



HAMILTON BUSINESS  
IMPROVEMENT AREA

Board of Management  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 - 9:00 am  
Hybrid - DHBIA Office 104 - 20 Hughson St S and virtual

## MINUTES

Present: Evan Apostol (Chair), Jason Morse, Andrew Mantecon, Ryan Moran, Michelle Blanchard, Mark Wu, Stefanie Bonazza, Una Gibbons, A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija, Cristina Geissler, Graziella Wheldon, Melanie Lawton, Emily Walsh, Emily Gilruth

Regrets: Francis Zanetti, 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 December 10th, 2024 be approved as presented. **Moved by M. Blanchard, Seconded by J. Morse CARRIED**
5. Hamilton Police Services Update - A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija began by sharing crime statistics from December 2024, while acknowledging that these numbers include Jackson Square, which is not included within the Downtown Hamilton BIA's boundary. He then proceeded to discuss the core patrol, sharing that they are mapping the locations where the patrol has visited to better ensure total coverage, and there are efforts underway to address open-air drug use. He then ended by sharing information about what a member of the public should do if they see a person in distress, as well as how calls for service are addressed and prioritized.
6. Discussion Items
  - a. Advocacy Letter (*Appendix 1*) - Michelle Blanchard began by sharing details of an advocacy letter that she is looking to have the BIA support, revolving around safety within the downtown core. The board of management discussed the letter and changes that could be made to make it more effective, including making it more specific and actionable.
  - b. BIA Boundary Expansion - Mark Wu discussed the possibility of expanding the boundary of the BIA and how this would impact the neighbouring businesses. The board of management agreed that it would be beneficial to examine other BIAs that have expanded their boundaries as a case

**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.**

study, with information regarding potential benefits that could then be presented to interested or relevant parties.

- c. 2025 Task Forces – Emily Walsh indicated an intention to form two task forces, one focused on event planning and the other on governance, and then asked the board of management if there were any members interested in joining each task force.
- d. King William Summer Activation (*Appendix 2*) – Emily Walsh shared details about a proposed activation on King William Street with the board of management, with three options regarding staffing and the BIA’s involvement. **MOTION:** Proceed with hiring two BIA staff to manage this program. **Moved by E. Apostol, Seconded by M. Blanchard CARRIED**

7. Other Items - BIA Staff Update (*Appendix 3*) – Emily Walsh discussed a variety of topics that are relevant to the BIA, including joining the International Downtown Association, the upcoming BIA Awards of Excellence, upcoming beautification efforts, and new business openings.

8. Adjournment – 10:17 AM

**Dates to Note:**

Next Board Meeting

- February 25th 2025