

The 519 Church St. Community Centre
Board of Directors
Monday, December 18th, 2006
Meeting # 4 (2006-07)
MINUTES (DRAFT)

Attendees: Joan Anderson, Martin Boily-Côté, Mathieu Chantelois (Chair), Jason Ford, Lyle Kersey, Don Middleton, Derrick Navarro, Michael Went (Secretary)

Regrets: Salah Bachir, Mike Karapita, Marv Lucey

Staff: Alison Kemper, Robin Silverman, Nicci Stein

1. **Welcome** – by Mathieu

2. **Agenda approval**

3. **Visitors**

Roy Cain

4. **Minutes of the last meeting**

- November, 27th 2006

Michael reported he has responded to requests for changes to how the meetings are recorded. Don likes the format of the minutes. Joan finds them too detailed – no longer “minutes”, less businesslike. In a conversation with Kyle Rae, he had similar concerns which he asked to be passed on. Mathieu said we’ve spent too much time on minutes discussion. Don suggests bold face typing the motions to address concerns of too much detail. Michael W. said this would not solve the problem.

Responsibility of any board member not attending to convey comments on the minutes, upon receipt via email.

MOTION: vote to approve the minutes of November 27, 2006. Moved by Don Middleton, seconded by Martin Boily-Côté.

For: Martin, Mathieu, Lyle, Don, Derrick

Against: Joan, Michael, Jason

Carried.

5. **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

Under funding applications

6. **Communications Committee**

Deferred in absence of the Committee Chair. Nothing immediate to report.

7. **Strategic and Program Planning**

- Community Survey Report

- Strategic Planning proposal

Roy Cain, committee member, has run the survey project which began when he was on the Board. He presented the community survey report which provided a useful brainstorming list of programs, some of which we already offer. Responses to the catchment area question were mixed. A clear majority support the idea of expanding the

boundaries, however, the majority of those within the catchment area didn't want to see the area expanded. The mission statement message was loud and clear. Some expressed surprise that Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) wasn't already in the mission statement. Strong support that the mission statement explicitly acknowledge its role as a strong community centre for LGBT as well as being a community centre for the local downtown neighbourhood. Some people expressed concerns about the Sunday drop-in, homelessness program, but not from a lot of people and there was also considerable support expressed. Message is that there may be programmatic responses and communications issues around selling the programs to the community. Roy reviewed the recommendations. Thanked staff for their participation.

Mathieu – thanks to Roy for a great job.

There was discussion about the homeless topic. Roy responded that this is something for the staff to do more work on at the program level. Nor do people making comments in the survey have any suggestions. Some said that if it weren't for the homeless programs there would be no homelessness issue. Need to hear concerns in context.

Jason – It's important to consider those that don't use the Centre, to figure out why not. All opinions are valid.

Roy suggested to pull out non-519 users to see how their views are / not distinct.

Lyle – Why do people not use the 519?

Roy – This survey really didn't get at this question. It would require a different survey.

Jason – Respondents still felt some form of passion to bother filling out a survey.

Don – Is the homeless program the only one on a Sunday? Do clients come from across the city? Robin – The program geographically draws from the whole city

Mathieu – This meeting doesn't have to figure out the response; only to let us know what the survey said.

Nicci had commented that some people make distinction between homeless & queer, but some are homeless and queer

Robin – There could be a few things to survey; estimate that half of users are LGBT, but may not have confidence to self-identify; this is a tough population to draw blanket statements about.

Alison – What was enormously helpful was the quotes. Evocative and moving to hear without filters.

Roy – We got some paper questionnaires, but mostly online responses.

Joan – We made sure the survey was accessible in paper copy on site.

Alison – We should express thanks to those that filled it out, through an ad.

Mathieu – Are any results available for a newsletter?

Roy – I would think a summary would be useful to make available on the web page.

Alison – We need to decide on public release of report and timing

Joan – We talked about this at committee meeting. Want a bit more time, especially re: quotes to ensure they don't reveal personal information; Janet had suggested there being a program update to accompany the survey results.

