



MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 4 (2025-2026)

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

Board Members

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

The 519

Executive Director	Maura Lawless
Director, Finance	Maria Martinez
Director, Legal Initiatives	Johanna MacDonald
Manager, Strategic and Executive Planning (minutes)	Laura Gibbon

Guests: Tyler Johnson (Councillor Moise’s Office)

Item	Minutes
BD-4.1	Welcome and Introductions – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence opened the meeting at 6:31 PM.
BD-4.2	Land Acknowledgement – Erika Voaklander (Secretary) Erika Voaklander delivered the land acknowledgement.
BD-4.3	Approve Agenda – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence requested the Board to review the agenda for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. MOTION 4.3: To approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. Moved by: Jaris Swidrovich That the Board of Management approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026. Recorded vote: Unanimous Bobby Hrehoruk Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Decision carried



MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 4 (2025-2026)

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

<p>BD-4.4</p>	<p>Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s) – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence confirmed no conflicts of interest were declared.</p>
<p>BD-4.5</p>	<p>Approval Meeting Minutes – Tom Spence (Chair)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">4.5.1 February 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Tom Spence requested the Board to review the minutes for the Board Meeting of February 23, 2026.</p> <p>MOTION 4.5.1: To approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of February 23, 2026.</p> <p>Moved by: Zoe Robinson</p> <p>That the Board of Management approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of February 23, 2026.</p> <p>Recorded vote: Unanimous Bobby Hrehoruk Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu</p> <p>Decision carried</p> <p style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">4.5.2 February 23, 2026 In-Camera Meeting Minutes</p> <p>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 February 23, 2026.</p> <p>MOTION 4.5.2: To approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of February 23, 2026.</p> <p>Moved by: Dennis Yu</p> <p>That the Board of Management approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of February 23, 2026.</p> <p>Recorded vote: Unanimous Bobby Hrehoruk Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson</p>



MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 4 (2025-2026)

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

	<p>Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu</p> <p>Decision carried</p>
<p>BD-4.6</p>	<p>Chair Report/Executive Committee – Tom Spence (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom acknowledged recent and upcoming days of significance: Ramadan/Eid, Nowruz, Passover, Vaisakhi, and Trans Day of Visibility, and highlighted the Queer Market, the stairwell installation featuring trans activists, and the new trans-owned local business in the village, Understory. • Jaris Swidrovich added an acknowledgement of the Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day on March 20 as well. • Tom thanked staff for hosting the International Women’s Day event on March 20th. • Tom acknowledged the departure of Aniska Ali, Director of Philanthropy, and thanked her for her service. Maura is currently acting as Director of Philanthropy, and the recruitment for the Head of Development is underway. • The new Board Effectiveness Working Group is meeting for the first time on Wednesday, April 1, virtually, and will report back to the Governance Committee. Any interested Board members should connect with Dennis. • The Board is seeking 100% board engagement with the Board Legacy Donation program and each member is requested to provide their own message for their page no later than April 15. • Rainbow Community Places are recruiting two Board members (1 fundraising lead and 1 networking lead), board members are asked to share this with anyone they think might be interested. • The 519 has been requested to endorse the Echoes Proposal. Maura is now the 519’s representative on the Barbara Hall Park (BHP) Community Consultative committee. Board members should direct any questions/ comment they may receive to Maura, and eventually Becky McFarlane. • Tom flagged a few upcoming events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Toronto Centre Talks at The 519 on April 16, hosted by Councillor Chris Moise ○ Lobby Refresh Opening at The 519 includes Heritage Toronto plaque unveiling and the acknowledgement of United Way Greater Toronto for supporting lobby refresh. ○ Doors Open at The 519 on May 23 and 24, Board members are asked to volunteer to welcome the public and/or lead tours. Lisa will be arranging Board tours in advance – stay tuned. ○ Pride Kick-off Event at The 519 on June 4, opportunity to engage with donors and friends of organization.



MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 4 (2025-2026)

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

<p>BD-4.7</p>	<p>Executive Director Report – Maura Lawless (Executive Director)</p> <p>Legal Services Update – Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff recently sought and received support and approval from the Board to proceed in discussion with the City of Toronto regarding the expansion of community services to include direct legal services. In follow up conversations with the City Manager’s Office and City Legal, The 519 staff were told they were not allowed to deliver legal services for 2SLGBTQ+communities (focus IPV and settlement support) as 519 employees are City staff. There was no other reason provided or identifiable restrictions under legislation and/or governing documents. It is the position of The 519 that this decision is interfering with the Board’s authority. • Board members expressed appreciation for the work of staff in pushing back against the City’s position. Tyler Johnson indicated that the Councillor’s Office had an interest in expanding legal services and offered to raise the issue with the City Manager’s Office and the Solicitor on behalf of the Councillor and The 519, and explore more direct routes to getting The 519’s proposal approved. • Board members who are practicing lawyers have agreed to meet with staff to strategize and prepare for a meeting with more senior staff at the City. Staff have requested that the 519 seek explicit authority from City Council, since they delegate the decision-making authorities to AOCC Boards. <p><i>Johanna MacDonald left the meeting at 7pm.</i></p> <p>Green Space Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The festival is on June 24-28, 2026. Posts on social media have started to roll out and Board members are asked to share widely. Tickets and passes are on sale, and sales are doing well. More information will be provided as the festival approaches, including information about Board member festival passes. • There will also be a new Treehouse afterparty on Sunday night with David Morales. <p>50th Anniversary Golf Tournament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a new fundraising and social event taking place on August 11 for queer women. Board members are asked to help promote the event. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will send an email with the details for Doors Open soon.
<p>BD-4.8</p>	<p>Governance Committee Update – Tom Spence (Board Chair)</p> <p>4.8.1 March 16 Governance Committee Meeting Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Spence provided an update on the recent Governance Committee meeting. • Staff are working on a Records Retention Schedule and are seeking advice from relevant City divisions (Corporate Information Management Services, Legal Services, City Manager’s Office). The draft will be presented at the May Governance Committee and Board meetings.



MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 4 (2025-2026)

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee discussed training and development priorities in relation to the Board evaluation, Board effectiveness priorities, and the upcoming recruitment process. The Board effectiveness working group will assume responsibility for planning the Board survey they year and identify key priorities, including training and development priorities. All Board members are welcome to join the working group, and the first meeting is Wednesday, April 1, 2026. • As part of the ED Multi-Year Succession Plan, the Governance Committee will be completing a review of foundational policies/practice documents that provide guidance related to governance, accountability, and operational clarity in support of an upcoming leadership transition, including identifying any missing documents. Reports will come to the Board once the process is completed.
--	--

IN-CAMERA ITEMS

<p>BD-4.9</p>	<p>Update Capital Assets – Tyler Johnson (Chief of Staff, Councillor Moise’s Office) & Maura Lawless (Executive Director)</p> <p>MOTION 4.9a: To go in camera.</p> <p>Moved by: Mohamed Omar</p> <p>That the Board of Management go in camera.</p> <p>Recorded vote: Unanimous Bobby Hrehoruk Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu</p> <p>Decision carried</p> <p>The Board discussed the Capital Assets Update.</p> <p>MOTION 4.9b: To come out of in camera.</p> <p>Moved by: Erika Voaklander</p> <p>That the Board of Management come out of in camera.</p> <p>Recorded vote: Unanimous Bobby Hrehoruk Mohamed Omar</p>
----------------------	---




MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 4 (2025-2026)

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

	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu Decision carried
BD-4.10	Adjournment – Tom Spence (Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm

Approved by The 519 Board of Management on April 27, 2026.

Signed by:


4/28/2026

6EA689DD2A104DB...
Tom Spence
Board Chair