



HAMILTON BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT AREA

Board of Management
Tuesday, December 10th, 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, Lisa LaRocca, Michelle Blanchard, Mark Wu, Stefanie Bonazza, A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija, Lyndon George, Melanie Lawton, Emily Walsh, Emily Gilruth

Regrets: Francis Zanetti, Una Gibbons, 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 M. Wu, Seconded by M. Blanchard CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION:** That the minutes of October 8th, 2024 be approved as presented. **Moved by M. Blanchard, Seconded by S. Bonazza CARRIED**
5. Hamilton Police Services Update – A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija began by introducing himself as the Downtown Hamilton BIA’s new crime manager. He then spoke about the crime trends last month, indicating that there were 20 reported incidents, and these statistics are trending downward. He reiterated that the HPS data includes Jackson Square (2 King Street West), which is not included in the Downtown Hamilton BIA’s boundary. He then discussed details surrounding the core patrol, sharing that the program will be extended and encouraging board members and business owners to share their messages of support to encourage a continuation of the program.
6. Presentation - Lyndon George Executive Director, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (HAARC) – Lyndon George introduced the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre and the work that they undertake, which includes providing support to those that have experienced hate or racism and offering resources, education and support to the Hamilton community. He then spoke about rising right-wing extremist rhetoric in Hamilton, citing the recent examples of individuals distributing anti-equality flyers and the anti-immigrant protestors at Jackson Square. He stressed the importance of business owners reporting hateful incidents they witness, as their team can offer support and these

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.

reports will offer a more comprehensive understanding of the trends or hateful incidents occurring in the city.

7. Financials - **MOTION:** That the financials for August, September, and October 2024 be approved as presented. **Moved by J. Morse, Seconded by M. Blanchard CARRIED**
8. Other Items -
 - a. 2025 networking events – Evan Apostol spoke about his new idea for networking sessions to take place in 2025, indicating interest in a monthly session that provides a consistent opportunity for BIA members to connect and network in a set location. Fellow board members expressed agreement that this was a good idea, and the board of directors will return to the idea in January 2025 once information is gathered regarding cost, location and scheduling.
 - b. BIA staff update – Emily Walsh shared a series of initiatives relevant to the Downtown Hamilton BIA, including possible new scheduling for the board meetings, the downtown office report, a letter of support for the HPS core patrol, and an introduction of Melanie Lawton, the new Community Engagement Coordinator. Emily Gilruth then shared some details surrounding the Christmas Tree of Hope Lighting, which occurred on Friday, December 6.
9. Adjournment – 9:51 AM

Dates to Note:

Next Board Meeting - January 14th 2025