



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Open Meeting Minutes**  
**8:30 a.m. - Friday, October 11, 2024**  
**IWE Boardroom - 119 Chatham Street W**

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<b>Present:</b>	Mayor Drew Dilkens, Chair	Dr. Robert Gordon, Vice Chair	Federica Nazzani, Treasurer	Chris Savard, Past Chair (Zoom)
	Warden Hilda MacDonald	Alex Anobile (Zoom)	Waseem Habash	Jim Lyons
	Jimi Tjong			
<b>Regrets:</b>				
<b>Staff:</b>	Joe Goncalves, Interim CEO	Holly Connelly		

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER & DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Mayor Drew Dilkens and quorum was met. No conflicts of interest were declared.

### 2. AGENDA

The agenda for the open meeting of Invest WindsorEssex (IWE) Board of Directors was approved as presented.

Motion Moved by Warden MacDonald  
Seconded by Jim Lyons

*That the agenda for the October 11, 2024, meeting of Invest WindsorEssex Board of Directors is approved. Carried.*

### 3. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3.1 Minutes of the open Board Meeting
- 3.2 Monthly Performance Measures and Metrics
- 3.3 Top Business Priorities
- 3.4 Department Updates

The group discussed gathering data on the existing demographics and growth trends of the regional business community by industry sector. Data from the last three years would be helpful to determine why certain industries have continued growth when others do not. An exploration of opportunities to better connect the university and college with the local startup/entrepreneurship ecosystem was also discussed.

The Interim CEO reported that IWE is planning to add a tool to its website by the end of the year that will track this type of data.

Motion Moved by Jimi Tjong  
Seconded by Jim Lyons

*THAT the consent agenda and the recommendations therein be approved. Carried.*

### 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

#### 4.1 Chair's Report

The CEO recruitment is underway after a brief break over the summer. The Chair asked for a board volunteer to fill a gap on the committee left by an outgoing Board member to assist with the upcoming interview process. Waseem Habash volunteered to join the committee.

Motion Moved by Dr. Gordon  
Seconded by Warden MacDonald

*That Waseem Habash be appointed to IWE's ad hoc CEO Search Committee. Carried.*

#### 4.2 CEO's Report

##### Automobility and Innovation

- Grant program planning underway with announcement pending

##### Small Business & Entrepreneurship Centre

- Reporting excellent numbers for 2023-2024
  - Startup consultations - 696
  - Existing business consultations - 956
  - 592 new jobs reported

##### Business Retention & Expansion

- Manufacturing Day
  - Over 1000 students visited companies throughout the region to get an understanding of the new technology and automation used in factories today
- Emerging Technologies Conference
  - October 23, 2024, at Caesars Windsor

##### Investment Attraction (reported during in camera session)

It was suggested that the local post-secondary institutions could play a greater role supporting incubators and accelerators, innovation, mentorship, growing the ecosystem, and supporting SBEC startups.

Motion Moved by Warden MacDonald  
Seconded by Waseem Habash

*THAT the updates provided in the CEO's Report are received. Carried.*

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

None

#### 6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Invest WindsorEssex Board of Directors is Friday, November 29, 2024.

#### 7. ADJOURNMENT & MOVE IN CAMERA

Motion Moved by Waseem Habash  
Seconded by Jim Lyons

That the open meeting of the Invest WindsorEssex Board of Directors is adjourned at 8:46 a.m. and the meeting move in camera. Carried.