
The 519 Church St. Community Centre

Board of Directors

Monday, November 29, 2010

Meeting # 2 (2010 - 2011)

Board Members Present: Natasha Garda, Scott Bomhof, Pascal Dessureault, Tyler Fleming, Donald Middleton, Anthony Partipilo, Lee Schofield, Rudy Ticzon, Michael von Teichman and Jeff Zoeller.

Regrets: Kira Vallen

Staff Present: Maura Lawless, Matthew Cutler, Rick McCarty and Helen Rykens

The meeting was opened by Natasha Garda at 6:45 PM

1) Welcome.

2) Agenda approval

Motion: To approve the Agenda. Moved by Rudy Ticzon and seconded by Tyler Fleming. Carried.

3) Visitors – none

4) Minutes of the last meeting

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting amended as follows: The motion in item 9 c, moved by Kira Vallen and seconded by Scott Bomhof and carried should have read: To appoint Don Middleton as an additional signing authority based on his frequent visits to The 519 throughout the week.

Moved by Scott Bomhof and seconded by Anthony Partipilo. Carried

5) Declaration of conflicts of interest: none.

6) Agency business – HPI Small Capital Grant

Homeless Partnership Initiative is a program funded by the Federal Government and administered by the City of Toronto. We receive program funding from HPI for our TransAccess Program, and will apply for a small capital grant to outfit the community kitchen, which is used by our drop in programs. The amount will be up to \$25,000.

Motion: To approve in principle an application to the Homeless Partnership Initiative Program to an amount of up to \$25,000. Moved by Pascal Dessureault and seconded by Jeff Zoeller. Carried.

7) Executive Director's Report – Maura reported

a) 200 Wellesley Initiative

The 519 received a one-time unsolicited donation to support the tenants at 200 Wellesley. We propose to use the funds in two ways. 1. to buy much needed household items for the tenants and 2. to hire a community engagement consultant to implement to develop an integrated community outreach initiative that will have a lasting positive benefit to the community at 200 Wellesley. The strategy would be developed in consultation with the tenants of 200 Wellesley and focus on establishing a partnerships with local service providers to develop a sustainable community led strategy that focuses on improving community connections and community investment partnerships.

We have been in discussions with TCHC and are meeting formally with St. Jamestown Community Corner which is a group of loosely affiliated community agencies trying to set up a service hub at 200 Wellesley. I will provide regular updates to the board on this initiative over the next number of months.

b) New Funding and New Initiatives

In November members of the Executive Committee and senior staff met with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) project staff to review our application for funding and to assess our capacity to manage the proposed "Settling In" initiative.

"Settling In" is an outcome-oriented holistic project that will support local (Living in Toronto) newcomers to Canada who face the additional barriers that come from being lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans and to help them integrate into the Canadian mainstream and LGBT culture. The primary delivery stream is building community connections and the secondary streams are needs assessment and employment related services.

The proposed project responds to the emerging need within our community for professional, intentional support for those individuals who prefer to seek assistance within their community.

The meeting went very well. We should know after December 10, 2010 if we are to move on to the negotiations stage

c) FABARNAK Update

Our new social enterprise business will focus primarily on recruiting the social enterprise positions directly from our community members. This will include LGBTQ youth with a focus on trans youth who disproportionately experience discrimination in the work place and LGBTQ refugees and newcomers seeking Canadian work experience and support to settle through the immigration.

Our team of professional Chefs and experts in the field of hospitality will provide on-the-job training and skills development that will help participants gain the necessary skills and work experience to work in the hospitality industry.

Each trainee will identify their own individual learning goals and will be supported in achieving them through training and development opportunities. This personalized learning plan will be central to the successful engagement of our trainee participants.

8) Chair and Executive Committee Report: Natasha Reported

a) Board Retreat

We will hold a board retreat in January for the purpose of team building and discussion of committee agendas for the year, including the strategic and program planning committee.

Book yourself in for Saturday, January 29 – it will be a full day from 9-5. We'll hold the January Board meeting at the end of the day, as it would normally fall on the following Monday. Noted: one board member will not be able to attend due to an existing scheduling conflict. All other Board members are asked to keep the date booked for The 519 Board Retreat.

b) Centrepiece Dinners

We haven't been able to fill multiple dates, so we are going ahead with the dinner on December 11. We have six people booked for that date, so please invite your contacts as well. We'll continue with more dates in the New Year. Please let Matt know who you're bringing on the 11th.

c) Community Advisory Panel

This is a community panel which will be collecting input about Pride Toronto at various public meetings and presenting their findings to Pride Toronto. The 519 was involved in the development of the Panel and has been formally invited to participate. Many of the meetings are taking place at The 519.

