Pride Toronto 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 21, 2021, 6:30 PM Virtual: <u>Zoom & Youtube</u> (YouTube is view-only)

Meeting Called By	Board of Directors	
Type of Meeting	Annual General Meeting	
Notetakers	Iain Swain and Nicoy Davis	
Attendees	Membership & Board of Directors	
ASL Interpreters	Cindy Muskat and Ryan Kraft	

ITEMS	NOTES / DETAILS
Call to Order, Welcome + ASL Etiquette (Grant)	 Call to Order, Welcome and ASL Etiquette Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales calls meeting to order Board Co-Chair Christin Milloy will chair the Board Director portion of the meeting
Land A (D!XON) Welcome to Territory (Elder	 Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales discussed ASL etiquette for the meeting.
Laureen-Blu Waters)	 Land Acknowledgement Board Director D!XON delivers Land Acknowledgement
Harm Reduction Overview (Grant), Get Quorum	 Opening Ceremony: Welcome to the Territory Elder Laureen Blu Waters leads the Opening Ceremony and welcomes all
Overview (Pam)	 Harm Reduction Staff member is providing harm reduction support
	 GetQuorum Overview Thanks to GetQuorum for providing their services at no cost Pamela Vrabel (GetQuorum) walks attendees through a tutorial on how the virtual meeting will work, and how attendees can participate.
	 Opening Items and Meeting Procedures Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales runs through meeting details & procedures After the meeting, recording will be deleted



	 Meeting will follow Robert's Rules of Order Motions from the floor are out of order Appointment of Recorders and Scrutineers First Motion: To appoint Nicoy Davis and Ian Swain as recorders for the 2020-21 Pride Toronto Annual General Meeting. Mover: Shay Sanders Seconder: Tom Spence Results: 95 in favour, 5 opposed Second Motion: To appoint scrutineers in addition to
	 GetQuorum, to validate the Board of Directors election results. Mover: Glenn Knight Seconder: Patricia Tucci Results: 95 in favour, 4 opposed Question from the floor Gary Kinsman asks: A motion was passed on January 29, 2019 – No Pride in Policing Commission – nothing has ever been done about this motion. Is it possible for Pride to finally implement this motion? Why was action never taken on this matter? Board Co-Chair Christin Milloy responds: Not aware whether motion specifically covered making deputations, but Board supports this position, so perhaps we can come to an arrangement on that. Meeting to be scheduled offline after the AGM.
Approval of Minutes of the Last AGM Held on January 29, 2020	 Third Motion: Approval of minutes of the last AGM held on January 29, 2020. Mover: Anu Radha Verma Seconder: Ray Korino Results: 75 in favour, 12 opposed
Presentation of the Annual Report	 Board Co-Chair Samantha Fraser presents annual report, speaks about: Board & staff completed several anti-racism and anti-oppression training sessions



0	Creating reusable anti-oppression training materials
0	Office moving to a new space in Junction Triangle
Board	Co-Chair Christin presents annual report, speaks
about	:
0	Improving volunteer relationships are important
0	Very pleased to welcome our new Executive Director
Execu	tive Director, Sherwin Modeste remarks:
0	Challenges Pride this year to make a statement in our communities
0	Compliments to a very successful Festival weekend
	and still being able to fulfill our duties in the
	community
0	Pride Toronto will be striking several advisory groups that will help the organization respond in a more
	timely manner
Meetir	ng Co-Chair Grant Gonzales with point of information:
How n	nany community groups were a part of Pride this year? Bobby to respond and post in the chat
	per raised a point of information: Can we get some
	nation about why people would vote "no" to the
	es, rather than abstain?
	Meeting Co-Chair agree there should be an abstain
	option
● Gary P	Kinsman with point of information:
0	They respect that the report recognizes on going system Anti-Black racism
0	Suggests that since the organization is supporting these initiatives, the organization should also support community groups such as; Black Lives Matter
0	Thus, Pride Toronto should publicly support the motion to cut the police budget by 50%
0	Board Director Brian responds: agrees in support of the motion
0	Board Co-Chair Christin Milloy responds: discussing
	having meeting with Gary Kinsman and ensures that
	the Advisory Committee is starting
• Quest	ion from the floor



