

Board Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2026

Location: BIA Office, 836 Erie Street East

Time: 7 pm

Director Board Members Present: Mike Vonella, Teresa Silvestri, Franca Conciatori, Adriano Ciotoli, Tony Conciatori

General Members: Leo Silvestri, Grace Ferrera

Non-Member Public: Brandi Myles

Regrets: Pete DiPonio, Pete Vitti, Mark McKenzie

Call to Order

Mike calls the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting approved unanimously.

Finance

\$92,503 in bank. \$25,407 in reserve. Year-end paperwork with Nizam bookkeeper. Franca will file for HST when paperwork is finalized.

Events & Marketing

Social Media

Social media continues to expand through the legacy business interview series while maintaining ongoing promotion of events, merchants, and current initiatives using a tiered scheduling approach.

Statistics from February 28 – April 28:

- Facebook: 189,733 views, 12,000 engagements, and 409 new net followers
- Instagram: 143,286 views, 7,500 engagements, and 294 new net followers

Brandi and Jaylyn have completed interviews with Kurley's, La Stella, and TDVI organizers to date.

Upcoming interviews include Gennaro's, Mediterranean, Dolce Vita, and The Suit Shop.

Carrousel

Planning continues for Carrousel 2026, using last year's successful event as a framework for this year's festival.

The board discussed inviting the Fogolar dancers to participate in the opening ceremonies. Teresa will speak with Christina regarding the availability of the Folklore dancers throughout the weekend. The board will also inquire about having the Voce Ciociare choir perform again following the outdoor mass.

Discussion took place regarding ways to better connect WindsorEats' Mexican Village with Via Italia's Italian Village during the festival weekend. Directional signage was identified as a valuable asset. WindsorEats may be able to assist by providing signage to help with wayfinding between locations.

Mike and Brandi will continue visiting restaurants and cafés alongside the MCC to encourage participation through special Italian-themed menu items and promotions.

Additional discussion took place regarding potential pasta eating contests and musical entertainment lineups.

TDVI

Brandi has been coordinating t-shirt orders from participating merchants for the races and working with Sawyer to communicate with organizers regarding use of her parking lot again this year.

Earth Day Clean-Up

Mike spearheaded a successful Via Italia clean-up initiative in conjunction with four other BIAs. Volunteers were able to see a City of Windsor sanitation vehicle up close and interact with it thanks to Jim Leether, Manager of Environmental Services, who also donated his time to help clean the area.

Area BIA's continue to collaborate to try to get participation from member businesses to take pride in their environments.

Safety & Beautification

Mike and Brandi met with Jim Leether and conducted a physical site walk to determine placement locations for the new garbage receptacles. City will place them asap.

A section of decorative street lighting is currently out of service. Tony advised that someone had removed a metal ground cover and cut wiring leading to one of the light poles.

The City will deliver seasonal planters once they are ready. Teresa has been coordinating placement locations with the City.

New Business/Open Discussion

Adriano advised that Craft Heads and Phog are expected to be open by June.

Discussion took place regarding ongoing concerns related to unhoused individuals and open drug use within the area, as well as possible approaches to addressing incidents when they arise.

A new restaurant called "Moonlight" is preparing to open in the former Apollovini location.

The Painters' Union has purchased the former Brigantino's property across from Kurley's.

Motion to adjourn by Teresa. Unanimous. Adjourned.


Mike Vonella, President

May 8, 2026

Date


Brandi Myles, Coordinator, in lieu of Secretary

May 8, 2026

Date