

BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7 pm
Meeting conducted via Virtual ZOOM Conferencing

MINUTES

Present: EXECUTIVE: Patricia Wallace, John Green, Geoff Dawe, Anna Kroeplin.
DIRECTORS: Peter Styromo, Ronen Grunberg, Alan Lambert.
COMMITTEES: James Hoyes - Facility Maintenance Committee Chair
REGRETS: Stan Neal, Jeff Thom, John Bare-Landscape Committee Chair

1. CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

President, Patricia Wallace called the AHS Board meeting to order and thanked attendees for their participation in the virtual meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The President requested that 15356 Yonge St. be discussed as Item #10 on the agenda.

MOTION: 2020-AHS-021

Moved by Alan, second by John: THAT the agenda be approved with the addition of "15356 Yonge Street" to be discussed as Item #10. **CARRIED.**

4. Approval of Previous Minutes: May 11, 2020

MOTION: 2020-AHS-022

Moved by John, second by Peter: THAT the May 11, 2020 Minutes be approved. **CARRIED.**

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Patricia Wallace:

a) **Resignation** - Paul Martin resigned from the AHS Board via email effective June 2, 2020. On behalf of the Board, she expressed thanks for his time getting to know the organization.

She recommended that the position remain vacant until the regular nomination process in advance of the next AGM. All were in agreement.

MOTION: 2020-AHS-023

Moved by Patricia, second by Alan: THAT Paul Martin's resignation from the Board of Directors be accepted. **CARRIED.**

b) **New Hire** – Curator (Patricia deferred to Geoff to report.) Geoff thanked Alan for his expert assistance in reviewing the job description and arranging additional online posting locations.

Geoff gave an overview of the selection process and gave the recommendation of the hiring committee. The selected candidate will commence employment on June 15, 2020.

MOTION: 2020-AHS-024

Moved by Patricia, second by Alan: THAT Kathleen Vahey be hired as Curator. **CARRIED.**

- c) **Summer Staff** - Patricia advised that the Canada Summer Jobs positions will commence on Monday, July 6, 2020.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT – Geoff Dawe

Geoff reported that expenses for the month of May have been paid to date and that limited revenue is coming in. He has been in conference with the Auditors reviewing the year-end report. Patricia thanked Geoff for his efforts and his continued work on online banking upgrades (credit card, online payments, etc.)

7. FACILITY MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – James Hoyes

James referred to his written report. He asked for direction to prioritize projects which can be done during pandemic closure. Two projects were noted: a) Remove texturing from walls of Gift Shop, and b) Replace storm cellar door and match paint.

8. LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE REPORT - John Bare – (Absent)

Patricia referred to the 3 reports that were emailed to the Board. Discussion ensued on the proposal to install a Tribute Garden as a fundraising initiative. Decision - Due to the financial and human resources required to get such a project off the ground and maintain it, the project is deferred indefinitely.

John is working on maintenance of the grass tennis court. Discussion ensued on whether it could be used for lessons for young children. The idea is to be referred to the Curator for programming consideration. James expressed concern regarding the possibility of tennis balls hitting/breaking the heritage windows.

9. HERITAGE ADVISORY REPORT – John Green

John reported that the recent meeting focused largely on the designated heritage property known as “The Chateau”, located on the west side of Yonge Street. The owner has hired a Heritage Planner who has recommended severing the southeast corner of the property. HAC will review this request at a later date.

The owners of 97 Metcalfe are proposing an addition which seems viable to the HAC.

James asked what the status was of a proposal made to Council to string lights across Yonge Street, south of Wellington, and adhering them to the façade of various heritage buildings. John had no further information.

James also asked the status of a proposal to designate a portion of Yonge Street in Aurora. John confirmed that Council’s decision has been delayed as the Town’s focus has been on the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Patricia reminded the Board that the role of AHS is not currently that of a heritage advocacy group, however we appreciate being included on this committee.

10. 15356 YONGE ST. DEVELOPMENT

Patricia advised of correspondence received from Laura Dean, Aird Berlis for her billing on work done on the MOU regrading 15356 Yonge Street. Discussion ensued on the billing structure and fund recovery from proponent.

11. Administration & Membership Report

The Board received the report from staff.

12. Fundraising Report

Geoff reported on a proposal to use TruReal to raise funds for AHS. This is a platform that integrates into payment systems, captures merchant cashback and redirects to charities as designated by the cardholder. Customers preregister their card and select up to 3 charities to direct 1.5% of the worth of purchase to a charity of choice. There would be no cost to AHS. Sport Aurora and the Chamber of Commerce are considering using it, and currently, World Vision is a charity recipient. Geoff will forward all the information to the Board. This will be brought to the next meeting for further discussion.

13. Communication and Marketing Report

Patricia reviewed the two special projects undertaken to promote AHS and HH during the pandemic closure.

1) Videos:

A video series was created for use on social media platforms. Dubbed “Around The House”, this is a narrated series highlighting interior and exterior elements of the museum. Former AHS summer student, Chris Zdanowski was hired to produce this series. It is getting a great amount of attention on social media platforms and will be kept on the AHS website.

Patricia asked the Board to ‘like’ and share the new AHS videos on FaceBook. There have been 6,600 hits in the last week and we are getting great feedback. Patricia asked Ronen to post the 2nd video onto YouTube. Discussion ensued on buying wireless microphones as our successful video presence should be continued.

2) Transcriptions Project

The project to ask members to help transcribe AHS documents has been very successful with 19 volunteers signing up to help. Mason Gooch, a volunteer who has extensive experience with our collection was hired to implement the project and is doing a great job. This task will be handed over to one of our new summer students.

Speaker Series:

As the in-person presentations have been cancelled, the Board was looking into doing them virtually, but determine that we don’t have the resources. The popular Speaker’s Series will be planned for 2021.

Newsletter:

The Spring edition of “The Attic” has been completed and will be mailed out shortly. Members will be notified that future editions will be sent electronically. There will be an option for members to continue receiving a hard-copy by mail. The electronic edition will be more cost-effective and efficient.

14. Special Projects

- a) FENCE – Stan and Patricia are getting quotes. Patricia will continue efforts on funding from Parks Canada.
- b) BANNERS – Jeff T. is working on the banner replacements. He will update the President before the next meeting.

15. Bylaw Review: John worked on recommended changes and Jeff is getting legal advice. Deferred to Next Meeting.

MOTION: 2020-AHS-025

Moved by John, second by Ronen: THAT all reports be received and approved.

CARRIED.

16. NEW BUSINESS: None.

17. ADJOURNMENT - 8:15 p.m.

MOTION: 2020-AHS-026

Moved by Geoff, second by Peter: THAT the AHS Board meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

CARRIED.

18. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE: July 13, 2020