	 Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales asks a submitted question: On behalf of Edna Simmons, How can Pride Toronto provide harm reduction, when Black people have continuously been harmed in the space? Executive Director Sherwin Modeste responds: Pride Toronto currently has people working on creating harm reduction for Black folks, this is something we will continuously make changes on in the future. A motion was passed on January 29, 2019 – No Pride in Policing Commission – nothing has ever been done about this motion. Is it possible for Pride to finally implement this motion? Why was action never taken on this matter? Board Co-Chair Christin Milloy responds: Not aware whether motion specifically covered making deputations, but Board supports this position, so perhaps we can come to an arrangement on that.
Joint Report from the Executive Director and Board Co-Chairs	 Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales presents: Edna Simmons asks: How can Pride provide Harm Reduction, when black people have been continually harmed in this space? Executive Director Sherwin Modeste responds: We currently have harm reduction people working on this, so it's something where we'll continue to make changes as need be Point of order from chat: Is this the appropriate time in the meeting to ask questions? Board responds: yes, it's the appropriate time in meeting for general questions D'angelo Marco asks: Some concerns re: lack of detail re: Pride 2021. 2019 Pride, full Pride Guide was released during April Point of information: Lauren Blu Waters (Elder) has lit some sage, for all who may be triggered by any information being shared or provided.



 Executive Director Sherwin Modeste responds: Planning a physical festival, a phygital (mixed), and full digital. If we're being honest, when we look at the
 vaccine roll-out schedule, we do not anticipate the city releasing a lot of the permits etc. needed for a physical festival. A lot of this is based on public health guidelines. Folks may be allowed to get together in their bubbles. We may also have restrictions where folks are not allowed to get together in bubbles. Phygital (Mixed festival) looks likely Edna Simmons asks: How is Pride supporting volunteers? Is Pride Toronto volunteer-led or volunteer-driven? Pride would not be here without its volunteers – who give time and financial contributions? Sherwin responds: Volunteers are essential and greatly appreciated. Volunteer-driven and the daily operation piece is led by staff Board Co-Chair Christin Milloy, point of clarification: Sherwin does not bear the responsibility, it's the responsibility of the Board Jocelyn asks: Very happy to see commitment to take on anti-Black racism, and the training towards staff. We all know that racism is much more than that. We need to do more. Believes defunding police by 50% is the sort of thing that. Pride needs to take on to be part of this struggle. Supports passing a motion like Gary's Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales responds: New member proposals cannot be addressed today Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales acknowledges that no one can see the Q&A – a decision made so that it's not overwhelming with information, as a chat
 function All questions that are not addressed will be sent to the Board through GetQuorum



Presentation of	 Board Treasurer Ande Clumpus presents Treasurer's report-
Audited Annual	highlights of financial statements:
Financial	 Revenues down from \$6.3M (2019) to \$2.8M (2020)
Statements and	 Expenses were down from \$5.44M (2019) to \$2.1M
Appointment of	(2020)
Auditor	 Net assets were \$711K (2020), vs\$23k in 2019
	 Expecting another challenging year of decreased
	revenue
	 Prepared for a physical festival when the pandemic
	ends.
	• The Finance and Audit Committee was put together
	last year.
	• Desire is to be financially sustainable going forward
	• The Auditors: Hogg, Shain & Scheck, Professional
	Corporation, CPAs, presents financial statements.
	• Auditor Ed Scheck, speaks about:
	 Report has changed – it's been extended
	• A restatement of financial statement dealt with in note
	#2, but does not alter clean opinion given to Pride
	Toronto
	• Kevin Thomas walks through highlights of the financial
	statement:
	 July 1, 2020 – gave financial position
	 Significant increase in the amount of cash-on-hand
	 Increase in receivables
	 Reduction in grants – current assets, year-over-year,
	were relatively similar
	 Amount owed to vendors & third parties decreased
	significantly, from ~\$1.2M to ~\$460,000
	 Notes to financial statements are consistent with
	prior years
	 What was discovered during current year, that gave
	rise to 2019 numbers
	 Based on recommendations based on record-keeping,
	took deep dive into revenues & expenses, and
	corrected some errors



0	Some contracts that were thought to be providing benefits, which when they actually looked at
	agreements, they were really expenses for the 2019
	festival
0	Duplicate amount in A/R and A/P
0	How did cash change, based on a record-keeping
	adjustment
0	There were never any duplicates identified as being
	issued – it was really a bookkeeping error
0	Reduction of \$132k in sponsorship revenue
0 0	Underreported permits and fees
-	ons from the floor for the auditors:
0	Tom Hooper asks: Related to grants – it's sort of about
	this Special Project – page 14 of the annual report.
	Sounds familiar to the Pride Toronto hackathon – this
	was funded by a grant from the Department of Public
	Safety. Has Pride Toronto continued to receive
	funding from that? Is this special project part of these
	funds? Are the police involved in this, like the
	hackathon? Tom asked about grant funds last year
	and still hasn't received an answer on that. Hope the
	board will turn a new page on this.
0	Brian De Matos adds: That money did come from
	Public Safety Canada's Special Project. In the past, no
	Board member was part of those activities. What is
	happening with that project - there is no
	collaborating. Discovering how we find alternatives to
	community safety and how we keep alternatives to
	policing.
0	Bobby MacPherson, Director of Operations adds that
	going forward, our plan is to create a <i>Safer Spaces</i> <i>Incubator</i> : Community members apply to participate
	and are compensated for coming together to develop
	projects that improve queer & trans community safety,
	then subsequently provided resources and support to
	make those projects happen
	This kind of community-driven idea is novel, so it has
	taken some time, both to convince the funder that this



