

**118th Report of the**  
**ELDON HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting held as in-person at Interpretive Centre, 451 Ridout St. S. and electronic format on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, commencing at 4:41 p.m.

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

Regrets: R. Griesmayer, R. Armistead

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**HALLIDAY AND KOUDYS**

That the Agenda **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

**3. Chair's Remarks**

M. Donachie remarked on ongoing sound challenges with a hybrid meeting format. As one potential solution, the Chair is logging into the meeting on his laptop, rather than relying on the House computer microphone, to find a better solution for audio, so all can hear and participate.

**4. Approval of 117<sup>th</sup> Report of the Eldon House Board of Directors (attached)**

**SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND HENDERSON**

That the 117<sup>th</sup> Report of the Eldon House Board **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

**5. T. Wittmann - Overview of Staff and Financial Reports (attached)**

Additional information was shared based on questions asked:

- The Curator Director informed that North/East/South access to the property is a challenge due to construction, but visitors are still finding us, though are somewhat frustrated.
- The purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) is being quoted as an Eldon House stand alone item.
- An update of ongoing security issues impacting the staff was requested by M. Spencer Golovchenko, with T. Wittmann sharing details of the extra work involved with reporting and dealing with continued emergency situations that develop. The new cameras are helping to monitor issues on the grounds. The contracted security service provider GardaWorld monitors the cameras for the City of London, and they can review if a situation arises. There is an average expense of \$250 a month for calls related to Eldon House.

- The potential fencing is being requested in 2022, as 2019 numbers were high for boulevard and slope fences. R. Koudys suggested chain link fence down the hill so that will not be visible from grounds.

#### **SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND MAJUMDAR**

That \$1100 expenditure from the M. Ryan Bequest **BE APPROVED** to be used to purchase supplies in support of public programming for the Eldon House tea program.

**CARRIED**

#### **HENDERSON AND KOUDYS**

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

**CARRIED**

### **6. Committee reports**

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

A summary of recent activity of the Strategy and Innovation Committee is highlighted as follows:

The Committee discussed its stalled project to bring access to the Office productivity suite to Eldon House. The challenge is that the City will not allow this platform due to a potential security risk. It was proposed that the board could approach the City of London directly. The Curator Director will find out if fellow outside boards and commissions, including the Convention Centre, Library, or Covent Garden Market have access to something similar.

The Chair will invite B. Keim, Finance Manager to the next committee meeting to better understand the barriers to creating Friends of Eldon House.

The Committee plans to apply for Amelia as a Person of National Historic Significance in 2023.

The Promenade small groups are working on gathering research materials for the four interpretative panels being created with drafts to be presented in September. As an example, M. Tovey may be invited to a future Promenade meeting to present the Blackfriars Mill interpretive panel being prepared for the Culture Office.

#### Collections and Policy Committee (T. Regnier)

Offered donations of a toy bear and Nor Scrip Nor Shoes book were discussed and the Collections and Policy Committee recommends acquisition of both to the Eldon House board, as they support collections needs.

The Chair presented the revised 6. Education and Interpretation Policy and 16. Accessibility Policies distributed in advance for comment.

That the following actions be taken regarding the Committee reports:

#### **SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND HALLIDAY**

- a. That the verbal report from the Strategy and Innovation Committee **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

## **SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND HALLIDAY**

- b. That the recommendation to accept donations offered to Eldon House of Toy Bear and Nor Scrip Nor Shoes book **BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

## **HENDERSON AND SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO**

- c. That the 6. Education and Interpretation Policy and 16. Accessibility Policy **BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **7. Lawson Foundation and the Miggsie Lawson Fund**

M. Spencer Golovchenko advised on a potential funding contact for Eldon House. Through a colleague who serves on the Miggsie Lawson Fund, under the umbrella of the Lawson Foundation, an introduction was made to Program Director K. Pischedda.

The Eldon House funding needs for a kitchen renovation and the ongoing challenge of rising school bus costs were discussed. Based on the Miggsie Fund parameters, the kitchen project is not viable, but there could be potential for some school bus funding for students to visit the museum. The Fund has a focus on both education and women, so may be an opportunity to discuss further. However, grants for the next three years were approved in mid 2022, so there is no guarantee at this point.

M. Spencer Golovchenko will provide an e-introduction between K. Pischedda and T. Wittmann to further discuss future prospects.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **HALLIDAY**

Motion to adjourn.

**CARRIED**

Adjourned at 5:30 PM

## **NEXT MEETING**

August: No meeting due to summer break  
Wednesday, September 21, 2022