



HAMILTON BUSINESS  
IMPROVEMENT AREA

Board of Management  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
9:00 am  
Hybrid - DHBIA Office 104 - 20 Hughson St. S. and Virtual

## MINUTES

Present: Evan Apostol (Chair), Jason Morse, Andrew Mantecon, Ryan Moran, Stefanie Bonazza, Mark Wu, Michelle Blanchard, Christal Pshyk, Una Gibbons, Francis Zanetti, A/Sgt. Kevin Jones (HPS), Emily Walsh, Emily Gilruth

Regrets: Lisa LaRocca, Councillor Cameron Kroetsch

1. Welcome and comments from the Chair – Evan welcomed everyone
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - None
3. Agenda – **MOTION:** That the agenda be approved as presented. – **Moved by J. Morse, Seconded by M. Blanchard CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes – **MOTION:** That the minutes of February 13th, 2024 be approved as presented. – **Moved by R. Moran, Seconded by J. Morse CARRIED**
5. Hamilton Police Services Update - A/Sgt. Kevin Jones – Began by sharing the crime statistics in the downtown core for the beginning of 2024, and indicated that there have been 35 occurrences so far. Acknowledged that this data includes 2 King Street West, a location that is not included within the Downtown Hamilton BIA's boundary. Indicated that the crime trend is stable and there have been no notable increases or decreases in the numbers. Then spoke about the recent shooting in the downtown core, and discussed the best safety procedures for incidents of this nature. Reinforced that the best course of action is to shelter in place with the front doors locked until the scene calms down.
6. Discussion - Changes to the Temporary On-Street Patio Grant – Emily Walsh began by highlighting the proposed changes to this year's grant, which involves sending the funds directly to the applicable business instead of the patio provider. The board of management discussed ways to make the grant process easier, including a stipulation that the grant funds must be used to reimburse the largest purchase, with a total cost that exceeds the allocated \$1,000. Also reiterated that any documentation should link back to the City of Hamilton's Outdoor Patio Program's webpage to ensure business owners understand the necessary steps and criteria.

**Mission: The Downtown Hamilton BIA provides value to our members through advocacy, beautification, promotion, development and preservation of Downtown Hamilton.**

**Vision: A vital and prosperous downtown that is the focal point of Hamilton.**

7. Discussion - Safety and Security – Emily Walsh opened the floor to discussions about possible efforts to enhance safety and security within the downtown core, including a letter-writing campaign for people to share their experiences and participating in a delegation to the City Council regarding the Encampment Protocol. After discussion, the board of management indicated that they would like to see a survey distributed where residents of the downtown core can share their experiences about both living and working in the area. Indicated that this survey should be concise and distributed widely throughout the area. Also indicated that the Downtown Hamilton BIA should seek out support from the entirety of the council to increase safety within the area through a variety of different avenues.
8. Discussion - Speaker Series – Due to time constraints, the board of management agreed to discuss this topic during April’s board meeting. **ACTION:** Add an agenda point to April’s board meeting to discuss the speaker series
9. Discussion - Summer Promenade Update – Emily Gilruth gave a quick update regarding the plans for this year’s Summer Promenade, including the schedule, focus on acoustic artists, and new potential layout. The board of management then discussed elements that they wanted to focus on during this year’s iteration of the event, including more food trucks and the possibility of permanent infrastructure.
10. Other Items - BIA Staff Update – Emily Walsh provided the board of management with three new relevant updates regarding the BIA. The first was that new banner designs had been finalized and were in the process of being produced, with an official rollout later in the month or early in the beginning of April. Then quickly discussed the new spring planters, including a change to faux flowers to hopefully reduce damage throughout the season. The final update was the participation in the Creative Kids 2024 advertising campaign, which should debut later in the month. There was then a small discussion about the potential of expanding the BIA’s boundaries, and Emily Walsh indicated that while this is a possibility, campaigning has to come from the businesses and property owners within the area to ensure they reach a consensus regarding their wish to join.
11. Adjournment – 10:19 AM

**Dates to Note:**

Next Board Meeting

- April 9th 2024
  - Guest speaker: Sarah Emke - Senior Project Manager - Placemaking and Animation