

**116th Report of the**  
**ELDON HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting held in electronic format on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, commencing at 4:37 p.m.

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

Regrets: M. Halliday, R. Griesmayer

Guests: City of London: Alex Williams, Technologist, Environment & Infrastructure, Major Projects Division; James Scott, Business Relations Coordinator; T. Koza, Director, Major Projects; and K. Gonyou, Heritage Planner

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND KOUDYS**

That the Agenda **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

**3. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair provided update that a condolence card was sent to the family of M. Recker, past board member on behalf of Eldon House and the board .

**4. T. Wittmann – BRT Construction Project \*impact on Eldon House**

The Curator Director gave summary of the activities related to construction impact to Eldon House of the Downtown Loop Construction Project. The construction fence was put up on March 28 and that is when learned the dig site would be north of Fullarton St. nearly opposite entrance to the Museum property. Staff had to react fast to this fast evolving construction site. Issues of major concern raised with contractors and the City are vibration and potential damage to artifacts; dust/dirt damage to grounds and interior of Eldon House, lack of communication and making access by pedestrian and vehicle difficult as parking a challenge on surrounding streets. This will cause a decrease in visitors due to this disruption. Some artifacts have been removed from public exhibit to protect against falling or other damage.

A presentation given by A. Williams provided details of project The stage 1 work will be completed by mid to late June with base asphalt on road to reopen to vehicles. The process being used is micro drilling rather than trench style so to minimize vibration and other potential issues. Vibration monitors have been set up within Eldon House. The PowerPoint will be distributed to the Curator Director and Board Chair.

Questions were answered by the City of London representatives.

Project website: <https://getinvolved.london.ca/downtownloop>

The Board Chair expressed his concern due to this communication failure and initial disregard for the protection of valuable heritage resource of Eldon House. M. Donachie said thank you to all City of London representatives who came to speak to us. The Eldon House Board and staff are here to protect the site and make sure there is no damage to the property or its valuable objects. We want to maintain and build a good relationship going forward. Let's keep an open dialogue.

## 5. Approval of 115<sup>th</sup> Report of the Eldon House Board of Directors (attached)

### **SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO AND O'NEIL**

That the 115<sup>th</sup> Report of the Eldon House Board **BE APPROVED**.

### **CARRIED**

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

Additional information was shared based on questions asked:

- T. Regnier – how will the statistics required for the budget be affected, as visitor numbers may not be met due to the nearby bus rapid transit construction and fallout of Covid? These factors are expected to be taken into consideration
- R. Koudys – suggested the May Plant Sale may need to relocate to another site due to construction and provided alternatives; this will be explored
- M. Spencer Golovchenko – inquired about the financial impact due to reduced visitors; The Curator Director will work with B. Keim and City Finance Manager N. Asare-Bediako on this budget issue.
- M. Spencer Golovchenko – suggested branded masks with Eldon House logo. Also a comment on the issue of the continued high cost of busing for school field trips for many museums, making it challenging for teachers to bring students to Eldon House. An expression of thanks was given to the staff team for all their ongoing work building partnerships, including those with the London Arts Council, Home County Folk Festival and Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

### **KOUDYS AND HENDERSON**

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

### **CARRIED**

## 7. Committee reports

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

The Committee Chair provided an update on the large group meeting related to the Promenade Project where City Senior Planner Kerri Killen spoke about wayfinding and wayfinding signage, with a target installation date of end of 2022. There was also discussion of forming small working groups of two persons per panel for the four interpretive panels, with text to be drafted by end of 2022. The Mission and Vision were finalized after some comments from those in attendance.

## Collections and Policy Committee (T. Regnier)

The Chair presented the draft 11. Conflict of Interest Policy and 10. Human Resources Policy distributed in advance for comment.

That the following actions be taken regarding the Committee reports:

### **KOUDYS AND SPENCER GOLOVCHENKO**

- a. That the draft revision of 11. Conflict of Interest Policy **BE APPROVED** with the amendment to section 11.4 of last sentence change to “Failure to disclose a conflict may result in disciplinary action for staff or volunteers.”

**CARRIED**

### **MAJUMDAR AND KOUDYS**

- b. That the 10. Human Resources Police **BE DEFERRED** to a future board meeting.
- c. That the verbal report from the Strategy and Innovation Committee **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

## **8. AGM Update**

The Eldon House Annual General Meeting is being planned as an in-person event in the Interpretive Centre on May 18<sup>th</sup>. A discussion of potential guest speakers brought forward the suggestion of M. Hamilton or M. Dove from the Western University Public History programme to present on recent revisioning of the Soho research project around old Victoria Hospital. The Eldon House staff will follow up to confirm a speaker.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **9. M. Spencer Golovchenko - Eldon House By-Law**

M. Donachie and M. Spencer Golovchenko will meet to come up with a plan related to potential amendments to the Eldon House By-law to allow for changes to board member composition in support of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) goals.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **KOUDYS**

Motion to adjourn.

**CARRIED**

Adjourned at 6:37 PM

## **NEXT MEETING**

Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022