

Minutes of the 2025 Uptown Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15th October 2025

5:30pm at Puen Eatery & Bar,
1 Mount Eden Road, Uptown

Attendees:

Members and Businesses

Emma Sparks – Twenty Three (Chair)
Eliette Roslin – Eliette’s Music Academy
Nick Douch – Eliette’s Music Academy
Perrin Melchior – Kiteworks
Suzanne McNamara – Kind & Co
Peter Eising – Pacific Environments
Kevin Sparks – The Corner Store
Alberto de Souza – Nickel & Young
Glenn Yungnickel – Nickel & Young
Andreas Vaoleti – Scootling
Anya Vitali – Creative Services Ltd
Celia Ruane – We Create Productions
Dan Eagle – Good Form
Emma Eagle – Good Form
Ginny Braun – Kabine & Co
David Thomas – Kabine & Co
Helga Sonier – Link Alliance
Iris – The Healing Room
Jessica - The Healing Room
Isabel Rust – Fresh Concept
John Sutton – Fresh Concept
Neil Gaddes – Fresh Concept
Jeffrey Stothers – Southbound Records & Distribution
Lisa Stothers – Southbound Records & Distribution
Jessica Hunt – Kenkō Studios
Mahesh Lala – Mount Eden Legal
Max Cai – The Surfboard Warehouse
Molly Scelly – Pretty Suss
Nikki Goodson – Impact Digital
Oleh Lesiv – Naree Thai Massage
Natalie Tamati – Naree Thai Massage
Paul Mason – ThatDay Charitable Trust
Brenda Mason – ThatDay Charitable Trust
Paul Baragwanath – Kāhui St David’s
Rachel Kennedy – Four Square Eden Terrace
Rosemary Currie – Infinisea Creations
Stu McGregor – Cityside Baptist Church

Logan Elliot – Cadence Studio
Vanya Piacun – Dalmatian Cultural Society
Wesley Kuang – MetaLife
Marty Duda – The 13th Floor
Eunsun Jung – Small Mercies
Mikey Rush – Small Mercies
Ashley Chong – NEEDO
Alexandra Cohen – Uptown Pilates & Yoga
Asher Walker – Blink Ltd
Lisa Kennedy – Camaraderie
Anna King-Shahab – Lazy Susan

Local Board / Council Representatives

Julie Fairey – Auckland Council
Shaun Sutton – Auckland Transport
Margi Watson – Albert-Eden Local Board
Christina Robertson – Albert-Eden Local Board
Alex Bonham – Waitematā Local Board
Sarah Trotman – Waitematā Local Board
Kara Kennedy – Waitematā Local Board
Peter Elliott – Waitematā Local Board
Caitlin Wilson – Waitematā Local Board

Property Owners

Ian Collins – 3 Shaddock Street
Rhonda Collins – 3 Shaddock Street
Daphne Peterken – 127 & 151–155 Symonds Street
Steven Toegidga – 6 Shaddock Street
Peter Joyce – 45 Mount Eden Road
Kerri McKay – 37 Mount Eden Road

Uptown Team

Brent Kennedy
Gabrielle Pronk

1. Welcome/Present

With a quorum reached, the meeting opened at 5:47pm with a welcome from Brent Kennedy (Uptown Manager) and the 2025 Chair, Emma Sparks. Brent acknowledged the local board and council representatives present, highlighting the precinct's strong connections with both the Albert-Eden and Waitematā Local Boards.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Daniel Wrightson (The Stream Shop), Damaris Kingdon (8Space), Kendyl Smith (Albert-Eden Local Board).

Resolution: That the apologies tendered be accepted.

Moved: Emma Sparks (Chair)

Seconded: Kevin Sparks

Carried

3. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were made available to the membership and taken as read.

Resolution: That the minutes of the previous AGM held on 30 October 2024, to be read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the business transacted.

Moved: Emma Sparks (Chair)

Seconded: Marty Duda

Carried

4. Executive Committee Report

a) Chair Written Report

Emma Sparks presented the Chair's Report for 2024–2025. Key points included:

- Advocacy around the Maungawhau CRL station, including meetings with Mayor Brown and Council leadership.
- Shared concerns with the Mayor regarding:
 - o Lack of priority for CRL station development.
 - o Integration of new development with the existing Uptown precinct.
 - o Wayfinding improvements and gateway activation on Nikau Street.
 - o Activation of four hectares of vacant sites once the station opens.
- Meetings with the Minister of Transport and Housing to highlight precinct potential.
- Acknowledgement of the dedication of the Uptown team and member businesses.

