

**TORONTO DOWNTOWN WEST BIA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023, 4:00 P.M. – 4:30 PM  
IN PERSON, ACE HOTEL, 51 CAMDEN STREET**

The meeting started with the Land and People Acknowledgement

Deputy Mayor Malik spoke about the great work the BIA is doing

- Collective efforts will strengthen the district
- Appreciate partnership we have forged
- Thank you for your support

Janice Solomon welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending

- Neighbourhood going through amazing transformation
- Congratulations to Mayor Chow and Deputy Mayor Malik. The BIA is looking forward to working with them

**Year ahead**

- The BIA will continue to put plans into motion
- Intend to organize community sessions for members on vital topics to local indigenous people
- Had a panel with two spirited members
- Continue to facilitate discussions going forward
- Support indigenous artists
- Thank you to Board of Directors who also sit on committees
- Thankful to be back to in person meetings
- Dedicated to foster unity and moments of connection
- Community sessions were relative
- Art Walk is a new way to experience the area
- Look forward to work with members on new promotional material
- Safety is important – working with TPS, and created neighbourhood community officer program
- Addressing supportive and affordable housing
- Working on shelter issues
- Facilitate opportunities for members to provide shelter and employment
- Strong connection with downtown 6 BIAs
- Contribute to success of city
- Research and development
- BIA committed to growth a vibrancy in the area

**Year in review**

- Promote
- Advocate
- Collaborate and
- Enhance
- Work with a number of organizations

- Range of initiatives
  - Art Walk 2.0
  - Season guides which promoted services and products
- Main street innovation fund
- Attract people and add vibrancy
- Online presence – district of experiences
- Hubs on website
- Member features on website
- Stories will be enhanced with video and podcast content
- Work with OCAD U live
- Online coverage through articles on the BIA site
- Timely communications
- Feedback will shape endeavours
- Won a TABIA award for growth framework
- BIA is effective tool for representing business interests
- Safety and security – collective voice of all retailers which is valuable in big city like this
- Foot patrols in area will be in place for years and will deal with root causes not just symptoms
- It's the foot patrol officers responsibility to dig deep into issues
- Labour intensive but results worth it
- Well-being of community at forefront of BIA priorities
- Contribute to a downtown that's safe for all
- Also hosted BIA social events – invited experts to educate members
- Downtown West Security Group – security representatives from various stakeholders and the King West Nightlife Group
- Advocacy continues
- Housing, mental health assistance
- Refugee claimants – BIA worked on employment and accommodation
- Maintenance continues to address issues
- Added beautification to the new area
- John Street is an important corridor
- Ontario Line project – priority transit
- Major infrastructure at Queen and Spadina and at King and Bathurst
- BIA attends meetings about the Ontario Line
- Look forward to continuing to promote vitality of businesses and beloved community

Janice Solomon extend appreciation to Michael Emory, thanked him for his long-standing support of the BIA and the many initiatives he has driven

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks, Sarah Turney, Chair

Sarah Turney thanked Janice Solomon for all her work and advised that it is a pleasure and privilege to have her as the BIA Executive Director. Janice Solomon works tirelessly to advocate for stakeholders and members

Sarah Turney called the meeting to order at 4:25 pm

2. Declaration of Conflict of interest

None

Sarah Turney advised that there would be a few items requiring motions and requested that people making motions or seconding them, please state their name clearly and the name of their organization

3. Approve the 2022 AGM minutes

**MOTION:** A motion to approve the 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes was made by Veronica Maggisano of Oxford Properties, seconded by David Kelley of Soho Hotel. Carried

4. Auditor's report - Jim Aldridge, Treasurer

Jim Aldridge from Mirvish Productions and Treasurer of the BIA 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 2022 Financial Statements as presented by Maya Kane of the CBC, seconded by Deborah Scott of Scott Sheilds Architects. Carried

5. Appointment of Auditor for 2024

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Veronica Maggisano of Oxford Properties, seconded by Laura Weyland of Weyland Pharmacy to appoint Rosenswig McRae Thorpe as auditors for 2024. Carried

6. Budget for 2024

The budget was approved by the Finance Committee, Steering Committee and the Board. There is continued development and new commercial space coming on board which enables the BIA to increase the budget without impacting the levy rate which remains the same as last year

**MOTION:** A motion to accept 2024 budget as presented was made by Nicolas Lazarou of Le Germain Hotel, seconded by Oliver Geddes of The Fifth. Carried

Jim Aldridge offered a special thank you to Sue Kilbride and Janice Solomon for their work on the budget

Nicolas Lazarou asked a question about the streetscape improvement budget: how is it decided where the money will be spent? The BIA tries to make sure everything is covered with perhaps more in the new area to catch it up

7. Closing remarks

Sarah Turney thanked everyone for participating with a special thanks to the Board of Directors who dedicate significant time to sit on the board and contribute their experience and leadership

8. Adjournment

**MOTION:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 4:36 pm by Veronica Maggisano of Oxford Properties, seconded by Jim Aldridge of Mirvish Productions. Carried