Strategic Plan Discussion

Michael W. presented high-level overview.

Joan – There are different approaches; could take a board-developed draft plan out for comment and feedback; our recommended approach of going out and pulling the information in to consider is also a perfectly legitimate and stronger process for a community-based organization; more common. She had a discussion with Salah Bachir regarding the process and his concerns; he provided helpful ideas to achieve the needed results.

Mathieu – Board will need to be leaders. If there's something we believe strongly in, we can go forward even if that's not the consultant's recommendation. We were elected as a board to bring our ideas forward, but there's nothing wrong with having full information before making a decision. At the end of strategic plan, we'll have to be leaders and have listened to all before making a decision.

Joan – Distributed a list to give a sense of range of perspectives we're going to be listening to. Board asked to give input.

Don – How to approach it? Put out a call for submission?

Joan – We'd put a posting out, for a consultant or team. It's like a job posting. We'll provide documents. We will have to set priorities, have a targeted survey to certain stakeholders and sample focus groups and interviews.

Mathieu – We need to find the right balance.

Joan – This is a more targeted approach; this is not the community survey where everyone responds. But hours add up fast. It's always the toughest discussion to get the interview list narrowed down.

Martin - How'd we arrive at the \$10,000 budget?

Joan – The committee spent time on approximate number of groups, interviews, then calculated the approximate number of days.

Don – Is it appropriate to put out this figure? Give ourselves a range. Sooner get the right product for \$15,000 (not be cheap to point of doing yourself harm). Joan – At this point Finance is comfortable with the 10k amount.

Derrick – Identify objectives and put down a budget range then people can need to put a price on it.

Mathieu – Expressed concerns about voting on money at this meeting.

Alison – Invariably at end of year, we have funds in program budget to allocate for next year. This could come out of both years.

Martin – We have the same situation this year.

Alison – Recommends to set a specific amount.

Lyle – What would be expected of a board member, if there's talent in certain areas, as to how they can contribute?

Joan – We've discussed at the committee level; this role, the amount of time, tasks is too big for a volunteer and it needs to be within a specific timeline. Board members are involved in several points of the process and make decisions at the end.

MOTION: the 519 board authorize an expenditure of a range of \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the purposes of engaging a consultant to facilitate a strategic planning process, subject to further consultation with the treasurer of the 519 Church St. Community Centre.

Moved by Michael Went, seconded by Derrick Navarro, Carried.

Reminder for board to suggest groups of consultees, to send names / ideas to Joan & Michael W.

8. Agency business--Funding proposals approval

Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal - due January 19th

City of Toronto, Major Recreation Grant - due January 25

- Family Resource Centre
- Sunday Drop in
- Community Living Program
- Seniors
- Holiday Kids
- Summer Camp

Access and Equity - due January 29

- Anti violence programme
- LGBT refugees programme

Community Safety Investment - Due February 6 (formerly breaking the cycle of violence)

- Anti Violence programmes
- Trans programmes

AIDS Prevention - due February 22

- Trans programmes

LGCA –Michael W. and Mathieu declared a conflict of interest and abstained.

Don – Can the LGCA fund this from the charitable side of their funds? Yes.

MOTION: Approve the 519's application to the Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal.

Moved by Martin Boily-Côté, seconded by Derrick Navarro. Carried.

Major Recreation

Don – Is there any chance of increasing the grant request? Alison – No.

MOTION: Approve the application to the City of Toronto for the Major Recreation Grant. Moved by Jason Ford, seconded by Joan Anderson. Carried

Access & Equity

MOTION: Approve the application to the City of Toronto for the Access & Equity grant.

Moved by Martin Boily-Côté; seconded by Lyle Kersey; Carried.

Toronto AIDS prevention

Successful program for hard to reach population

MOTION: Approve the application for the City of Toronto AIDS Prevention grant.

Moved by Don Middleton, seconded by Jason Ford. Carried.

9. Executive Director's Report-Q and A from written report circulated in advance

Big Jobs Going On:

- Christmas gift distribution; Holiday party for children's programmes
- Negotiations with Sherbourne Health Centre and Family Services Association of Toronto re joint LGBT parenting programmes.