Resolution: That the Uptown Chair report be accepted.

Moved: Perrin Melchior

Seconded: Kevin Sparks

Carried

b) Manager's Written Report & 2025 – 2026 Annual Plan

Brent Kennedy presented the Manager's Report and outlined key activities and achievements over the past year:

- Promotional & Engagement Activities:
 - o Uptown Magazine (12th issue), featuring precinct businesses and characters.
 - o Uptown Bites Food Guide, including recipes and profiles.
 - o Events – Branch Out, Local Voices – support for New Zealand Music Month with performances across Uptown venues, Kāhui St David's events – Green Doors, ANZAC Day, and PAPA Woven Wearable Arts.
- Digital & Social Media Initiatives
- Public & Street Art Projects:
 - o Magma 2 street art installation, utility box art, and additional projects planned across four sites in 2026.
- Security & Safety:
 - o Ongoing discussions regarding precinct security with Auckland Transport and police.
 - o Responded to member Rachel Kennedy (Four Square)'s security concerns stating that discussions continue on appropriate safety measures.
- Advocacy:

- Engagement with council, local boards, and other stakeholders regarding precinct development as the Maungawhau Station opening approaches.
- 2026–2027 Budget Proposal:
 - Recommended 9% increase from \$841,000 to \$916,745 to align with other BID rates in Auckland.
 - Budget includes promotional activities, events, public art, ongoing advocacy and increased staff capacity.
 - Sarah Trotman (Waitematā Local Board) questioned whether the 9% increase is sufficient in light of the station opening.
 - Members discussed the adequacy of the budget and security provisions; Brent confirmed further adjustments may be needed as the precinct evolves.

Resolution: That the Uptown Manger’s Annual Report including the 2025-2026 Annual Plan be accepted.

Moved: Emma Sparks (Chair)

Seconded: Peter Eising

Carried

5. Financial Report

a) Adoption of end-of-year financial reports and audited accounts

The financial reports and audited accounts for the 2024/2025 financial year were made available to members, documents have been taken as read.

Resolution: That the end-of-year financial reports and audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025 be confirmed.

Moved: Emma Sparks (Chair)

Seconded: Lisa Stothers

Carried

b) Resolution - Ratification of Proposed 2026/2027 Budget

The indicative Budget for 2026/2027 was tabled including a BID targeted rate grant of \$916,745 (9% increase). The Business Association is required to consider an indicative budget each year at the AGM, to confirm targeted rates and any increase.

Resolution: Move to approve the budget for the following financial year 2026/2027 draft budget which includes a BID targeted rate grant amount of \$916,745 including a 9% increase or \$75,695 increase to the BID targeted rate grant for 2026/2027 financial year. Further, ask the Waitematā & Albert-Eden Local Boards recommend to the Governing Body the amount of \$916,745 be included in the Auckland Council draft 2026/2027 annual budget consultation process.

Moved: Emma Sparks (Chair)

Seconded: Perrin Melchior

Carried

6. Election of Executive Committee Members

Nominations received prior to the AGM: Peter Eising, Emma Sparks, Daniel Wrightson, Suzanne McNamara, David Thomas, Kevin Sparks, Damaris Kingdon, Perrin Melchior, Eliette Roslin.

As the number of nominations equaled the vacancies, all nominees were elected to the Executive Committee for the next term. Brent acknowledged Leon Kirkbeck's contributions to the board and noted he may join again next year.

7. Appointment of Auditor for year-end 30th June 2026 – JSA Audit Ltd.

Each AGM is required to confirm an auditor for the following year.

Resolution: That JSA Audit Ltd. appointed as auditor for the year ending 30th June 2026.

Moved: Kevin Sparks

Seconded: Perrin Melchior

Carried

8. General Business

- Emma Sparks thanked the Uptown team for their positive and enthusiastic work.
- Suzanne McNamara introduced the upcoming Uptown Bites festival showcasing the precinct's cafés, bars, and restaurants, through events, offers, workshops and more.
- Celia Ruane introduced the Basque Park Summer event series (three events planned for December, February, and March), including light performances, markets, workshops, and cultural activations.

Meeting Closed: 6:32pm