



Draft Minutes

Roncesvalles Village BIA Annual General Meeting

November 19, 2024, 7pm. – 9 pm.

Zoom Meeting, Toronto

Board of Management Members in Attendance		
Adam Langley	Chair	Guardian Pharmacy (137 Roncesvalles)
Andrew Chomentowski	Vice-Chair, Roncesvalles Polish Festival Committee Chair & Chair Emeritus	Property Owner, 281 Roncesvalles
Bryce Taylor-Vaisey	Secretary	AM Bagel
Andrew Krupowicz	Treasurer	Humberview Insurance Brokers
Kasia Nycz	Co-Chair Roncesvalles Polish Festival	St. Casimir's Polish Parishes Credit Union Limited
Michael Corcoran	BIA Board Member	Representing 89 Roncesvalles Ave
Councillor Gord Perks	Board Member – ex officio	Ward 4 Parkdale-High Park City Councillor
Staff		
Daniele Stoddard	RVBIA Manager	Roncesvalles Village BIA
Guests: Speakers & Advisors		
Rafiq Dossani	Auditor	
Rev. Anne Hines	RVBIA Community Advisor, Minister	Minister Rev.: Roncesvalles United Church
Ned Sabev	Economic Advisor	BIA Office – City of Toronto
Peter Nguyen	Constituency Assistant Ward 4 Parkdale-High Park	City Councillor's Office

Bhutila Karpoche	MPP, Parkdale High Park	Member of Provincial Parliament
RVBIA Members in Attendance		
Michael Chomentowski	Managing Director	Hypitch Event Management (45 Roncesvalles)
Leonard McAuley	Chair Emeritus	Pollocks Home Hardware (347 Roncesvalles)
Gillian Batcher	Owner	Jewel Envy (151 Marion)
Sarah Terpstra	Owner	Alimentari (319 Roncesvalles) Russell's (401 Roncesvalles)
Ricardo Smith	Branch Manager	Meridian Credit Union (429 Roncesvalles)
Robert Musial	Owner	179 Roncesvalles Ave
Christine Musial	Owner	177 Roncesvalles Ave
Kamila Janus	Owner	Health From Nature (173 Roncesvalles)
Marcy Verburg	Owner	183 Roncesvalles
Mark Siemicki	Owner	313 Design (313 Roncesvalles)
Chris Siemicki	Owner (rep. commercial property)	313 Design (313 Roncesvalles)
Adrienne Murawiecki	Owner	Roncesvalles Physiotherapy (458 Roncesvalles)
Aleksandra King-Sorrell	Owner	Fortides Pilates (149 Roncesvalles)
Community Attendees		
Abby Bushby	Chair	Friends of Dundas Roncesvalles Peace Garden
Alyssa Musial	Community Member	
Liz Earley	Community Member	Cookery (303 Roncesvalles)
Alex Musial	Community Member	
Monika Janus	Community Member	Health From Nature (173 Roncesvalles)

Regrets		
Arif Virani	MP Parkdale—High Park, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada	Member of Federal Parliament
Erin Mccaughan	Owner	Evolve chiropractic (437 Roncesvalles)
John Kiru	President	TABIA
Brian Dody	Manager	Rowe Farms (105 Roncesvalles)
Sabine Smith	Owner	Old Country Shop (355 Roncesvalles)

Minutes prepared by Daniele Stoddard

Action by	Item	Description
Adam Langley	1.	The meeting was called to order by Adam Langley at 7:07pm. 'What is a BIA', Agenda. Bryce Taylor-Vaisey delivered the land acknowledgement. Introduction of Board Members and Staff
	2.	Electronic meeting, recording of the meeting and voting protocols. Daniele Stoddard covered protocols for voting during the virtual meeting.
	3	Confirmation of Quorum with 6 Board Members in attendance.
	4.	Declarations of Conflict of Interest: Andrew Chomentowski declares a conflict of interest if any financial discussion involving Hypitch. His son is a principal with Hypitch Marketing.
	5.	Approval of the 2024 Annual General Meeting Agenda Motion to approve the 2024 Annual General Meeting Agenda. Moved by Andrew Krupowicz. Seconded by Bryce Taylor-Vaisey. Members voted on the motion. Motion carried.

	6.	Approval of the 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes Motion to approve the 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes. Moved by Kasia Nycz. Seconded by Andrew Chomentowski. Members voted on the motion. Motion carried.
Board Members, Staff	7. 7.1 7.2	Sub-Committee Reports Chair's Report – Adam Langley 3 CafeTO installations/operators on Roncesvalles this year. Cost and changes to CafeTO may have resulted in fewer members participating in the program. Reminder to attendees to ensure they are receiving our Newsletters as this is our primary means of communicating with members. The City of Toronto continues to add streetscape elements to the street, in 2024 new replacement bike rings were installed, new waste bins and an electric vehicle charging station. Ongoing issues with communication. In April we host the Roncesvalles version of the annual city-wide street Clean Toronto Together street cleanup. A clean-up crew was also engaged both in April and earlier in the year to help with the issue. Members are encouraged and thanked for helping to keep the street clean by tidying up the immediate area of their store frontage, including any garbage that may have found its way into our garden beds. Roncesvalles Village welcomed 10 new businesses in 2024 Destination Marketing & Promotions – Daniele Stoddard. General social media: continued growth on social media. AskAniaMedia covers our general shares to stories and featured posts. Instagram again seeing the largest growth of a 35% increase from last year. (From 19k to almost 30k). Review of Main Street Innovation Grant (\$50k received in 2023), Rendezvous on Roncy, which was completed just following the 2023 AGM. The grant included budget to purchase a metrics report for this initiative: 27% increase in foot traffic at the time the Rendezvous on Roncy videos. Destination Marketing Initiatives: Rendezvous on Roncy videos: 28 done in the 2024 of Roncesvalles Village Member business feature videos. Views averaged just under 6k views.

