

Minutes of the Victoria Business Improvement Districts Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th September 2020 – 1100hrs

Virtual Meeting via the Zoom platform

Chairman's Introduction

Nigel Hughes, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Victoria Business Improvement District's (BID) Annual General Meeting. The Chairman said that it was a shame that we were unable to meet in person as we would normally do but we continue to live in very strange times.

Nigel Hughes emphasised how COVID-19 in the past 6 months has impacted all our lives drastically. Times have changed – it will affect Victoria, London and our way of working for years to come. The BID has been though, and will continue to be, a positive force both in Victoria and in London.

The Victoria BID has now had 10 years of delivery and it was a particularly strong year last year. This enabled our third successful ballot to take place in February 2020. Endorsed by a substantial turnout with 96% of those who voted voting in favour of the BID, this showed that businesses recognise the value, relevance and vital contribution that the BID makes to the area.

The Chairman listed highlights from the last financial year, including the launch of the Public Realm vision called People Wanted (which is exactly what we need now – people in Victoria), work on planning the redevelopment of Victoria Station and the transformation of Christchurch Gardens which opened to the public yesterday.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the entire Executive Team and members of the Steering Groups; Public Realm, Inclusive Economy, Safe and Secure and Destination Victoria - for their contributions. He also thanked his fellow Board Members and stressed that we have a lot of work ahead of us to rebuild post-Covid confidence in Victoria.

Annual Report & BID Progress

Ruth Duston, Chief Executive, thanked the Chairman. Ruth explained that last year was a fundamental year for the Victoria Business Improvement District in many ways. The BID has been a symbol of continuity and reassurance while so much around us has changed.

The Chief Executive explained that the Annual Report is available to download from our website (https://www.victoriabid.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/VBID_AR-2020-LR.pdf) or if you cannot download it, do get in contact with the team who will be able to provide a printed copy. With a budget of £2.7 million in the 2019/20 financial year- we invested in over 100 initiatives over the 12-month period. A video was played to provide an overview of some of the highlights (<https://vimeo.com/458605612>).

Ruth concluded by expressing her thanks to the BID's Board Members, Steering Groups, Levy Payers and the Executive Team.

Election of Board Directors

The Chairman thanked both the current directors who were standing for re-election and those Directors who had resigned during the year, specifically resignations from:

Lorrie Dannecker – Telegraph Media Group

Stuart Geddes – The Goring

The Chairman explained that the Memorandum and Articles of Associations for the BID have been updated, in part because of the new term but also to reflect our closer working relationship with our sister BID, Victoria Westminster.

The Chairman then set out the proposed procedures for the election. All nominated members were being put forward under a single vote and in the case where any members were currently furloughed, they were being put forward as an observer on the basis that they would become a full director when they were no longer furloughed. This affected John Moola from Taj Hotels. This procedure was approved by the meeting.

The following directors were then proposed:

Corporate

Zoe Gilligan, Landsec

Ruth Hart-Leverton – Ørsted (UK) Limited

Hospitality

John Moola, Taj Hotels (Observer and Director Designate)

Leisure

Caroline Hanson, Victoria Palace Theatre

Property Owners

Paul O'Grady, Grosvenor

Retail

Andy Smith, John Lewis Partnership

Financial

Emma Potter, Ruffer

Claudia Binkert, EDF Trading

Caroline Hanson was the proposer and was seconded by Zoe Gilligan. The motion was carried unanimously, and the Directors were voted in.

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended what he hoped would be our first, and only, virtual AGM.

The meeting closed at 11:25am.