



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

held on 16 September 2013

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendance

Fifty-four voting members attended the meeting and twenty-one non-voting members registered with member relations staff (registration was optional for non-voting members and guests). The list of members in attendance is tracked in the member relations database.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

Pascal Dessureault, Chair of the Board of Directors, opened the meeting at 7:02PM

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOVED BY: Tyler Fleming
SECONDED BY: Julia Lo
THAT: **the agenda be approved as circulated**

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the Minutes

MOVED BY: Luc Levasseur
SECONDED BY: Dan Boyer
THAT: **the minutes be approved as circulated**

CARRIED

4. Auditor's Report

Tyler Fleming, Board Treasurer, presented the audited financial statements including the following highlights:

- Overall, 2012 was another successful year at The 519. We once again increased our operating revenue, this time by almost 8%. This follows a 36% increase the previous year.

- The audit was completed once again by Grant Thornton who are appointed by City Council and complete the audit on all the AOCC organizations.
- The 519 once again received a clean audit – there were no irregularities identified.
- In 2012, The 519 received a 10% cut (\$110,000) in core funding from the City. This reduction was expected and planned for, and impacted not only us but all the other community centres like The 519.
- Pride 2012 was our biggest success ever (since surpassed in 2013). We had projected to earn more than \$143,000 and in the end raised more than \$224,000, exceeding our target by over 56%.
- Thank-you again to Salah Bachir our Honourary Patron for your leadership of the Gala and to BMO for sponsoring the event.
- Thank-you to all of our amazing volunteers and staff who work so hard to make our Pride events a success.
- Thank-you to TD for its new sponsorship for our Green Space Pride events – this support really helps us realize as much revenue as possible to support vital community programs and services.

MOVED BY: Tyler Fleming
 SECONDED BY: Jacob Porpossian
 THAT: **the membership approve and accept the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.**

CARRIED

5. Chair's Report

Pascal Dessureault spoke to the previous year's successes including the following highlights:

- Throughout the course of the year, our centre adapts and changes to meet the needs of our communities. Our building and our staff enable our community to meet, plan and strategize, to celebrate our achievements and each other, and to offer resources and support that help to address the challenges members of our communities face day-to-day.
- None of this would be possible without the support and generosity of our members, volunteers and donors. Over the past year, our Green Space on Church events grew into a two-venue arts and culture festival and set new records in terms of attendance and revenue – records that we hope to break again next year as our City welcomes World Pride.
- Under the continued leadership of our Honourary Patron, Salah Bachir, our annual Gala has continued to raise significant funds in support of our centre. Over 1,900 donations were made by individuals, organizations and corporations in the past year. Our organization would not be able to continue delivering our vital, transformative programs without that support.
- The Centre is preparing to enter a very dynamic period in its growth and development.
- World Pride in 2014 will provide us an opportunity to grow, develop and

- highlight the work we do in our communities on an international scale.
- The Pan Am / Para Pan Am Games in 2015 will be a showcase for Toronto's diversity and inclusion as The 519 and its partners aim to deliver the most LGBTQ-inclusive games in history.
- It has been an honour to have served The 519 as a member of the Board for the past four years and to have been given the opportunity to lead the organization as Board Chair for the past two.

Following his remarks, Pascal introduced the Annual Report Video which was played for everyone in attendance. Copies of the video and report are available at The 519.

5. Executive Director's Report

Maura Lawless spoke briefly following the Annual Report video thanking FABARNAK for the dinner and extending thanks to The 519's staff and volunteers for their service to The Centre and its communities all year long. Maura also extended thanks to our donors, sponsors and funders who make all of our work possible.

Maura spoke to the importance of local neighbourhood leadership and partnership and highlighted the important role The 519 plays in city-building and as a public-private partnership of the City. One of the ways The 519 is providing leadership is through The Village Study.

6. The Village Study Presentation

Maura Lawless introduced Doug Kerr and Nancy Chater, consultants from The Planning Partnership, who made a presentation to the membership on the process and preliminary findings of The Village Study. (Copies of their presentation are available upon request.)

7. Nominations Committee Report

Pascal Dessureault, Tyler Fleming, Angeline Ico and Scott Bomhof presented the report of the nominations committee. Highlights included:

- Nominations Committee is responsible to manage the recruitment process and recommend candidates to fill vacancies on the Board. The Committee is also responsible to ensure that the process complies with The 519's by-laws and other governing documents including the City's Public Appointments Policy as approved by Toronto City Council.
- The nominations committee sought candidates who:
 - Have a variety of perspectives, reflecting the diversity of the community
 - Have an understanding of diverse neighbourhoods and communities within the catchment area
 - Reflect the cultural and social diversity of the community
 - Have knowledge and understanding of community and public service

- Bring specific skills and expertise that contribute to good governance
- Support for mission and mandate of The Centre; and to
- Possess strong communication and decision making skills
- This year during the nominations period 19 members expressed interest in the Board and 9 members submitted completed applications for 6 vacancies. This included 1 incumbent and 8 new nominees who were invited to an interview with the committee members.
- Again this year, the Nominations Committee used a standard set of three questions in the interview process. The first asked the nominees to talk about how their work and / or lived experience enhances The Centre's diversity efforts. The second asked them to speak to their professional / community related skills and expertise and how those would benefit The 519; and the third asked them to identify what they think are the major priorities facing The 519 and what role they hope to play in relation to those priorities.
- Each question had a pre-established answer key including a rating system to ensure a transparent, fair and consistent approach when evaluating nominees. All nominees were asked the same questions and their answers were then scored using the pre-established rating tool.
- The committee has informed all applicants of its recommendations. Three have subsequently withdrawn their nominations resulting in an acclamation of the remaining six candidates.
- The Nomination Committee believes that the recommended candidates best meet the Board's stated recruitment priorities for 2013. The Committee believes these candidates are best quipped to advance The Centre's strategic priorities over the coming years.

MOVED BY:

Angeline Ico

SECONDED BY:

Scott Bomhof

THAT:

the following individuals by elected to the Board of Management of The 519: Tom Lewis, Paul Bent, Jacob Porpossian, Margo Foster, Michelle Walker, and Daniel Boyer.

CARRIED

8. Recognition

Pascal Dessureault spoke to the commitment and service of outgoing Board members and recognized and thanked Rudy Ticzon, Kerry Bell, John Thorton and Julia Lo for their service. Pascal presented Julia with a token of The 519's appreciation (other outgoing members were not in attendance).

Tyler Fleming spoke to the leadership and commitment of Pascal Dessureault, The 519's outgoing Board Chair and Margo Foster and Tyler Fleming presented Pascal with a token of The 519's appreciation.

9. Question and Answer Period

The floor was opened to the membership for questions. These questions included:

- Renovations to Cawthra Square Park: A member inquired about the renovations to the park, noting that the duration of renovations has displaced homeless and under-housed people who often frequent the park. Pascal shared that, while The 519 was consulted on the design of the park, the park renovations were led by the City of Toronto. Pascal noted that the renovations are progressing on time and that the park will be open in time for WorldPride and the Green Space Festival.
- Board Diversity: A member asked about the diversity of the Board of Management, noting a perceived lack of diversity and suggesting that the Board does not reflect the community that uses the building on a day-to-day basis. Pascal noted that it has always been a challenge for The 519 to recruit Board members that reflect the diversity of our community, noted that The 519 staff and programs are committed to inclusivity and explained that the nomination committee's process of recommending specific candidates was introduced last year to assist with this issue.
- American Sign Language Accessibility: A member asked about The 519's commitment to integrating ASL (American Sign Language) into programs and services. The member noted that the meeting was interpreted, and often events are as well, and that ASL courses are provided at The 519, however there are many other programs and activities that are not accessible in ASL. Pascal noted that the Board is open to suggestions and that The 519 is guided by community feedback and listens to community needs.
- Voting Membership and Catchment: A member asked why many of the people at the meeting were unable to vote because they do not live in The Village. The member noted that living downtown is too expensive and that many people who access The 519, particularly newcomers, live outside the downtown core. Pascal noted that the catchment is outlined in The 519's relationship framework with the City of Toronto and that a change to the catchment area would require City Council approval. Pascal stated that it was important that all members felt they could have their voices heard and that this issue is one that the Board has discussed many times.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM

MOVED BY: Tyler Fleming
SECONDED BY: Peter Nogalo
THAT: **the meeting be adjourned.**

CARRIED