



HAMILTON BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT AREA

Board of Management
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 - 9:00 am
Hybrid - DHBIA Office 104 - 20 Hughson St S and virtual

MINUTES

Present: Evan Apostol (Chair), Jason Morse, Michelle Blanchard, Ryan Moran, Graziella Panessa, Lisa LaRocca, Francis Zanetti, A/Sgt. Jason Henry, Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, Emily Walsh, Emily Gilruth, Joseph Simpson

Regrets: Andrew Mantecon, Una Gibbons, Stefanie Bonazza, Mark Wu

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 R. Moran CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION:** That the minutes of January 27, 2026 be approved as presented. **Moved by R. Moran, Seconded by J. Morse CARRIED**
5. City of Hamilton Update - Councillor Cameron Kroetsch (Appendix 1) – Councillor Kroetsch provided a variety of updates relevant to the BIA and City of Hamilton council, including information regarding the upcoming Downtown Revitalization Strategy, ongoing concerns about the area surrounding Jackson and MacNab Streets, the upcoming municipal election, updates from the downtown subcommittee and more.
6. Hamilton Police Services Update - Acting Sergeant Jason Henry provided the board of management with crime statistics for the downtown core, including numbers from January 2026 and a comparison of the number of reported incidents in 2025 versus 2024. He then spent some time answering questions from the board of management about the response to open drug use, methods of advocacy and ways of obtaining more police data relevant to the downtown core.
7. Financials - **MOTION:** That the financials of December 2025 be approved as presented. (Appendix 2) – **Moved by G. Panessa, Seconded by F. Zanetti CARRIED**
8. Discussion - Letter to City (Request for BIA Support) (Appendix 3) – Michelle Blanchard introduced a letter urging the city for more support to address ongoing safety issues within the downtown core. Emily Walsh then asked the board of management if there was interest in the BIA adding itself as a signature in support of the letter. The board of management discussed the matter, and agreed with the condition that select edits be made to the content of the letter. **MOTION:** Approve support for the letter, subject to the provided feedback being taken into account in the final draft. **Moved by G. Panessa, Seconded by F. Zanetti 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.

9. Other Items - BIA Staff Update for February 2026 (Appendix 4) – Executive Director Emily Walsh provided the board of management with a variety of updates relevant to the downtown core, including changes to recycling collection, the new city-led reporting tool, marketing proposals for BIAs across the city, and more.
10. Adjournment - 10:14 AM

Dates to Note:

Next Board Meeting - March 24, 2026