approach was accepted AND working to structure our plans effectively to create meaningful change. We're aiming to break new ground here, and demonstrate that centering the voices of marginalized community members generates better outcomes. Our approach has been to keep spending low, while we wait for approval from the funder on our new plans. The amendment we've submitted for approval moves spending from this year to next year
 Charles Pavia asks: What is the reason for the huge increase in salaries and benefits this year? Ande responds: Transferred contractors to "salaries & benefits"
 Community member Mateo asks: What reserve ratio do we plan to keep? What were we planning to do with that extra cash
 Ande responds: Our finances, Pride Toronto passed on \$40k in additional funding
 Question: Does this mean that the audited financials were incorrect by over \$1 million?
 Auditors respond: Moving from an open account system to a different system. Was there a proper approval process to go through that? Were the invoices indicated in a systematic way? The net effect on the financial statements, although the assets and liabilities changed, there was only a ~\$23k adjustment to net assets
 Edna asks: What are the volunteer costs?
 Board Responds: T-shirts, meetings and food
 Edna asks: How are we ensuring we are not taking
money from organizations that are and have been historically anti-Black and anti-Indigenous?
• Board Responds: A policy committee is looking at that
 and setting policies in place Christopher H. asks: Does the Board ensure that the big adjustment for the previous year does not have



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	 criminal implications? It is an unbelievably large adjustment! Board responds: Based on standards of professional practice, cannot approve any statements that match that Fourth Motion: To accept the 2020 audited financial statements Mover: Ray Corino Seconder: Charles Pavia Results: 79 in favour, 7 opposed and 10 abstain Fifth Motion: Do you approve of the appointment of the auditor, Hogg, Shain & Scheck, Professional Corporation, CPAs, at a remuneration determined by the Board? Mover: Alexander Dao Seconder: Kurt Crailer
Election of New Board Members	 Overview of Recruitment Process and Voting System Board Co-Chair Christin Milloy takes over as Chair, she presents: Call for applications was open for one month. Not only posting – do extra work in community outreach Q&A with a committee of Board members followed. The Board of Directors conducted interview, then recommended a set of candidates So at this point we have our seven candidate – we also have our seven open spots Speeches, then a Q&A, then request a motion to vote on entire slate of candidates at one time If we receive a majority vote in favour, they'll be accepted by acclamation. If it fails to pass, move to candidate 1 by 1. In that case, abstentions wouldn't contribute to percentages. Candidates' Presentation and Q&A
	 Potential Board Member D!XON (He/They) presents:



0	Local recording artist & public servant w/ City of
	Toronto.
0	Unapologetically queer recording artist for over 10 years.
0	Experience organizing Drag ting
	Plan to advocate for the Black community
	Sits on confronting anti-Black racism committee with
	the City of Toronto
Potent	al Board Member Grant Gonzales (He/Him) presents:
	Thanks for vote of confidence in September
	Focus on governance
0	By-laws on election are example of work putting
	policies in place
0	Support for Pride 365
0	Stands by decision to disinvite people from marching
	– zero interest in reopening this debate
0	Idea of professional to deal with mental health crises
	al Board Member Yuri Hernandez (They/Them)
presen	
	Spent last 10 years working in non-profit realm
	Believes role on this Board: an integral part of success in Pride
0	Believes volunteers are at the core of Pride
0	Sits on policy and by-law committee – haven't been
	updated by 2013
0	Immigrant, queer, identify within trans spectrum –
	strengths re: speaking up
	ial Board Member Lezlie Lee Kam (She/Her) presents:
0	World-majority immigrant, Carib, Indo-Chinese,
	differently abled, queer, dyke, senior
0	Community activist for past 45 years
	Anti-colonial, intersectional, intergenerational
0	LOTE – 1976 – Lesbian Organization of Toronto Survived a coma due to alcohol poisoning
0	
0	2012 – found new purpose advocating for seniors Culturally competent training –



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0	2012 began volunteering at welcome centre, since
	could no longer participate in parade
0	2014 – Time after Time – event for queer seniors
0	Women's health Women's Hands
0	519 – older adult and education program
0	Queer Youth Elders project of Buddies in Bad Times
	Theatre
0	Important to make "good trouble" respectfully
0	Sits on LGBTQ2IA advisory board for City of Toronto
0	Many community networks and connections
0	2-spirit trans & queer seniors
0	Queer seniors deserve a better life than what they
	have now
0	Member of ODLAN – Ontario Digital Literacy Access
	Network – building community networks &
	community partnerships
0	Happy to see developing a queer seniors advisory
	committee
Poten	tial Board Member Dave Lewis (He/Him) presents:
0	Past accessibility team lead for Pride Toronto
0	Passionate about community involves, human rights,
	social justice issues
0	Human rights & equity studies – worked for the City,
	for the Province, for the federal union – as negotiator
	& consultant, representing employees before their
	employers
0	Queer, Black, mental health disabilities
0	You're fighting a huge battle when it comes to policing
	– if there's anything I can do to help, I will help
0	Understands and feels deeply the needs of
	community members
Poten	tial Board Member Maher Sinno (They/He) presents:
0	HIV educator
0	Volunteers for ACT
0	Used to work with Buddies
0	An emerging artist with passion for anti-oppression,
	decriminalization



0	Queer, racialized immigrant
0	Trajectory of Pride has dramatically changed since
	arrival of Sherwin
0	Policy + Finance Committees
0	Majorly contributed to updating our complaints
	policies
0	Will continue to consistently advocate for all our
	programs – centering marginalized and emerging
	artists
0	Developing an orientation package
0	Here, and always available to have a chat
Poten	tial Board Member Tika Simone (She/Her) presents:
0	Artist DJ, plus-sized model, actress, creator, at
	Canadian Film Centre
0	Openly & publicly queer
0	Survivor of sexual abuse and sexual assault
0	Main reason: doesn't see representation of Black
	women
0	Lack of representation of Black Trans women,
	considering Pride was started by a Black trans woman
0	Cares about mental health, cares about bullying, the
	BIPOC folks in communities suffering from mental
	health disabilities that aren't being served
0	Marginalized youth who want to transition from
	production work into film scoring work – film scoring
	is a massive white supremacist system
0	How can we address the harm that exists within our
	communities
0	Becoming more relationship-driven
0	Wants to ensure that everybody is seen, hear,
	acknowledged
	ions for Candidates:
0	Edna Simmons asks: How will you ensure the
	developing organizational policies & by-laws are not
	used as exclusionary or oppressive? Are you willing to
	vote against your fellow Board members on important
	issues? Thank you for putting your names forth.



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о О	D!XON responds: That's not going to happen, darling – I'm Black South Asian, Chinese, Portuguese, and I'm Arab as well. I don't hold back. I'm very vocal and I advocate for all people of colour. So many things would like to be seen differently. Grant responds: Policies intended to support these goals. Now a no-fee stream for organizations. Has brought that lens of those who are experiencing poverty, who don't have that voice – regardless. Yes, it is important to have disagreements – it's how we develop better policies. We strive to achieve
	consensus but when not possible, respectful
	disagreement is important.
0	8
0	Pam: Quality of stream may vary, you need to be
	connected to the Internet.
0	Yuri Hernandez responds: Mutes themselves,
	sometimes, just to listen to other voices. Would I vote
	against a member? Absolutely? Has never not felt
	supported, when they have spoken up.
0	leZlie lee kam responds: Has been brutally assaulted by the police. When it comes to defunding the police – supports.
0	Dave Lewis responds: I don't know how to be
	politically correct. We have to fix our house before we can fix the community. Simple things like making meetings accessible to Board members. If opportunities for members to air their concerns with the organization.
	5
0	Maher Sinno responds: A lot of things that will happen are not blatantly seen. It is Important to acknowledge
	them and notice them. Specific steps, in terms of
	more practical considerations – needs disabled
	people at the table to write a good accessibility policy.
	Always reviewing the policies that you put in place. If
	someone doesn't have the language, etc.





	 Maher Sinno responds: Yes – and since we've seen
	 Matter Sinito responds. Res – and since we ve seen little to no progress in that area. As for the interpreters we're looking at the organizations that we hire. Knowing that they have the knowledge and training and experience. As diverse and broad as possible. Meeting Co-Chair Christin Milloy adds: Must move on to the vote. Candidates can respond to other questions at their leisure. Point of information: For all proxy holders who've identified themselves in the Q&A – when the scrutineers make their reports, they will have included those votes in the total.
	Voting by Membership:
	 Sixth Motion: Meeting Chair Christin Milloy asks: Do you approve the motion to support the Board's recommended slate as a whole? Mover: Charles Pavia Seconder: Nirmalan Vijeyakumar Results: 71 in favour, 31 opposed, 4 abstain
Organization Motion #1 - Briefing Note	 Meeting Co-Chair Grant Gonzales walked through the
	 proposed amendments to the By-Law No. 1. Questions and Answers period: Question: What is the impact of the loss in membership fees?
	 Grant Gonzales responds: The no-fee option is an honour system. The overall impact: what we make off membership fees – it covers, at a max, the system in
	 which we process membership applications Board responds: whether the paid stream should reflect that. Paid stream was never intended to be equivalent to the volunteer stream. Really it's intended to cover those small costs of the application



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	system. Please don't look at it as devaluing our
	volunteer time
0	Tara Shorr asks: How would the Executive Director be
	part of in-camera sessions? Why would you even have
	in-camera sessions any more? How would you include
	sensitive issues, if ED is in all those sessions?
0	Board responds: Only need to go in-camera in specific
	situations, e.g. legal issues. There are
	conflict-of-interest provisions in our by-laws. The ED
	would be expected to set back from that conversation
0	Question: Not necessarily a barrier – it confirms an
	interest. We do ask that applicants agree to the
	mission, vision, and values of Pride Toronto. We have
	to recognize that there are a lot of people who are
	working in the restaurant industry, minimum-wage, or
	unemployed. We don't want to silence those voices.
0	Board responds: clarifies the previous question
0	Question: Will Pride Toronto make a deputation re:
	defunding police by 50%?
0	Sam responds: We commit we'll answer you by
	Sunday. One of the purposes of the wait period is to
	give the Board time to re. Has been used by bad actors
	to try to take over in the past. One of the points of the
	application process is to approve memberships.
	Review the application and make a decision on it. If
	it's a hostile, homophobic takeover.
0	Ellen has lowered their hand
0	Susan Gapka (she/her) adds: That's a protection for
	the organization. Having a separate stream would
	simply codify the practice of waving the fee
0	Davids adds: They were a proponent of that change,
	because it disenfranchises some marginalized
	communities. The Board has a chance to approve all
	those applications, either way. Give the Board time to
	review those applications. The gatekeeping piece
	would be: the Board has an opportunity to review



applications. Board still has time to review - doesn' impact that security measure.• Question: On the 5 ^m motion, if someone became a member, do they need to reapply?• Board responds: Your membership would last until the next AGM. That's when you reapply for the 2-year period.By-Law Amendments- Package 1• Seventh Motion: General Amendments• Mover: Don Collimar • Seconder: Lisa Macneil • Results: 95 in favour, 1 opposed and 5 abstainA. By-Law Amendments- Package 2• Eighth Motion: Membership, Executive Director, Removal of a Director. Do you approve the motion to combine all by-laws together? • Mover: Brian De Matos • Seconder: Duncan Broom • Results: 83 in favour, 11 opposed and 8 abstainAnnouncement of Election Results and Motion Results: 85 in favour, 7 opposed and 7 abstainAnnouncement of Election Results and Motion Results: 71 in favour, 7 opposed and 4 abstainAdjournment• While folks are voting: raise your hand if you don't want to adjourn. • There have been concerns about the hand-raising approach not being transparent, so we will vote on that. • Tenth Motion: To you approve the motion to close the meeting?		
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 Ninth Motion: Do you approve the motion to approve all the by-laws together? (package me) Mover: Brian De Matos Seconder: Glenn Knight Results: 85 in favour, 7 opposed and 7 abstain Announcement of Election Results and Motion Results Scrutineers will release a report including proxy vote numbers after the meeting including a more detailed result. Results: 71 in favour, 29 opposed and 4 abstain Adjournment While folks are voting: raise your hand if you don't want to adjourn. There have been concerns about the hand-raising approach not being transparent, so we will vote on that. Tenth Motion: To adjourn the 2020 Pride Toronto Annual 		 Seconder: Duncan Broom
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• Tenth Motion : To adjourn the 2020 Pride Toronto Annual		-
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Meeting. Do you approve the motion to close the meeting?		• Tenth Motion : To adjourn the 2020 Pride Toronto Annual
6 7 FF 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		Meeting. Do you approve the motion to close the meeting?



 Mover: Ray Corino Seconder: Lisa Amin Results: 84 in favour, 5 opposed and 7 abstained
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DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting of the members of the Board of PRIDE TORONTO. This document shall not be considered to be a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Director

Director

Date

This set of minutes has been redacted of any specific information and is only indicative

