

Historic Queen East
Business Improvement Area (BIA)
(Formerly Old Queen Street BIA)
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday January 30, 2008
John Innes Community Centre
150 Sherbourne Street
Toronto, Ontario

Minutes of the AGM

Board of Directors present: John Greeniaus. (Chair), Carol Mark, Catherina Perez, Michael Valois., Christopher Hinton, Carlos Galdamez, Paul Bloore, Ian MacPhail, Councilor Pam McConnell

Absent: Tatiana Sekulic., Antonio DeGregorio, Nikki Gill

Prior to the meeting, members, with proper identification, signed in with Board member Christopher Hinton. They received a ballot card for the purpose of voting.

Meeting was called to order at 6:15pm.

John Greeniaus chaired the meeting and introduced the Board members seated at the front of the room, Carol Mark, Catherina Perez, Michael Valois, as well as those scattered around the room.

Carol Mark addressed the General Membership in a disrespectful manner saying she only had 5 minutes to spare and the General Membership should behave itself and get things started towards a better community.

John Greeniaus read the proposed Agenda.

A General Member asked that "procedures" be included. It was then added to New Business on the Agenda.

Michael Saunders, of Economic Development, explained the "Conflict of Interest" declaration to the General Membership and then asked the Board of Directors if they had any. No "Conflict of Interest" was declared.

John Greeniaus asked for approval of the Minutes of the January 31, 2007 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Several General Members requested copies of said Minutes. John Greeniaus explained that no Minutes were available on paper. He then offered to give an oral review of the previous AGM.

Several General Members expressed concern and were upset that written Minutes were not available. One General Member, George, made a motion to “waive the Minutes”. Another General Member, Alvie, seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

John Greeniaus introduced Councilor Pam McConnell, who told the General Membership that she had unfortunately attended only one meeting but assistants had provided her with ‘good notes’. She then explained the name change she had brought to Council from Old Queen Street BIA to Historic Queen Street BIA. She explained in great detail as to how time consuming and difficult it was to do this at Council.

One General Member, Marcel, asked the Board of Directors as to why the General Membership had not been consulted regarding the name change. There was no response. A heated discussion followed regarding the lack of communication between the Board and the General Membership in any decision making process, and the consensus was the General Membership had been excluded from all meetings throughout the year. John Greeniaus then invited any member to attend any meeting.

A General Member addressed Councilor McConnell explaining how upset he was. To his knowledge, many businesses had not wanted the BIA and voted against it. He had opposed it as well. Catherina Perez confirmed many people submitted signed papers against the BIA, yet it was still passed.

Carol Mark addressed the General Membership in such a manner that Catherina Perez cautioned Mark that she must not speak in that manner to the General Membership. Carol Mark swore at Catherina Perez, turned to Councilor McConnell, expressed her view that the General Membership “...deserves what it gets” and to replace the Board by Toronto City Council, then threatened legal action.

Councilor McConnell left the AGM.

Michael Valois presented the proposed budget. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed. One General Member questioned the \$7,000.00 suggested for a website noting that websites cost far less. Michael Valois responded saying it was not much for a decent website. Catherina Perez suggested to Michael Valois that he show the General Membership the various written quotes he received to determine that particular cost. Michael Valois indicated he had no written quotes or any other quotes for a website,

John Greeniaus reminded the General Membership that the Board of Directors was elected and they (the General Membership) should remember that. Carol Mark and Michael Saunders agreed with John Greeniaus.

One General Member reminded the Board of Directors and Michael Saunders of Economic Development that the Board had been acclaimed at the previous AGM due to some acrimony.

A General Member asked how this budget was calculated and how much the tax levy might be for small businesses. James Kelly answered approximately \$30.00/month. A lot of concern was then expressed by the General Membership. A motion for approval of the budget was then made by John Greeniaus and seconded by Michael Valois.

The motion did not carry by 8 -19.

Paul Bloore stood up and then stated that since NO budget was approved for the past two AGMs and the General Membership was CLEARLY against this BIA, maybe a motion should be made to dissolve the BIA. Michael Saunders stood and explained that the BIA cannot be dissolved for two years after commencement of the BIA. Catherina Perez disagreed and read from the BIA Handbook issued by Economic Development that contradicted Michael Saunders.

A motion was suggested by a member of the audience to dissolve the BIA. The motion was then made by Catherina Perez and seconded by Carlos Galdamez, both Board Members.

The motion carried 21 – 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.