

WESTON KING NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE CORPORATION

2024 AGM Tuesday, June 17, 2025 @7:00 pm.

DRAFT MINUTES

Members: Barbara Stone, Kerri Lee, Kathy Steiner, Faisal Hassan, Rikki LaCoste, Sebastien Bouffard (zoom), Rochell Elliston (zoom), Tristan Eyles, Cathy Leask, Mike Mattos, Tiffany Mckee

Guests: Frances Nunziata (Toronto City Councillor), Lavern (zoom), Svetlana Egorova (Truster Zweig, Raithatha LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants), Samih Mina, Jagada Venkateswaran, Gary Stone, Emma Middleton, Dolly Ongelico, Gale Blackman, David Fabrizio, Derek T., Bryan Douthwright (staff), Monica Pierce (staff), Hugh Reid (Central United Church Minister), Spencer Phillips (The HUB), Mary Miglianisi, Daphne Langford.

Regrets: Eleni Marino, Jean Boutot, Hyacinth Demattos, Lang Moffat

1.0 Welcome (Barbara Stone) & [Land Acknowledgement](#) (Kerri Lee)

2.0 Greetings from the Chair (Barbara Stone)

Introduction and welcome.

We had a very successful year in 2024. We extended our hours from 8 - 8 and had soup to serve. Tax, ID clinics, harm reduction, laundry, showers, etc. were available. People came in and stayed for dining. We have almost completely transitioned to eating in together at WKNC instead of take out. We did have to close the Mt. Dennis location. Lease ended and the cost went up more than double. We were unable to afford the rent at that rate. We have continued to participate in events in that community throughout the year. We are operating a garden behind the Crosstown Medical Centre which is new this year. We also have a gardening club at WKNC. It is a very popular activity for our community. Every other Thursday 11 am - 1 pm at WKNC. Crosstown is Thursday afternoons from 1:30 - 4 pm. Our seniors program led by Catherine did many art projects and participated in the parade. We partnered with other organizations for meal service (Frontlines, Salaam Foundation, Soup & Sandwich Ladies, etc.) We were also able to work with the city to get a grant to use for extended hours. With help from the city and property manager at Central United Church we were able to build a fully accessible washroom. Thank you to our incredible staff. Bryan manages our advocacy program. Shannae Rowe who was our kitchen manager resigned recently for a new job closer to home. Thank you to Monica for her positivity and enthusiasm. Thank you to Steve for all of the maintenance work. Thank you to all staff.

Welcome of special guests (Barbara Stone):

Reverend Hugh Reid, Interim Minister Central United Church

Reverend Hugh Reid has joined Central United Church as their Interim Minister. Hugh was born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario and has been in full time ministry for 38 years. He has served three pastoral charges the longest of which was 22 years at Kingsway-Lambton in Etobicoke. In addition to being an Interim Minister currently, Hugh is the voluntary chaplain of a local food bank.

Spencer Phillips, UrbanArts Executive Director

Spencer Phillips is a passionate arts leader and community builder with over 17 years of experience developing impactful programs, festivals, and creative hubs across the Greater Toronto Area. As the Executive Director of UrbanArts, Spencer brings a bold vision rooted in artistic excellence, youth engagement, and inclusive community development.

David Fabrizio, Jane Street Hub & WKNC Harm Reduction Worker

David Fabrizio is a harm reduction worker at WKNC and the Jane Street Hub. The Jane Street Hub is a centre that brings together several organizations to offer community services and health care to residents of Weston, Mount Dennis, Trethewey and the surrounding area. The hub also provides space for community groups to use, including a kitchen and meeting rooms. David is here at WKNC every Tuesday.

Frances Nunziata, City of Toronto Councillor York South-Weston

Frances Nunziata is a City of Toronto Councillor representing South York – Weston since 1997. Previous to the amalgamation of Metropolitan Toronto, Nunziata served as the Mayor of York from 1994 – 1997, and a City of York Councillor from 1988 – 1994. Frances was first elected as School Board Trustee in 1985.

We invite Councillor Nunziata to say a few words.

