



HAMILTON BUSINESS  
IMPROVEMENT AREA

Board of Management  
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 - 9:00 am  
Hybrid - DHBIA Office 104 - 20 Hughson St S and virtual

## MINUTES

Present: Evan Apostol (Chair), Jason Morse, Michelle Blanchard, Una Gibbons, Lisa LaRocca, Graziella Panessa, Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, Cristina Geissler, A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija, Sarah Ehmke, Peter Fortune, Melanie Lawton, Emily Walsh, Emily Gilruth

Regrets: Francis Zanetti, Ryan Moran, Stefanie Bonazza, Mark Wu, Andrew Mantecon

1. Welcome and comments from the Chair – Evan welcomed everyone
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – L. LaRocca indicated a conflict of interest regarding a potential Supercrawl sponsorship included in the staff update
3. Agenda - **MOTION:** That the agenda be approved as presented. **Moved by M. Blanchard, Seconded by U. Gibbons CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION:** That the minutes of January 28, 2025 be approved as presented. **Moved by U. Gibbons, Seconded by M. Blanchard CARRIED**
5. Board Vacancy Appointment - **MOTION:** That Graziella Panessa be appointed to the Downtown Hamilton BIA Board of Management, pending approval by City Council. **Moved by E. Apostol, Seconded by M. Blanchard CARRIED**
6. City of Hamilton Update - Councillor Cameron Kroetsch shared details about the current status of a variety of future initiatives that are relevant to the downtown core, including enhanced bylaw enforcement, enhanced cleanliness initiatives and increased social service supports. He then quickly discussed Gore Park, sharing updates about a potential closure and how community groups use the park.
7. Hamilton Police Services Update - A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija shared crime statistics from the month of February, acknowledging that a majority of the instances came from Jackson Square, which is not included in the Downtown Hamilton BIA's boundary. He then spoke about the ongoing core patrol,

**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.**

sharing that they had visited over 400 businesses since the beginning of the year and have increased their patrol of open-air drug use.

8. Placemaking & Public Art Update - Sarah Ehmke and Peter Fortune began by introducing themselves to the board of management and sharing details about the Placemaking, Public Art and Projects division. Sarah spoke about the goals and approaches for placemaking across the city in 2025, including some current projects and potential future projects.
9. Financials - **MOTION:** That the financials of November and December 2024 be approved as presented.  
**Moved by U. Gibbons, Seconded by M. Blanchard CARRIED**
10. Other Items - BIA Staff Update – Emily Walsh shared information about a variety of topics relevant to the Downtown Hamilton BIA, including an update on proposed changes to on-street parking rates, LRT updates, a Valentine’s Day giveaway that the BIA ran and more. She also shared details about a sponsorship request for Supercrawl. **MOTION:** Accept the update and recommendations within.  
**Moved by M. Blanchard Seconded by U. Gibbons CARRIED**
11. Adjournment – 9:51 AM

**Dates to Note:**

Next Board Meeting

- March 25th 2025
  - Boundary Expansion Exploration Report
  - Updates from Events and Governance/Advocacy Subcommittees