Building

i. The elevator has now been repaired and is working consistently. However, for safety reasons, the Friday Night Club will continue to operate on the ground floor in the new wing.

ii. The ramp is done.

– Next phase hasn't been put out to tender yet. Still in process.

Board member - Is there a need for a building committee meeting? Alison – Timing to be decided.

Board member - Was letter sent to City on safety of bricks?

Alison - Not yet. The agreement from a past board meeting is that we'd work through City parks and recreation committee that is working on this initiative. Helen Rykens took our concerns to them months ago. We have expressed ourselves to the City that smooth paving should replace the bricks. No clear response. Alison spoke to Kyle Rae. It is his and staff understanding that the pavement in front would be replaced. Alison to send letter referring to board concerns regarding both issues.

Mathieu - Building committee to discuss these issues and appropriate board response.

Funding

We received the Trillium Foundation application for funding for the LGBT refugee project. More cuts to Federal programmes (\$7.8billion) have been announced as of December 12. We will have more information shortly.

City relationship

Association of Community Centres (AOCC) are working with the City to manage the impact created by policies being issued from City Hall.

City budget is still in process.

Leadership and advocacy

Equal marriage—This one is done!! Time to party.

Non-renewal of federal Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) funds -

Nicci attended press conference last week. There were about 200 people attending but unfortunately no press (it was the same day the new City Council opened). Nicci is now attending the meetings of the Toronto Appeal Committee working on this issue. Our Trans Access project will be severely scaled down after March 2007 if this funding is not renewed. We have seen excellent results with this programme.

SCPI federal funding for homeless program – most of trans program has connection to this funding. This is in danger. Workers in other community programs in the City are being laid off due to this lack of funding renewal.

Don suggests listing the items that affect the 519 and the people left out.

MOTION: The 519 support renewal of SCPI funding and the 519 participation in the work of the Toronto Appeal Committee by sending a letter to the Prime Minister, Minister Jim Flaherty, MP Bill Graham, and others as deemed by the Executive Director. Moved by Joan Anderson, seconded by Michael Went. Carried.

It does appear that the federal government has cut funding for summer camps. This is something that Mike K, and Joan were to work on, and will follow up with staff to provide support.

Mathieu – We'll have to be vocal.

Other

New volunteer coordinator - Roxana Vahed - starting December 18th

10. Human Resources Committee

MOTION Michael Went moved to close the meeting to the public to discuss matters of a personal nature and employee negotiations; seconded by Joan Anderson. Carried.

Lyle reported that he was happy to confirm that Alison will return to full time as of August 1, 2007. The information was welcomed by the Board.

11. Finance Committee

Martin – First committee meeting to be held in 3rd week of January; date & mandate to be set, with report at next meeting.

12. Building Committee

Nothing to report. Report at next meeting.

13. Fundraising

Nothing to report. Report at next meeting.

14. Room Naming Commitments

MOTION: Michael Went moved to close the meeting to the public to discuss matters of a personal nature; seconded by Joan Anderson. Carried.

MOTION: Affirm the room naming commitments as presented at the closed meeting. The information will become public at a later date.

Moved by Joan Anderson, seconded by Derrick Navarro. Carried.

15. Correspondence

Number of board members interviewed by Xtra! Joan to provide bios of those elected / re-elected provided at most recent AGM.

16. Other Business

United Way is coming to visit us on Jan. 11, 2007, early evening for about an hour and a half. Part of the funding application process every 2 years. There will be lots of financial and program questions. It's important that board members there are well-briefed, understand the application. Staff to supply the funding application to participating board members. Briefing session on Jan. 10, to be confirmed via email / phone.

To participate: Mathieu, Joan, Don (in Martin's place if finance covered that night), Lyle, Derrick. Alison to investigate possibility of changing the date, and advise that treasurer won't attend on Jan. 11, 2007, or offer to meet with Martin in a separate session.

MOTION to adjourn. Moved by Mathieu.