Thank you for inviting me to join you tonight. I was at the art display at the Hub yesterday and it's beautiful. There are some residents that are going to start gardening in the area. The city has given them a parcel of land to garden. Thank you for the work that you do here at WKNC.

3.0 Appointment of Secretary (Barbara Stone)

Appointed Kerri Lee to be Secretary for the 2024 AGM

4.0 Guest speaker: Rikki LaCoste

Thank you to Frances for attending and thank you to Faisal Hassan (former MPP). Drop in centres and the TDIN are very important places.

Deputation for the Public Presentations on the 2025 Capital and Operating Budgets, Etobicoke Civic Centre, January 22, 2025

Edited for the **Weston King Neighbourhood Centre 2025 Annual General Meeting**, 2017 Weston Road, June 17, 2025

Presented by Rikki LaCoste

INTRODUCTION

Good evening, and thank you for giving me this brief but important chance to share my perspective.

My name is Rikki LaCoste, and I am coming to you as a former Chairperson – and current member – of the Weston Chapter of ACORN Toronto, as a Service User and Committee Member of the Canadian Mental Health Association, and most specifically, as a proud part of Weston King Neighbourhood Centre, which is a Drop-in Centre. Here, I participate in a few different roles and responsibilities: I am a member of the Board of Directors, I volunteer, and serve as Lead Hand for our Tuesday Groceries – which is our version of a food bank – and above all, I am a grateful Service User.

I want to talk about the importance of investing in Drop-Ins – not just as places of support – but as spaces where lives are rebuilt.

I am living proof of that fact.

FROM CRISIS TO COMMUNITY

When I first came to Weston King Neighbourhood Center in 2017, it was as someone in deep crisis. I had lost everything in a house fire, I had been unhoused for a time, and was struggling to see any value in myself, or my place in the world, or any serious prospects of a future. My family was not there for me – and I had pushed my friends away in despair and embarrassment.

It was the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre that stepped-in to hold me together when I couldn't.

My story is not unique. It is a common thread for many people who come through our doors. Many wind up navigating the same feelings of loss, brokenness, and despair. Some have no family to turn to. Others, like me, find themselves questioning their value after losing connections and community. Our Drop-in Centre becomes their lifeline,

providing not just resources, but a sense of belonging, dignity, and worth.

THE WORK WE DO

At Weston King Neighbourhood Centre, we respond to critical needs in our community:

We offer meals to individuals experiencing food insecurity;

We provide a safe haven for those seeking refuge from the weather, or from violence;

We link people to essential resources, including housing, healthcare, and social services.

What sets us apart from some other organizations is our approach. We prioritize building trust through compassion and understanding. Staff training emphasizes empathy and de-escalation, ensuring that we create welcoming spaces where individuals feel a sense of respect and safety when returning to us.

For some, this might sound abstract, those of you who have never experienced what I have. This is deeply personal to me. There is nothing like having someone metaphorically – and literally – hold you together in your darkest moments. That's what Weston King Neighbourhood Centre does every day, for hundreds of people.

WHY WE NEED SUPPORT

The reality is that we are increasingly being asked to do more with less. Every week, the lineups grow longer. The stories we hear become more monstrous. Food insecurity, housing crises, and new mental health struggles are at an all-time high.

Yet, despite this rising demand, funding remains stagnant. We rely on programs like **Creating Health Plus** to fund vital food supports - but even *that* is under threat. The proposed \$530,000 increase to the program is not just about keeping meals on plates – it's about ensuring that we can maintain the foundation of trust and connection with our Service Users that makes all of our other work possible.

A BETTER APPROACH

Too often, the city's response to visible poverty has been to fund reactive measures, such as increasing police budgets. But those measures don't address the root causes of the crises we face.

Drop-ins like Weston King Neighbourhood Centre offer a PROactive solution. We stabilize lives before they reach breaking points. We prevent crises from escalating, reducing strain on emergency services

like shelters, hospitals, and police. Compassion-based care is not just humane - it's actually cost-effective!

THE BIGGER PICTURE

We're asking City Leadership to consider a similar vision and perspective. Invest in Drop-ins, not as a stop-gap, but as a cornerstone of Toronto's social safety net. I hope you recognize the potential that we have – to create lasting change – when given the resources to do so.

