



HAMILTON BUSINESS  
IMPROVEMENT AREA

Board of Management  
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 - 9:00 am  
Hybrid - DHBIA Office 104 - 20 Hughson St S and virtual

### MINUTES

Present: Evan Apostol (Chair), Jason Morse, Andrew Mantecon, Michelle Blanchard, Ryan Moran, Graziella Panessa, Mark Wu, Lisa LaRocca, A/Sgt. Jason Henry, Emily Walsh, Emily Gilruth, Joseph Simpson

Regrets: Una Gibbons, Stefanie Bonazza, Francis Zanetti, Councillor Cameron Kroetsch

1. Welcome and comments from the Chair – Jason welcomed everyone
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - None
3. Agenda - **MOTION:** That the agenda be approved as presented. **Moved by M. Blanchard, Seconded by G. Panessa CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION:** That the minutes of November 25, 2025 be approved as presented. **Moved by M. Blanchard, Seconded by G. Panessa CARRIED**
5. ~~City of Hamilton Update – Councillor Cameron Kroetsch~~
6. Hamilton Police Services Update - Acting Sergeant Jason Henry introduced himself as the new crime manager for the Downtown Hamilton BIA, and then the board of management discussed what information they would like from him moving forward. The board of management confirmed their interest in crime statistics, information about core patrol and encampment response, in addition to updates regarding any potential new HPS programs.
7. Financials - **MOTION:** That the financials of November 2025 be approved as presented. **Moved by M. Blanchard, Seconded by L. LaRocca CARRIED**
8. Other Items - BIA Staff Update for January 2026
  - a. Tree Lighting partnerships (direction requested)
  - b. King William summer involvement (direction requested)
  - c. BIA Awards of Excellence tickets (decision required)

Executive Director Emily Walsh began by sharing an update regarding the 2025 Hamilton Holiday Tree Lighting and some struggles BIA staff faced with the operating partners for this event. After discussion, the board of management prompted BIA staff to explore alternative partnerships. Walsh then discussed possible options for participation in the proposed closure of King William Street over the summer, and the board of management expressed interest in participating more. The board of management then discussed whether they wished to continue purchasing tickets for board members to attend the BIA Awards of Excellence, and agreed that this

**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.**

was not necessary moving forward. Emily Walsh then ended the presentation by discussing a variety of topics relevant to the downtown core, including changes to commercial waste collection, changes to the 2027 budget template, and more.

9. Adjournment – 9:54 AM

**Dates to Note:**

Next Board Meeting - February 24, 2026