

Board Meeting Minutes: Sept 17, 2024

Location: BIA Office

Time: 7-9:00 pm

Director Board Members Present: Pete DiPonio, Franca Conciatori, Teresa Silvestri, Tony Conciatori, Graham Marko, Adriano Ciotoli

General Members: Sarah Athanasia, Danny Zagas, Reda Mansour, Grace Ferrara

Non-Member Public: Brandi Myles

Regrets: Pete Vitti, Mike Vonella, Mark McKenzie

Pete calls the meeting to order.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

Finance

- \$17,407.88 in reserve
- Opening balance 12,382.47.
- Balance of \$6177 plus \$800 pending
- 5k anticipated in expenses for Open Streets
- Should be last big expense before next installment cheque
- KPMG had all information and didn't realize because it was in one of their summer student's inboxes. They are now aware of it. Reached out that day for further information on the federal grant deposits and other deposits. Franca and Brandi provided necessary information, and they should be able to finish the audit now without further delay.
- 2025 budget due Nov. 8th. AGM to be held prior.

Marketing & Events

Butterfly Festival

- Successful day. \$1400 spent, and it garnered a lot of media interest.
- Garden is still going, and plants will most likely stay until mid-October. Teresa mentions maybe the planters should stay until mid-October as well and will request it as long as they stay healthy looking.
- Planters looked beautiful this year, and the city did a great job with them.
- Adriano inquires about possible expansion of festival.
- Kurley's was open this year and did well with overflow from the festival in for food and drinks.

Open Streets

- 10 am – 2 pm event on Sunday, Sept 22nd
- Brandi has list of organizations and activations she has accumulated for the event. Quite a few merchants will also participate with various activities. Vendors are at a minimum, but WindsorEats will be having a vendor event in the alley by their area in collaboration with Phog and Craftheads. Discussed potential activations from Howard to Parent.
- Pete mentions how it's generally a busy day throughout the city and should be a good day for Erie Street merchants this year.
- Adriano asks about social media. City had requested we wait until they give their permission, and Brandi states that Christina has posts and reels ready and will publish them regardless tomorrow.
- Adriano questions budget of Open Streets, where it is currently, and if it's seemingly in the ballpark or would need less or more. Pete states that more should be known after it is over and totals are in.
- Brandi reiterates that it will be a fun day, but helpers are still welcome.

Christmas Décor

- Discussion on what will be installed this year. Teresa mentions that lights need to be fixed. Franca asks about the roundabout and whether a Christmas tree silhouette could be installed around the obelisk at the roundabout. Brandi to ask the city again about this. Discussion about condition of Christmas banners vs regular banners, as well as overhead lighted banner, and Christmas tree condition.
- Discussion on trees and the city owning and trimming them. Lights are disappearing in the growth of the trees. Bob has put new lights on the outside of the trees, but still need new ones. Tony points out that this will be an ongoing issue. Currently at an estimated \$8000 in tree lighting spent this year. Pete suggests a budget item be put in place and discussion to be deferred to next month's board meeting.
- Adriano questions uplighting as opposed to string lights. Vandalism would be an issue for low lights, as it is with string lights. Franca mentions solar lights possibility. Pete mentions Bob may be the person to ask.
- Questions about lighting around door of church. Grace states that the stairs and railings would be first to be attended to. Father Timothy would be the person to ask for further information.
- Pete to ask Lou about décor condition
- Discussion on budgeting for décor throughout the year.
- Brandi mentions last year's exterior holiday display offers from the BIA wasn't taken fully advantage of last year, but perhaps more businesses would buy into it this year now that it's better known of an initiative.
- Graham to further ask Bob about uplighting possibilities and what they would entail. Pete points out that the BIA is 14 blocks long and would require an expensive undertaking to ensure it's all included. Discussion to be continued.

Open Discussion/New Business

Refined Roast- Side of Gastropub (Former Aurora Pastry). Asian fusion café with drinks and baked goods.

Aventino Osteria-(Old Mancuso's beside Italia Bakery) to open in November

The Well - to open this month

Lolo Café- Beside El Milagro (across from Gina's) open

Discussion about St. Leonard's and street cleaning again, and how great of an organization they are and how helpful they were during TDVI.

AGM to be held Tuesday, Oct. 22nd. Brandi to mail notifications according to the city by-law to tax roll list of property owners and property for delivery before 15 days of meeting.

Motion to end meeting by Tony. All in favour. Meeting Closed.



Pietro DiPonio, President



Brandi Myles, Coordinator