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Wexford Heights BIA
AGM Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2019

Location: Precious Blood Church – 1737 Lawrence Ave. E. (downstairs Church Hall)

Attendees:

Michael Phan – Chair	Marianne Szczuryk – Advisor – City BIA Office
Steve Wanless – Vice-Chair	Ihor Wons - EA/Councillor Michael Thompson
Hovic Boyadjian - Treasurer	John Kiru – Executive Director TABIA
Sandy Bassett – Secretary	Edgar Tam – Scarboro Mazda 2124 Lawrence Ave. E.
Arya Aboosaidi – BM	Joanne Dickens – Better Than Yia Yia’s 1841 Lawrence Ave. E.
Robert Givelas – BM	Deanna Dickens – Better Than Yia Yia’s 1842 Lawrence Ave. E.
Shien Thiyagarajah – BM	Essi Barkur – Pizza Pizza 1950 Lawrence Ave. E.
Yani Zhao – BM	Sh’quaya Elvie – Styles by Kiya 2075 Lawrence Ave. E.
Linda Raeside	Syed Shah, CPA, CGA – rep for Rafiq Dosani - Auditor
	Brendan Stewart – University of Guelph/ – rep for Plaza Pops Project

1. **Call to Order & Introductions**

- Meeting called to order at 6:45pm and introductions

2. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

- None declared.

3. **Approval of Minutes 2018 Annual General Meeting**

It was moved by board member Yani Zhao, seconded by business member Deanna Dickens to accept the meeting minutes of 2018 AGM **Motion carried.**

4. **Appointment of Auditor for 2019**

It was moved by Secretary Sandy Bassett, seconded by Treasurer Hovic Boyadjian to appoint Rafiq Dosani to conduct 2019 audit. **Motion carried.**

It is noted change to order of agenda Item #5 Appointment of Auditor for 2019. Item #4 Auditor’s 2018 report upon arrival of representative to present report.

5. **Sub-committee reports**

- TOL – Sandy Bassett – Secretary presented the report for the 2019 TOL. Attendance was estimated to be approximately in the 200k plus range. She mentioned the headliner for the Saturday night which was a Queen Tribute Band, was very well received and drew a large audience. 2019 revenue of \$227k achieved through sponsors, vendor fees, BIA investment, and amusement rides bringing a positive balance of \$4k after expenses. Based on survey results, 32% visitors were new to the event, with 68% returning. Sandy advised that the 2020 TOL had gone to tender with the current event planner Sphere Entertainment being awarded the contract in 2020.
- Marketing – Robert Givelas sub-committee Co-Chair mentioned the WexPops project which was launched during the TOL and how it engaged community groups and included some programming during the 6 weeks it was up. Also the Annual Tree Lighting event will again be taking place this year to engage with the local community. He also advised the hiring of social media person during the TOL to help promote the event. The social media/website is an area to work on going forward. Another item of interest to help support businesses and offered through Enterprise Toronto is the Retail Accelerator Grant Program where businesses can receive training sessions and apply for grant funding in amount of \$5k to help grow their business.

- Streetscaping – Chair Michael Phan addressed the multi-year project for the development of parkettes at the 4 corners of Warden/Lawrence is currently on hold due to the probable reconstruction of curbs/bike lanes. He advised BIA currently has reserved funds in the budget once this project gets the go ahead. He also advised a contractor had been hired this year to clean-up the street and address the issue of overgrown weeds along the boulevard. The BIA is also working on adding more benches along with additional litter bins to alleviate issues with trash.
- Brendan Stewart – University of Guelph Professor provided presentation on the pilot project plazaPOPS (WexPops) which garnered a lot of support from the community as well as receiving good amount of media which benefitted the BIA. He also provided a summary of costs as to how the BIA Innovator Grant monies were spent. This project also helped create summer employment for youth. He advised they are currently working on a documentary film as part of the next steps. He shares his enthusiasm in bringing the project back and has mentioned there have been some conversations with the city; need to find ways to make this sustainable. He further commented find more ways to promote local businesses i.e. relate it to food perhaps an Uber Eats program delivered to the space. Also would like to do better job with engaging the community.

It was moved by board member Yani Zhao, seconded by business member Justin Dickens to receive the report as presented. **Motion carried**

6. Auditor’s 2018 Report

Representative Syed Shah presented financial statements for the year-ending Dec. 31st, 2018

It was moved by Secretary Sandy Bassett, seconded by board member Shien Thiyagarajah to accept the report as presented. **Motion carried**

7. 2020 Proposed Budget

- Treasurer Hovic Boyadjian provided an overview of the proposed budget for 2020.

It was moved by Secretary Sandy Bassett, seconded by business owner Deanna Dickens to accept the proposed budget as presented. **Motion carried**

8. New Business

- Vice-Chair Steve Wanless made the ask again this year if anyone wished to sit as a volunteer with 41 Division’s CPLC (Community Police Liaison Committee) who meet the last Monday of every month.
- Christmas Hampers – Vice-Chair Steve Wanless advised they were hoping to provide food hampers for families in need again this year. Should the project get underway he would like to request the BIA again provide donation in amount of \$2,500.

It was moved by board member Shien Thiyagarajah to approve donation in amount of \$2,500 should the project go forward, seconded by board member Yani Zhao. **Motion carried**

- Marianne Szczuryk – City BIA Advisor advised she is looking forward to working with our BIA and also mentioned the Façade Grant Program that is available to businesses.

9. Adjournment

It was moved by board member Robert Givelas, seconded by board member Shien Thiyagarajah to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Signatures: _____
Co-chair Co-chair Secretary