Scadding Court Community Centre Incorporated

June 24, 2025 Annual General Meeting

707 Dundas St W

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1. **Call to Order**
   Doug Lowry, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. 111 people were present, among them 75 members, 7 Board members, 12 observers, and 17 staff. Translation for the entire meeting was provided in Cantonese and Mandarin.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

   Doug Lowry read the Land Acknowledgement, which was translated to Cantonese and Mandarin.

3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

   No conflicts of interest were raised.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**
   Doug Lowry reviewed the agenda and translation was provided.

   A motion was moved to approve the Agenda.
   Moved by: Coreen Gittens
   Seconded by: Alex Liang Motion Carried

5. **Approval of the 2024 AGM Minutes**
   Doug Lowry reminded members that they can ask staff any questions about the minutes and asked if there were any questions or comments.

   The Minutes of the June 25, 2024 Scadding Court Community Centre Incorporated Annual General Meeting were reviewed and a motion was moved to approve the minutes.
   Moved by: Alex Liang
   Seconded by: Coreen Gittens Motion Carried

6. **Report from the Board Chair**
   Doug Lowry reported

   We want to listen to you, we want to hear from you, you tell us what you want and we take your advice to make things better. So thank you, we like hearing your feedback.

   Thank you for being here. As the chair I meet with the staff and management regularly, I thank the Board for showing up and all their advice through the year. As a board we often see the senior members of staff, but for a centre like this you need lots of staff, lot of volunteers,

and I thank you all. One of the good things about the community centre is we work with lots of partners and work hard to do many things for the centre. As a board, we are often in many meetings, and one of the challenges are the great expectations of what happens in the centre, part of our job is to continuously be amazed, continually work to make it better. And now we will hand it to our Executive Director for a few words.

7. **Report from the Executive Director**

Herman Ellis Jr reported.

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for coming in a heat wave. I was concerned that we wouldn't have this many people out.

Doug mentioned continuous improvement, and if you've worked with me you've heard me say that many many times. The numbers that are connected to that information are in the annual report.

2024 was a year of growth, challenge, and deep community connection. At Scadding Court, we've always believed in the power of being present - in person, in the neighbourhood, in the lives of those we serve. This year reaffirmed that belief. Whether it was a community meal, a youth workshop, a garden harvest, or a newcomer support session, the heartbeat of this centre has been the people who fill it.

But we also know that our space is stretched. We've outgrown our walls, and the demand for our programs continues to rise. That's why we're actively exploring satellite sites and expanding our digital presence. We want to meet people where they are—whether that's in a nearby neighbourhood or online—without losing the warmth and trust that comes from face-to-face connection.

Continuous improvement is part of our DNA. We're always asking how we can do better—how we can serve more people, more effectively, and more equitably. From expanding food security programs to launching new youth initiatives, from growing our urban agriculture efforts to strengthening our entrepreneurship hubs, we're not standing still.

To our staff: thank you. Your dedication, creativity, and compassion are what make this place more than a community centre. It makes it a community. You've shown up with heart, and I'm proud to work alongside you.

To our Board of Directors: thank you for your steady leadership and belief in our mission. Your guidance helps us dream big and stay grounded.

And a special thank you to Peggy Poon for your support with translation at our AGM. Your work ensures that our message is inclusive and accessible, and that's something we value deeply.

As we look ahead to strategic planning and redevelopment, I'm excited—not just for what we'll build, but for how we'll build it: together, with the voices of our community leading the way.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for believing in this work. Let's keep growing, together.

Herman shared that the staff and stakeholders reviewed and reaffirmed our Strategic Directions for the next 5 years, and the Board approved the existing and added more strategic directions. The Strategic Plan will be posted on our website. The Directions were read aloud in English & Chinese.

Direction #1: Continue and enhance an organizational culture of innovation and action that extends across all levels of the organization.

Direction #2: Contribute to strengthening a diverse, inclusive and revitalized community through public space animation, local economic development, and agency redevelopment to meet community needs.

Direction #3: Foster a culture of collaboration through innovative and non-traditional partnerships, incubation of emerging organizations and development of new service delivery models.

Direction #4: Catalyse and facilitate programs and social change-focused activity in response to community needs: issue identification, research, capacity-building, policy development, communications and mobilization.

Direction #5: Expand the engagement of, partnership with, and service delivery for women.

Direction #6: Continue and strengthen inclusive food security initiatives that combine dignified access to fresh food with hands-on education in urban agriculture, cooking and local enterprise.

Direction #7: Strengthen partnerships and develop holistic initiatives that promote mental health and community wellbeing through education, training, and resource-sharing to build local capacity to respond to trauma and reduce stigma to help everyone feel safe, seen and supported.

Direction #8: Advocate for a transparent, inclusive site redevelopment process grounded in community needs and lived experience, ensuring clear milestones and protection of access to essential programs during all phases of construction.

8. **Report from the Treasurer**

Alex Liang reported.

He shared that every year we review the financials, and these have been reviewed by the auditors and said they are good. Thank you to Herman, Iftekhar and the finance team for putting these numbers together; it's a lot of hard work.

The financials were reviewed and translated.

A motion was moved to accept the 2024 Audited Financial Statements for Scadding Court Community Centre Incorporated

Moved by: Alex Liang
Seconded by: Doug Lowry Motion Carried

There was a motion moved to reappoint the auditors Stephen Taylor and Associates for the fiscal year 2024.

Moved by: Alex Liang
Seconded by: Doug Lowry Motion Carried

9. **Other Business**

Rebecca Keenan reported on the Redevelopment.

Thank you for being here tonight. My name is Rebecca Keenan, and I'm the Director of Operations at Scadding Court Community Centre. I'm really glad to have this chance to speak with all of you — our neighbours, community members, and long-time supporters — about the exciting progress on the future of this site.

As many of you know, the idea of redeveloping and expanding Scadding Court has been in the works for years. This isn't something new — it's something that's grown out of decades of listening to what our community wants and needs. Your input has shaped this vision from the start, and it continues to guide where we go from here.

This is a City-initiated process, led by City Planning and CreateTO, and we're proud to be strong partners in the work. There's real momentum right now — with the Official Plan Amendment approved, and ongoing collaboration with City staff to get the project ready for the next big milestone: rezoning.

In the meantime, Scadding Court and CreateTO are working hard behind the scenes to build the foundation for what comes next — from exploring funding opportunities, to bringing on the experts who will help shape the design and planning process. As that work progresses, there will be even more opportunities for public input, in multiple languages, and we want to make sure the voices of this community continue to be heard.

We know how important this centre is to the people who use it every day. That's why we'll continue to advocate for a phased approach to redevelopment — one that allows us to keep programming going throughout construction. Because what we do here matters, and we don't want to lose that momentum even for a moment.

We're excited. We're ready. And we're committed to making sure this redevelopment reflects the energy, creativity, and diversity of the community it serves.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Let's keep building — together.

10. **Adjournment**

A motion was moved to adjourn the meeting.
Moved by: Peggy Poon
Seconded by: Alex Liang Motion Carried

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

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Chair Secretary