



HAMILTON BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT AREA

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

MINUTES

Present: Evan Apostol (Chair), Jason Morse, Andrew Mantecon, Michelle Blanchard, Lisa LaRocca, Ryan Moran, Graziella Panessa, Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija, Carolyn Ryall, Melanie Lawton, Emily Walsh, Emily Gilruth

Regrets: Una Gibbons, Mark Wu, Stefanie Bonazza, Francis Zanetti

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 A. Mantecon, Seconded by L. LaRocca CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION:** That the minutes of February 25, 2025 be approved as presented. **Moved by M. Blanchard, Seconded by G. Panessa CARRIED**
5. City of Hamilton Update - Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
 - a. Discussion of proposed Gore Park road closures - Carolyn Ryall Director, Transportation Division
Councillor Kroetsch began by discussing updates relevant to the downtown core, including the intention to move the food drive hosted in Gore Park on Saturdays, and more information about the vacant 89 King Street East. He then opened a discussion of a possible road closure along the south leg of King Street East and Hughson Street South that run through Gore Park. The feedback from the board of directors indicated that they would like to see improved signage in the park to better convey the current traffic regulations, and Councillor Kroetsch indicated that he would return to the next board meeting with a more detailed plan and designs to give a better idea of the proposed closure.
6. Hamilton Police Services Update - A/Sgt. Kenneth Kaija shared crime statistics from the month of March, sharing that a majority of the reported instances came from Jackson Square, which is not included within the Downtown Hamilton BIA's boundary. He then shared statistics surrounding the core patrol and the visits that they have paid to businesses within the downtown core. He ended by addressing the steps that the Hamilton Police Service have been taking to address open-air drug use, including confiscating the substances and offering addiction support.
7. Financials - **MOTION:** That the financials of January 2025 be approved as presented. **Moved by L. LaRocca, Seconded by A. Mantecon CARRIED**

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.

8. Discussion Items

- a. Boundary Expansion Exploration Report (*Appendix 1 - to be distributed*) – Emily Walsh shared a presentation about the possibility of boundary expansion, including examples of other BIAs across the province with information on their boundaries, relation to neighbouring BIAs and levies. She suggested that the board of management review this document on their own, and then return to the April board meeting with questions or discussion points. The board of management then briefly discussed possible BIA structures, including amalgamation or an association of BIAs within a given geographical area.

Quorum was lost at 10:00 A.M. As a result, the final two agenda items, Discussion Items: Event Subcommittee Minutes and Governance/Advocacy Minutes and the BIA Staff Update, were shared for information only. No formal decisions were made or motions carried on these items.

- b. Events Subcommittee Minutes (*Appendix 2 - to be distributed*) – Emily Walsh briefly discussed the outcome of the Events Subcommittee meeting, sharing that there was interest in alternate summer programming, and that the BIA would continue looking at starting a series of networking sessions in addition to a downtown gala.
- c. Governance / Advocacy Subcommittee Minutes (*Appendix 3 - to be distributed*) – Emily Walsh briefly discussed the outcome of the Governance/ Advocacy Subcommittee, sharing that there are changes coming to the associate membership policy and a new legal disclaimer policy, with votes to adopt recommendations relating to these policies coming to the April board meeting.

9. Other Items - BIA Staff Update (*Appendix 4 - to be distributed*) – Emily Walsh shared a variety of updates that are relevant to the Downtown Hamilton BIA, including the patio program, office conversion grant program, BIA staff's participation in the upcoming OBIAA conference and new business openings within the Downtown Hamilton BIA boundary.

10. Adjournment – 10:12 AM

Dates to Note:

OBIAA Conference: March 31 to April 1

Next Board Meeting

- April 22, 2025