	ShopRoncy2Win running. Very popular with community. A report will follow from ShopLocal2Win in the new year. We continue to promote all our events via the Revue Cinema in the slide show before films. Community Events: We also once again submitted ads into the Ekran Polish Film Festival (which takes place at the Revue) collateral for both ShopRoncy2Win and the Roncesvalles Polish Festival. We also provided sponsorship of the 6th annual Family Fun Day and Community Tree Lighting hosted by Roncesvalles United Church, ensuring this is a free event for the community. 7.3 Streetscape Committee – Adam Langley We were surprised by Urban Forestry scheduling the replanting of 16 trees on Roncesvalles. This required the BIA to engage a contractor to remove the 13 affected Tree guard and grates to make way for the new trees. The additional 3 were located within garden beds. Due to the state of the guards and grates they were not reusable and have been discarded. The RVBIA is looking at the options for replacement. We will need to work with the City and Urban Forestry for this issue. Garden Beds: We planted shrubs in our garden beds to attempt to protect existing plants. We continue to plant in beds which seem to suffer from pet and foot traffic. We have also identified that due to the new streetcars, passengers are being let out into the beds which is damaging to the plants. Continuing with our annual service contract in 2024 with Goodbye Graffiti, has resulted in ongoing savings for members. On average costing less than \$1 per service due to this. This removal service continues to be an excellent value add for RVBIA members. iHeART Mainstreet Challenge: won based on a submission by the RVBIA manager, STEPS provided some funding and operational support for multiple murals on Roncesvalles. The bases of 10 concrete benches had murals added to both beautify the mainstreet and to address some ongoing graffiti issues. 4 artists were engaged, all from marginalized groups, to do 2 benches each. Two additional benches were painted with “Roncesvalles Village” to add to our destination markers on the street. This project was selected to win a 2024 TABIA Award
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		Lights on Roncesvalles for the holidays. Less due to the removal of those tree guards. Some adjustments were made to address previous issues.
	7.4	Social Justice & Anti-Racism Committee - Bryce Taylor-Vaisey This unique committee was created to build upon efforts for inclusivity and reconciliation. Some changes to the committee, with a smaller group this year, the reduced human resources and to look at an more BIA focused approach, the SJAR committee focused on supports for existing needs. In 2023, as presented at the last AGM, the major project was full sponsorship and participation in events surrounding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation working with both the Friends of the Dundas Roncesvalles Peace Garden, and the Roncesvalles United Church. This event was recognized with a 2024 TABIA awards for Community Engagement In 2024, this committee sponsored the 3rd Annual Family Pride event at the Roncesvalles United Church. We also sponsored the Orange Shirt Walk on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation organized the Friends of the Dundas Roncesvalles Peace Garden. The walk ended at the memorial bench recently installed by Indigenous Artist Nish, as part of the iHeART Mainstreet Challenge.
	7.5	Roncesvalles Polish Festival Committee - Andrew Chomentowski Signature RVBIA Event. 2024 was a financially challenging year for the festival. Recognition and appreciation for all involved, both the volunteer board, committee members and the team, RVBIA Manager, Hypitch, AskAniaMedia, Volunteer Coordinator, Photographer, Entertainment managers and so on. Many entertainers lowered their fees to accommodate the financial challenge. A thank to the number of businesses who participated during the festival. In 2004, the Roncesvalles Polish Festival informally replaced the Harvest Festival which ran in 2003 in a spontaneous response to a polka band performance. The first official Roncesvalles Polish Festival took place in 2005. 71 members participated in an activation (registered via Hypitch). Now, the festival programs approximately 1.5kms and welcomes approximately 400,000 visitors over the weekend it runs. It is both the longest street festival and the largest Polish festival in North America.

