

KINGSTON

— Economic Development —

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	Monday, April 22, 2024	Time: 5:30 pm	
Location:	Delta Hotel Kingston – 1 Johnson Street, Kingston ON, K7L 5H7 – Lakeview Room		
Attended:	Anne Vivian-Scott, Chair Councillor Cinanni Councillor Oosterhof	Yafan Huang Shan Jhamandas Wanda Costen	Peng-Sang Cau Patrick Egbunonu
Staff:	Donna Gillespie Shelley Hirstwood	Nour Mazloun Norman Musengimana	Abby Fitzhugh
Regrets:	Mayor Paterson Sanjay Jain	Cathy Campbell-Wilson Megan Knott (ex-officio)	Councillor Glenn Lanie Hurdle (ex-officio)

1. Call to Order

The Board of Directors Annual General Meeting was called to order by Chair, Anne Vivian-Scott at 5:36 pm.

2. Land Acknowledgment Statement

Kingston Economic Development Corporation acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat and thank these nations for their care and stewardship over this shared land. Kingston Economic Development Corporation is committed to improving and strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation and economic prosperity.

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.

- None.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion to “accept the agenda”; Moved by Peng-Sang Cau. Seconded by Councillor Cinanni. Carried.

5. Approval of the December 18, 2023, All-Members Meeting Minutes

Motion to “accept the December 18, 2023, All-Members Meeting minutes”; Moved by Wanda Costen. Seconded by Shan Jhamandas. Carried.

6. Acceptance of the 2023 Audited Financial Statements

Motion to “accept the 2023 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by KPMG”; Moved by Peng-Sang Cau. Seconded by Councillor Cinanni. Carried.

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7. Appointment of 2024 Auditors

Motion to “recommend Appointment of KPMG as Corporate Auditors for 2024”; Moved by Peng-Sang Cau. Seconded by Shan Jhamandas. Carried.

8. Presentation of 2023: Year in Review

I. Anne Vivian-Scott – Chair’s Remarks

- Anne began her remarks by acknowledging Kingston’s economic prosperity in 2023 while also addressing the challenges faced during the year, including rising interest rates, CEBA loan repayments, and the ongoing impact of the pandemic on businesses. She expressed optimism that Kingston Economic Development and the Board of Directors will continue to provide support to Kingston business owners in 2024. She encouraged the team and Board members to maintain their exceptional input and insights into the economy as they move forward.

II. Donna Gillespie, CEO – 2023 Annual Report

- Donna began the 2023 Annual Report presentation by highlighting the resilience demonstrated by the Kingston business community during the first full year of normal operations since the pandemic began in 2020. She acknowledged the achievements of the Kingston Economic Development team for rolling out impactful programs and initiatives, creating robust networks with global reach, all while remaining flexible, genuine, and true to the Corporation’s mission.
- Donna noted that the networks launched in 2023 had a broad impact on the community. She highlighted the success of the Newcomer Entrepreneurship Awards, developed to celebrate the diversity in Kingston’s business community. Similarly, the success of Kingston Young Professionals was recognized, with special acknowledgment to Nour Mazloun for spearheading the initiative to encourage young professionals to establish their roots in Kingston.
- Donna emphasized the strong relationships forged with Invest Ontario and Invest in Canada, with credits to Shelley, Abdul, and Ben, who have solidified Kingston’s presence at international trade shows and generated significant leads in 2023.
- Lastly, Donna shared the new partnerships established in 2023, including collaborations with the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI), Serco, Frontenac County Economic Development, True Patriot Love Foundation, and the Frontenac Public Library. She noted that these partnerships have strengthened Kingston Economic Development’s offerings and will continue to champion Kingston’s economic prosperity.

III. Creating a Welcoming & Inclusive Business Community: Impact of Networks

Presented by Patrick Egbunonu, Norman Musengimana, and Nour Mazloun

- Patrick and Norman presented on the Black Entrepreneur Ecosystem of Southeastern Ontario (BEE-SEO) initiative. The initiative was developed with the goal of establishing a platform for the Kingston Black community to achieve their entrepreneurial objectives and strengthen the Black business ecosystem. Patrick shared the vision of BEE-SEO, which aims to position Kingston among the top five best locations in Ontario for Black entrepreneurs to start a business and

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thrive. He outlined the strategic goals being implemented, which include building strong foundations, accelerating success, and promoting financial empowerment.

- Nour presented on the Kingston Young Professionals (KYP) initiative, which launched in 2023. Nour observed the need for a community of young professionals in Kingston to meet and network in a collaborative environment, a sentiment reflected in the Facebook group *Kingston Young-ish Adults*. The success of the first KYP event, funded by Bridges to Better Business and held at Daft Brewing, launched a series of monthly gatherings. The strong demand from the community, along with interest from businesses, vendors, and potential partners, has solidified KYP as one of Kingston Economic Development's standout achievements in 2023.

9. Ratification of the 2023 Actions of the Board and Officers of the Corporation

Motion to “ratify the 2023 Actions of the Board and Officers of the Corporation”; Moved by Councillor Oosterhof. Seconded by Councillor Cinanni. Carried.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

- I. Monday, December 16, 2024 – All-Members Meeting

11. Adjournment

Motion to “Adjourn;” Moved by Peng-Sang Cau. Seconded by Shan Jhamandas. Carried. 6:35 pm.

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