There is an on line survey that takes about 40 minutes. Board members are encouraged to complete it. We will find out how the information gathered will be used prior to setting up a formal meeting with the Panel. As there may be divergent views on the Board, we would go in with a united voice, or there may be some issues we would not comment on.

9) Human Resources Policy Committee:

Maura met with Tyler and Scott regarding an HR matter which is confidential and cannot be discussed at the Board table.

10) Finance Committee: Anthony reported

Rick will be meeting with the former Manager, Rinku Modi and will bring a report forward in December.

In 2011 the Finance Committee will look at governance from a policy perspective, oversee the budgeting process and ensure transparency at the Board level, and develop a process for identifying contingency funds and using those funds.

The 2011 budget will come to the December board meeting.

11) Strategic and Program Planning Committee:

a) Legal services education

Rudy will spearhead a project in which The 519 would provide training to lawyers in Ontario regarding Trans Access and GLB Access issues. This would be a new stream of diversity training for lawyers in Ontario, similar to the diversity training that The 519 currently provides to shelter staff, the police, and staff in long term care facilities.

b) Meeting with the community – Nov. 1, 2010

The LGBT has a long history of both positive and negative relations with the police. The 519's anti-violence program (AVP) focuses on assisting people who have experienced violence due to the perception that they are LGBT. When applicable, our anti violence staff person assists people with police reporting and court accompaniment. On occasion The 519 assists people who experience homophobia or transphobia in their interactions with the police, and staff assist these individuals with the police complaints process. Overall, since the AVP was developed in the early 1990's, relations between the LGBT community and the police have improved dramatically.

In the aftermath of the G20, community members protested at police meetings taking place at The 519, in particular, the Toronto Police Service and Chief's Pride Reception which took place immediately after the G20. It was the 3rd year in which The 519 hosted this particular reception.

The 519 held a community meeting on November 1 to give community members who had protested at The 519 an opportunity to speak about their concerns. Although the protesters had so far declined to use the Centre's complaints process, we felt it important to provide a forum for people to express their concerns.

At the meeting we learned that the police targeted queer and trans people during the G20. We heard about police using homophobic and transphobic language. Some community members were beaten up and trans people were placed in gendered jails. Their protests centred on our space use policy, which allows police organizations to hold meetings and events here.

Newer board members expressed frustration at not having historical knowledge of the history of conflict between the police and the LGBT community. Others noted that we should celebrate the positive relationship that has been built up between the police and the community through the AVP and the Police Community Liaison Committee.

After a lively discussion at the Board table, it was agreed that Maura will write a policy and letter that details the issues at a broad and systemic level. She will bring this to the Board meeting on Dec. 13 in conjunction with a report from the November 1 meeting.

c) Fall election

We will welcome all new councilors and the Mayor with a letter and an Annual Report. We have already congratulated the new councilor, Kristyn Wong Tam, for Ward 27, who is an ex-officio member of our Board of Management.

12) Advocacy Committee: no report

13) Resource Development and Communications Committee:

a) Green Space on Church

We are recruiting volunteers for the Green Space on Church planning committee. We'll develop a plan for the summer and use the park for a variety of purposes and events.

b) Holiday Direct Mail

Normally \$10,000 to \$15,000 is raised. The letter will be in mailboxes by December 9. Phone follow up will take place on the 16th or 17th. Best practices indicate phoning will increase the response rate.

c) Membership cards and packages

Membership cards which will include discounts at local businesses, will be coming in 2011. We have discontinued the paper cards and will have a swipe card in the near future. Note that a working group for membership development was formed in the past year and so these long awaited changes are coming. There will also be membership packages and events for new members.

Receipting response will be improved in 2011 as well.

14) Correspondence: none

15) Emerging Issues – none

16) Other business

Carole Pope event for volunteers and staff presented by Honorary Patron Salah Bachir and Cineplex will take place on Wednesday December 15.

Next Board Meeting will be December 13 at 6:30 PM.

17) Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Moved by Rudy Ticzon and seconded by Anthony Partipilo. Carried.