



Via Italia BIA AGM 2025 Budget Meeting Minutes

Date: October 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Via Italia BIA Office, 836 Erie Street East

Board Members Present:, Pietro DiPonio (Interim President), Franca Conciatori (Treasurer), Teresa Silvestri (Past President), Mike Vonella (Secretary), Tony Conciatori (Director), Graham Marko (Director), Adriano Ciotoli (Director),

Regrets:, Peter Vitti (Director)

BIA Stakeholders Present: Leo Silvestri, Grace Ferrera, Angelo Vissochi, Bryan Datoc, Sarah Zagas, Danny Zagas

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by: Mike Vonella, Secretary, and Brandi Myles, Coordinator

Call to Order and Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Graham Marko. Passed unanimous.

President's Report for 2024

Pete DiPonio reports:

- One of the biggest Carrousel of Nations in the city was held in Via Italia with constant interactive programming, food, and festivities highlighting the Italian culture and showcasing various BIA businesses. Carrousel was busier this year, and everyone is looking forward to building on it in the future.
- Tour di Via Italia and St. Angela Fest were held again this year which drew thousands of supporters from all over to celebrate these Via Italia traditions.
- The Community Garden was enhanced with more pollinator plants and the another successful Butterfly Festival was held drawing hundreds to witness the release of monarchs and learning how to plant pollinator gardens to help the environment.
- The first Open Streets East End edition was held and it was a huge success and merchants, employees, and residents alike are all looking forward to it being held in the area as soon as possible again. Pete notes that Adriano's auxillary event during Open Streets went well.
- Fostered relationships with long standing supporters like TWEPI, MCC, WIFF, local magazines and media outlets, City of Windsor, Windsor Police, Windsor Fire, and Art Windsor-Essex among others.
- All of this was accomplished despite having had a leadership change within the year by the President step away from the role in April.

Finance:

2025 Proposed Budget:

Treasurer's Report

Presentation by Treasurer, Franca C, of tentative budget of \$125,000 for 2025 and its allocation as



broken down according to city budget template, as well as the 2023 Financial Statement draft review from KPMG.

Franca C. breaks down the budget proposal with the attending members in each line detail.

Discussion:

Floor opens for questions and comments from group. Questions about BIA levy increases, and Enwin raising fees. It's noted that taxes are being increased this year but will not affect the levy. A request would need to be submitted and it's discussed that this should not be the year due to increases on everyone elsewhere.

Motion by Teresa S. to pass proposed 2025 budget. Board votes unanimously in favour for proposed 2025 budget. Passed.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report and to submit the 2025 budget proposal by Teresa S. Unanimous. Passed.

Christmas Décor:

Discussion on holiday décor installations for the 2024/25 season with references of past installations. Pete D. notes that some of the décor is showing signs of wear and not viable for this year, and that there needs to be additional garland for the big tree. The light pole enhancers (stars) are rusted and in poor shape. Discussion on how to possibly fix them for future use, but Pete D. notes they may be too damaged. Enhancers have not been installed in years. The metal over-the-street banner has burnt out lights, and discussion on cannibalizing the lights from the stars to use on the banner to make them all alike and working. Discussion on small vinyl banners. Last year's invoice was roughly \$8000 and included the installation of the large Christmas tree, the 4 characters, the 4 corner trees, the over-the-street banner, and yearly storage fees.

Question regarding the street lined trees and lighting by Member, Bryan D. Explanation and discussion on how they are installed in trees and attached to poles. Noted that the GFCI's may get water in them and cause the lights to go out. Bob V. has been hired to keep the trees lit as best as possible and goes through the BIA once a month to restring and reset what's necessary. Noted that trees may need to be stripped of lights completely and restrung from scratch due to wear and tear and tree growth. Graham M. and Bob V. to look at trees to see what's needed to bring them back to full working order and look more decorative. Adriano C questions about uplighting and Graham M. notes that LED lights would cost approx \$250 per tree with no security measures in place. Discussion to be continued.

Member, Bryan D. questions whether any of the holiday installation could be kept year-round to minimize installation costs, and none are found at this time.

Noted that each year the BIA spends thousands of dollars on tree lighting, and it's an on-going expense and the display is seemingly never cohesive. Suggestions to help mitigate this include trying to phase the updates as opposed to one large endeavour or address every other tree. Discussion to be continued.

Discussion about new installation of a lighting display in the form of a Christmas tree at the obelisk at Parent and Erie (like the Jackson Park "Bright Lights" tree). The city has agreed to allow this if conditions are met (eg. drawings submitted, collar details, attachment details, plans and permits, colour of lights, electrical requirements, insurance, and 24-hour contact). Agreed that this should be done next year with more time to execute it properly.



Motion by Franca C. to spend up to \$10,000 to install over-the-street banner, the large Christmas tree, the 4 characters, the 4 trees at the 4 obelisks, more lights if necessary, and more garland for the large Christmas tree. Unanimous. Passed.

Storage: Adriano C. to ask his landlord about pricing for storage due to Angelstar downsizing.

Open Discussion:

Member, Bryan D. questions if there are grants available for seasonal decorations. Adriano C. states it's possible to be creative with applications. Discussion on hiring grant writers and/or using Chat GPT. Pete D. states that the BIA has received grants in the past (alley lights, alley signs, tree lights, weekend open street events) and no viable opportunities have currently presented themselves. Brandi M. mentions that links to federal, provincial and municipal grants are included in each merchant newsletter, and the BIA is in contact with TWEPI and the OBIAA regularly for any possible grant opportunities for any member to take advantage of.

Appointment and/or Re-appointment of Executive Board Officers: Due to President Filip Rocca, stepping down earlier in the year, Vice President Pete DiPonio has been seated as the interim President. At this annual general meeting, it's acknowledged that a new President be nominated and appointed by the board with members present as per city by-law. It's also noted that as per the city by-law, at the first meeting of each new year, the appointment and/or re-appointment is required again. Adriano C. questions time commitment. Pete D. notes that it's an individual choice. Questions about how to get new members on board by Adriano C. and Bryan D. and by-law is referred to where it states that a board may have a maximum of 9 and minimum of 5 directors. A general election would need to be held to add new board members.

Nominations open for President:

Franca C. nominates Pete D., and Graham M. seconds it. Pete D. declines.
Pete D. nominates Mike V., and Franca C. seconds it. Mike V. accepts.
Teresa S. nominates Graham M. and Tony C. seconds it. Graham M. declines.
Mike V. acclaimed as President

Nominations open for Vice President:

Mike V. nominates Graham M. and Tony C. seconds it. Graham M. accepts.
Graham M. nominates Teresa S. Franca C. seconds it. Teresa S. declines.
Graham M. acclaimed as Vice President

Nominations open for Secretary:

Tony C. nominates Adriano C. and Teresa S. seconds it. Adriano C. accepts.
No other nominations.
Adriano C. acclaimed as Secretary

Nominations open for Treasurer:

Adriano C. nominates Franca C. and Graham M. seconds it. Franca C. accepts with Teresa S. as co-treasurer
Tony C. nominates Teresa S. and Franca C. seconds it. Teresa S. accepts with Franca C. as co-treasurer
Franca C. and Teresa S. will continue as co-treasurers

