparation of a planning document. A draft interim Strategic Plan will be brought forward at a future meeting

Gardens Committee (R. Koudys)

The Committee Chair noted there are two new enthusiastic volunteer members of the committee. The plant sale is being deferred this year and instead will grow plants for our own grounds and any

excess will go to the Eldon House staff or board members. The weeding of the flower beds is being done by the garden volunteers. The Committee is investigating a way for volunteers to be identified while working on the grounds, as a means of assisting those visiting the property. Also, there is early-stage exploration of a Garden Master Plan and how to initiate and fund this process.

KOUDYS AND GRIESMAYER

That the verbal committee reports for the Strategy and Innovation Committee and the Gardens Committee **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

- 9. In Camera** – personnel matters, including information regarding identifiable individual(s) with respect to employment-related matters, advice or recommendations, including communications necessary for that purpose.

SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND MAJUMDAR

That the motion to go in-camera **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

KOUDYS

Motion to adjourn.

CARRIED

Adjourned at 6:43 PM.

NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting, Thursday, May 20, 2021