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MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 5 (2025-2026)

Monday, April 27, 2026 @ 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Hybrid via Zoom & Room #304

Board Members

Chair: Tom Spence	Bobby Hrehoruk (regrets)	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo (regrets)
Vice-Chair: Zoe Robinson (regrets)	Victor Huynh	Jaris Swidrovich
Secretary: Erika Voaklander	Natalie Miller (regrets)	Dennis Yu
Treasurer: Vanshika Dhawan	Mohamed Omar	
Ex-Officio: Councillor Chris Moise (regrets)		

The 519

Executive Director	Maura Lawless
Head, Organizational Services	Maria Martinez
Director, Community Wellbeing & Strategic Partnership Initiatives	Jaymie Sampa
Manager, Strategic and Executive Planning (minutes)	Laura Gibbon

Guests: Francesca Policarpio (Councillor Chris Moise's Office)

Item	Minutes
BD-5.1	**Welcome and Introductions** – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and led a round of introductions.
BD-5.2	**Land Acknowledgement** – Dennis Yu (Board member) Dennis Yu delivered the land acknowledgement.
BD-5.3	**Approve Agenda** – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence requested the Board to review the agenda for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026. **MOTION 5.3:** To approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026. **Moved by:** Victor Huynh **That** the Board of Management approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026. **Recorded vote:** Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Victor Huynh Mohamed Omar Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried

BD-5.4	**Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s)** – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence confirmed no conflicts of interest were declared.
BD-5.5	**Approval Meeting Minutes** – Tom Spence (Chair) **5.5.1 March 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes** Tom Spence requested the Board to review the minutes for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. **MOTION 5.5.1:** To approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. **Moved by:** Erika Voaklander **That** the Board of Management approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Victor Huynh Mohamed Omar Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried **5.5.2 March 30, 2026 In-Camera Meeting Minutes** Tom Spence confirmed that no one wished to go in-camera to review or provide edits to the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. **MOTION 5.5.2:** To approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. **Moved by:** Dennis Yu **That** the Board of Management approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Victor Huynh Mohamed Omar Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich

	Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried

BD-5.6	**Chair Report/Executive Committee** – Tom Spence (Chair)
	
	5.6.1 Chair Updates
	• Tom acknowledged the recent TC Talks: Cultural Districts panel event, hosted by Councillor Chris Moise, and thanked staff for the wonderful park clean-up event over the weekend.
	• Tom reminded Board members that the ED Succession Planning meeting is scheduled next Tuesday, May 5 from 6-8pm at The 519. He asked members to review the materials shared and to come prepared to discuss the consultation questions.
	• Board members were encouraged to sign up to volunteer at Green Space Festival, via a link shared by Maura, and to start making use of their personalized fundraising links.
	• Tom reminded Board members of the upcoming events and to attend as availability permits:
	  ○ Unveiling the heritage plaque and the lobby renovation on May 19
	  ○ Doors Open on May 23-24, with training provided for anyone doing tours
	  ○ Pride kick-off event on June 4
	• Tom provided an update on behalf of Governance Committee:
	  ○ Dennis and Tom met to discuss and make recommendations re: Board evaluation which will come to the May Governance and June Board meetings
	  ○ Board Policy Project has been deferred to the October meeting.
	  ○ Nominations subcommittee will be struck at the May Governance meeting. Any interested Board members should let Tom and Natalie know.
	5.6.2 Board Meeting Schedule Adjustment
	• The October Board meeting is currently scheduled on the same night as the Toronto Municipal Elections. As a result, the Board will reschedule its meeting to Monday, November 2, 2026.
	
	MOTION 5.6.2: To move the October 26, 2026, Board meeting to November 2, 2026.
	
	Moved by: Vanshika Dhawan
	
	That the Board of Management approve the decision to move the October 26, 2026, Board meeting to November 2, 2026.
	
	Recorded vote: Unanimous
	Vanshika Dhawan
	Victor Huynh
	Mohamed Omar
	Tom Spence

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	Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried
BD-5.7	**Executive Director Report** – Maura Lawless (Executive Director) N/A
BD-5.8	**Finance Committee Update** – Maria Martinez (Head, Organizational Services) & Vanshika Dhawan (Treasurer) **5.8.1 2025 Year-End Preliminary Results** • Maria presented the 2025 Year-End Preliminary Results. Currently, staff are expecting to close 2025 with a $191k surplus. • The surplus is due to more revenue than expected (increases in Government Funding, Enterprise & Other) and fewer expenses than expected (savings in Salaries & Benefits, Furniture & Equipment, Services & Rent). • Board members asked about a quarterly itemized delineation between recurring vs. one-time funding to better understand long-term forecast. This is already provided in risk analysis reports, however, the Finance Committee will revisit this suggestion and make a recommendation to staff that ensures the Board has a view into new and emerging funding trends, including what level of detail is appropriate for reporting purposes. • Consistent with Board direction provided in December 2025, the surplus will be directed to the 50th anniversary fund. • The audit is almost complete, and the auditors are expected to attend the Finance Committee meeting on May 25 and the Board meeting on June 8 to present the results. • The Board discussed the organization's cash flow situation and flagged that there are significant delays (2+ years) in receiving the money owed as a result of core funding adjustments from the City of Toronto. This is a consistent issue across AOCCs, which staff have flagged, and are working with the City to hopefully implement some changes in the 2027 budget process later this year. Staff monitor the cash flow closely and have forecasts, plans, and back-up plans (i.e., line of credit) in case of emergency. • Staff also flagged key realities that may require future discussion regarding budget adjustments or re-allocation of funds: (1) continued cuts to IRCC funding and the implications for our work in supporting LGBTQ+ refugees, (2) ongoing rise in complexity of community and neighbourhood safety and The 519's role in helping to address it, and (3) less government funding overall, less corporate funding overall, fewer available resources to fund new and existing work. **MOTION 5.6.2:** To receive the 2025 Year-End Preliminary Results. **Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan

	That the Board of Management receive the 2025 Year-End Preliminary Results. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Victor Huynh Mohamed Omar Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried *Jaymie Sampa left the meeting at 7:20pm.*
IN-CAMERA ITEMS	
BD-5.9	**Capital Assets Update** – Francesca Policarpio (Councillor Chris Moise's Office) **MOTION 5.9a:** To go in camera. **Moved by:** Victor Huynh **That** the Board of Management go in camera. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Victor Huynh Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried The Board discussed the Capital Assets Update. **MOTION 5.9b:** To come out of in camera. **Moved by:** Erika Voaklander **That** the Board of Management come out of in camera.

	Recorded vote: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Victor Huynh Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried
BD-5.10	**Adjournment** – Tom Spence (Chair) • The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Approved by The 519 Board of Management on June 8, 2026.

Signed by:

9/20/2026

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Tom Spence
Board Chair