		As a now widely recognized brand, with large attendance, the festival is able to attract both vendors and sponsorship and secure available grants. In 2024, the festival secured \$103k in sponsorship, and \$97k in vendor fees. The main stage beverage garden, managed by the RVBIA also supports the festival financially. All these things cover approximately 86% of costs. Increased permit fees, policing charges and general inflation increased costs. This was made more challenging due to federal and provincial funding being directed outside of the city. Mayor Olivia Chow once again attended the festival, both on Saturday and Sunday addressing the crowd about the importance of these types of celebrations for communities. Premier Doug Ford and minister Kinga also attended. As did Arif Virani MP Parkdale—High Park. Both the Chair of the Festival and the RVBIA Manager attend multiple meetings held by the City regarding festivals. The Roncesvalles Polish Festival is often referenced as an example of excellence.														
7.6	Treasurer’s Report – Andrew Krupowicz October 2024 Cashflow Roncesvalles Village BIA Oct 2024 Polish Credit Union Chequing account <table><tr><td>Opening balance:</td><td>\$200,100</td></tr><tr><td>Total payments cleared:</td><td>-\$93,127</td></tr><tr><td>Total revenue/deposits:</td><td><u>\$8,502</u></td></tr><tr><td>Closing Balance:</td><td>\$115,474</td></tr><tr><td>Uncleared transactions:</td><td>\$121,757</td></tr><tr><td>Register balance 10/31</td><td>-\$6,283</td></tr></table> <i>Term Deposits: Polish Credit Union @ 10/31 \$95,000</i> <table><tr><td>Register balance 10/31</td><td>186,897</td></tr></table> RVBIA is in good financial health.	Opening balance:	\$200,100	Total payments cleared:	-\$93,127	Total revenue/deposits:	<u>\$8,502</u>	Closing Balance:	\$115,474	Uncleared transactions:	\$121,757	Register balance 10/31	-\$6,283	Register balance 10/31	186,897	
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8.	Motion to Approve the 2024 Committee Reports Moved by Andrew Chomentowski. Seconded by Andrew Krupowicz. Motion carried.															

	9.	2023 Audited Statements Rafiq Dosani Rafiq Dosani reported that he conducted the audit for 2023. 2023 Audited Financial Statement was reviewed. • No audit issues. All info was collected and reviewed. • Additional revenue collected: \$475,000. • A note from the auditor, the RVBIA receives more from other revenue than the total of our entire levy. A credit to board and staff. • At the 2023 AGM, RVBIA membership approved to spend \$357,000. RVBIA spent \$755,000; spending those additional dollars as required since the grants are for a particular purpose. • Despite higher expenses, a surplus of \$52,000 was recorded, adding to the \$171,000 surplus for a total of \$224,000. • Dec 31 Balance \$143,000 • Residual from City of \$25,000 which the City keeps for potential Levy write-offs. • Accounts payable of \$47,000 • Surplus of \$223,000 is reasonable for the size of our BIA; the RVBIA is in a good financial position. Motion to receive the 2023 Financial Statements as presented by the Auditor. Moved by Bryce Taylor-Vaisey. Seconded by Kasia Nycz. Members voted on the motion. Motion carried.
	10.	Nomination of Auditor for 2024 Motion to appoint Rafiq Dosani as auditor of the Roncesvalles Village BIA Financial Statements for 2024. Moved by Andrew Krupowicz. Seconded by Kasia Nycz. Members voted on the motion. Motion carried.

	11.	2025 Budget Presented Adam Langley/Andrew Krupowicz Prices continue a steady rise; to avoid issues the Board recommends small increases to keep up and avoid cuts. Proposed is a 3% increase, below current inflation. Festival expenses will continue to be tied to festival revenue. Proposed Capital Cost Share (city of Toronto) streetscape expenses likely to not be spent in 2025; replace and repair tree cages, benches. Motion to approve the proposed 2025 Budget. Moved by Andrew Chomentowski. Seconded by Bryce Taylor-Vaisey Members voted on the motion. Motion carried.
Info	12.	Gord Perks, Councillor for Ward 4, Board Member <i>ex officio</i>, joined the meeting and took questions from the attendees. Questions about traffic safety at Howard Park and Roncesvalles. The vehicular incident in front of 400/402 Roncesvalles took out one of the RVBIA lamp posts. Question from the membership regarding some issues with expressions of hatred in the neighbourhood. Accessing resources from the City were shared. Discussion regarding increased graffiti in the City at large. Gord expressed appreciation for the hard work of the RVBIA board, staff and members, referring to Roncesvalles as one of the most successful examples of a thriving Main street in the City of Toronto
Info	13.	Bhutila Tenzin Karpoche, MPP for Parkdale—High Park joined the meeting and echoed the sentiments of Councillor Perks on the success of Roncesvalles Village. Small Business Round table being hosted to investigate how the province can support small business. She and her team are pushing for CEBA loan forgiveness. Early provincial election is possible. Discussion of challenges for preventative supports: homelessness, theft, vandalism Holidays: Shop Local messaging provided by her office (window signs) Arif Virani had a conflict but will provide a message to members which will be shared on our website.

Info	14.	General Discussion/New Business Discussion of issues of safety and security on the street. Vandalism and graffiti concerns discussed. 311/Goodbye Graffiti/ other services and possible need for sharing access to further educational resources. Roncesvalles Polish Festival discussion. Issues with less business for the weekend it runs, difficulty with regulars accessing their business. Note about the festival working as a destination marketing tool to remind customers of Roncesvalles year-round. Thank you to all attendees, to the staff for their efforts and to the current Board for their volunteer work. Link to slides presented during AGM will be provided after the meeting.
Info	14.	Adjournment Motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Andrew Chomentowski. Seconded by Michael Corcoran Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.