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## Toronto Downtown West BIA Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday November 1, 2022

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Virtual: Zoom

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Janice Solomon welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and commented that next year would be in person. She advised that there is a year in review presentation of BIA activities and initiatives and opened the meeting with the Indigenous Land & People Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit

Janice Solomon advised that the BIA is committed to improving relationships and understanding of people and cultures, as we move toward reconciliation

Janice Solomon thanked the Board for everything they do for the betterment of the BIA

The BIA announced its expansion over to Bathurst Street this year and will be expanding services and opportunities to the new area such as programs like Café TO, maintenance and enhancements as well as providing regular communication on matters such as the Ontario Line. The BIA is excited to welcome new members

The BIA will continue to work with partners such as Toronto Police Service in support of a healthy and safe neighborhood

### Highlights from 2022:

- The BIA hired a new Director of Safety and Security, Mike Josifovic
- The successful boundary expansion to Bathurst St.
- The BIA included businesses in the new area into communications including road closure updates and infrastructure notices, relief programs, newsletters as well as working with retail and hospitality businesses on marketing & promotional opportunities, and programs such as CaféTO.
- Strengthen our relationship with City of Toronto Shelter and Housing Administration
- Continues to reinforce the vibrant and dynamic nature of the neighbourhood
- Work with stakeholders and various levels of government
- Work closely with the big 6 downtown BIAs
- Keep members abreast of developments through social channels and other forms of communication channels
- Launched new website in the spring of this year
- Created a new growth and development page that provides a comprehensive view of the rate of growth
- Facilitating workshops

- Create document to be used by planners and the City. It supersedes the Master Plan and was needed because the area has changed dramatically since 2009
- Curate over 70 art installations in ArtWalk which is an innovative tourist focused products
- Cleaning program continues to deal with the conditions of private and public properties including picking up litter, graffiti removal, snow cleanup
- Beautification continued with anti-graffiti pole wraps/paint and flower baskets that add vibrancy
- Safety & security work continues by working closely with heads of security and 52 and 14 Divisions of TPS.
- Workshop on de-escalation and Safety Best Practices
- Developed a new Downtown West Security Group made up of security and operations representatives from several of our businesses to address issues impacting the area
- Advocacy work continues around the need for more immediate supportive housing and mental health and addiction programs.
- Continue to report on crisis and criminal activity to the police
- When Hydro is finished on John Street, the tender process begins for street improvements. John St will have wider sidewalks, new hydro poles, special lighting, new paving treatment, flexible curbs, Wi-Fi and tree canopy.
- Ontario Line – regular community consultation meetings including regular updates on infrastructure work which will impact our businesses

#### 1. Call to Order, Opening Remarks

Michael Emory called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m. He identified himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting

For the past 2.5 years, there's been a feeling like we've jumped out of frying pan into fire. While the pandemic still with us and we now appear to be going into a form of economic slowdown, macro-economic uncertainty

We collectively are part of largest and most dynamic neighbourhood in Canada. This is one of the most rapidly transforming areas in North America and it's gaining credibility throughout the world. We have a broad cross section of the population seeking entertainment and cultural opportunity

It gives me hope that we will come through these difficult times successfully. We will strive to achieve that for our members

The expansion of the BIA is a wonderful development which took a great deal of work

Thank you to our Board which is composed of outstanding leaders in the community. Thank you for your time, energy and intelligence

We thank Janice Solomon and her team; she is the heart and soul of the BIA. They took it up a notch during the pandemic and we can't thank her enough for her relentless championship of the BIA

#### 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Approval of 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes was made by Sarah Turney of Fasken, seconded by Veronica Maggisano of Oxford Properties. Carried

4. Auditor's 2021 Report

Jim Aldridge from Mirvish Productions and Treasurer introduced the Auditor's Report. The Report was presented in the AGM package and was prepared by Rosenswig McRae Thorpe. It was a clean audit and has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee and the Board and has been sent to the City

**MOTION:** A motion was made to accept the 2021 Financial Statements as presented by Deborah Scott of Scott Architect, seconded by David Kelley of Soho Hotel. Carried

5. Appointment of Auditor for 2022

The representative of the Rosenswig McRae Thorpe was sent to a waiting room

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Veronica Maggisano of Oxford Properties, seconded Sarah Turney of Fasken to appoint Rosenswig McRae Thorpe as auditors for 2022. Carried

6. Budget for 2023

Jim Aldridge advised that this the first budget for the expanded BIA. The Levy for 2023 includes an increase based on new developments plus surplus from the previous budget. It has been vetted by the Finance and Steering Committees as well as the Board and it has been approved

**MOTION:** A motion to approve 2023 budget as presented was made by Maya Kane of the CBC, seconded by Deborah Scott of Scott Architects. Carried

Thank you, Sue Kilbride and Janice Solomon, you are great leaders to help the Board and Finance Committee

7. Election of Board of Directors

Karen Keskull from the City's BIA office was invited up for the election

She explained that the Boards of all City agencies operate on same term as City Council so as this is an election year the Board must be elected. Requests were sent out for anyone interested in joining the Board. The slate is as follows:

Jim Aldridge  
Michael Emory  
Oliver Geddes  
Simon Gitalis  
Lorenz Hassenstein  
Maya Kane  
David Kelley  
Veronica Maggisano  
Deborah Scott  
Steve Sorensen  
Sarah Turney  
Laura Weyland

**MOTION:** A motion to accept the Board slate as presented was made by Veronica Maggisano of Oxford Properties, seconded by Laura Weyland of Shoppers Drug Mart. Carried

8. Adjournment

Michael Emory was invited back for the adjournment. He commented that he's never had an objection to a motion to adjourn.

He is looking forward to hearing from others with interest in joining the Board. It is productive, collaborative Board and if you are interested, please contact us

He thanked everyone for attending and commented that he looked forward to seeing everyone in person next year

He thanked the Board again for ensuring that we continue to have a successful BIA

**MOTION:** A motion to adjourn was made at 4:38 pm by Sarah Turney of Fasken, seconded by David Kelley of SOHO Hotel. Carried