CONCLUSION

Funds are not just numbers on a page – they are meals served, lives stabilized, and trust built.

Funds like these once helped a guy like me, who lost everything in a house fire, completely turned his life around, got elected to Chairperson for Weston ACORN, became a Board Member of WKNC, and dedicated his life helping other people – turn *their* lives around – to help *them* become productive members of the community again.

Thank you for your time and for considering this critical investment in our city's most vulnerable residents.

Rikki mentioned that the media took an interest in the deputation and interviewed people at WKNC as well (Monica & Bryan also shared deputations at the Capital & Operating Budgets meeting in January).

Thank you to Rikki.

5.0 Approval of the [2024 AGM Agenda](#)

- Kerri Lee motioned, seconded by Faisal. All in favour. Motion carried.

6.0 Approval of the [2023 AGM Minutes](#)

- Kerri Lee motioned, seconded by Kathy. All in favour. Motion carried.

7.0 Approval of [Audited Report](#)

Welcome to Svetlana (Truster Zweig, Raithatha LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants).

Fiscal year that ended December 31, 2024. Thank you to Barbara, Sebastien, and Shajay for working together with our auditor to complete this report. The statement provides an accurate financial picture of 2024. Oftentimes donations are provided in petty cash and it's difficult to track specifics. The Qualified Opinion is just a standard statement that is included. The auditors

have no concerns about the information they received for the financial statement. Cash is up from last year mostly due to expenditures for the organization being lower than last year. Revenue increased by \$150,000 and expenditures did not increase by that much. Accounts receivable went down (this is just timing). Statement of Revenue and Expenditures is a healthy statement this year. We increased revenue by \$72k. Most of that was due to a city grant for extended hours and the CSJ grant. \$25k was received in vouchers from North York Harvest Food Bank which were used to purchase groceries. The Donations in Kind expenditures is the food that was provided to participants. Revenue went up \$120-\$130k. Expenses were consistent with last year. Program expenses were up (upgrades funded by the government). End of year net assets were \$152k which is higher than 2023.

Sebastien motioned, seconded by Faisal. All in favour. Motion carried.

Questions

Why did rent change dramatically from 2023?

A - this was due to the closure of the Mt. Dennis location.

Why are the donations in kind the exact same amount in the revenues and expenditures?

A - the donations in kind represent food donations and what we take in then goes out to participants as meals served.

8.0 Appointment of an auditor for 2025 (Truster Zweig, Raithatha LLP, Chartered Professional Accounts).

- Sebastien motioned, seconded by Faisal. All in favour. Motion carried.

9.0 Motion for approval of bylaw amendments (Kathy Steiner)

We have made a minor change to the bylaws in order to be more clear about the timeline for former WKNC employees potentially becoming members of the board as well as former members of the board potentially becoming employees of WKNC:

- ~~No employee of the Corporation may be a Director.~~

No individual may simultaneously hold a position as both an employee and a Director of the Corporation. A Director who wishes to apply for an employee position within the Corporation must have ceased being a member of the Board of Directors for a period of no less than 12 months prior to applying. Conversely, an employee who wishes to seek election to the Board of Directors must have ceased being an employee of the Corporation for a period of no less than 12 months prior to their nomination or election.

- Kathy motioned, seconded by Tristan. All in favour. Motion carried.

10.0 Election of 2025/2026 Board of Directors (Sebastien Bouffard, Jean-Marie Boutot, Hyacinth Demattos, Rochell Elliston, Faisal Hassan, Rikki LaCoste, Kerri Lee, Eleni Marino, Lang Moffat, Kathy Steiner, Barbara Stone)

We have a group of 11 people willing to stand as directors of the board.
Please stand for a moment (introductions are made).

- Frances Nunziata motioned, seconded by Cathy Leask. All in favour. Motion carried.

11.0 Motion to approve acts of the Directors

Resolved that all acts, payments, and proceedings of Directors and Officers of the Corporation since its last Annual General Meeting as set out in the minutes of the meetings of the Directors be approved and confirmed.

- Mike Mattos motioned, seconded by Tristan Eyles. All in favour. Motion carried.

12.0 Close meeting

Thank you for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm