

Meeting: Via Italia BIA Board Meeting

Date: June 20, 2023 Location: BIA Office Time: 7:00 PM

Director Attendees: Filip Rocca, President; Pietro DiPonio, Vice-President; Franca Conciatori, Treasurer; Mike Vonella Jr., Secretary; Teresa Silvestri, Past President; Tony Conciatori, Director; Graham Marko, Director (late)

Regrets: Mark McKenzie, Councillor; Adriano Ciotoli, Director; Pete Vitti, Director

Member Attendees: Leo Silvestri, Heritage Garden Representative, Grace Ferrara

Minutes Submitted: Mike Vonella and Brandi Myles

Call to Order

Adoption of the Minutes:

- Moved by Mike Vonella Jr, seconded by Pietro (Pete) DiPonio
- That the minutes of the meeting of the Via Italia BIA Board of Directors held May 16, 2023 BE ADOPTED as presented
- Carried.

Finance:

- Franca Conciatori, Treasurer and Teresa Silvestri, Past President, reports that there is currently \$87,500 in the bank.

Events & Marketing:

Carousel of Nations:

- Filip notes there have been some hiccups with city stage. There will be an additional charge to the BIA due to where it will be located. As well, the health unit has been overwhelmed but the BIA and merchants who plan to participate have all been exercising their due diligence in trying to get a hold of them to comply with their needs.
- Anticipated 6-8 food vendors, including Bacchus, La Contessa, Mezzo, Spago, Gennaro, Naija FoodEats, Gina's, What's Poppin' Popcorn Factory.
- Italian bands have been booked, as well as a fashion show, talent show and some Italian sports cars will be part of the event.
- The Therapeutic Learning Centre will be holding a lemonade sale at Mezzzo on Saturday afternoon to help the kids build social skills and will be donating the proceeds to In Honour Of The Ones We Love.
- Mike V. notes that the talent show is booked up with 20 participants. He states the prize money was a big attraction for the participants signing up. Sonny Borrelli and Mike V will be running the talent show and preparations are going well. The show is expected to be in two parts and should take around 5 hours with the Ciociaro Folklore Dancers in between the sections.

- Mike Vonella's parents from Vonella Clothing have made a 10 m x 2 m flag that will need to be hung up. Filip to ask Angelo V. if it can be hung from his balcony that will be in the heart of the festival.
- Brandi to ensure that social media manager will be on site for the highlights of the Carrousel and will be posting videos throughout.
- Brandi requests board representation for the Carrousel kickoff when the MCC entourage will be present and welcoming all.
- Pete DiPonio notes that a lot of work is going into this Carrousel and it's appreciated.

TDVI/St. Angela Fest:

- **TDVI-** Pete DiPonio reports fundraising is down despite the planning going well. Prize list has been adjusted accordingly. Hand cycle event could not get enough commitments for this year.
- **St. Angela Fest-** The St. Angela Fest seems to be all set from the BIA's perspective and involvement. They will be closing Parent to Lillian on the weekend and have asked for the BIA's barricades. They have been reminded that the BIA will not have any further commitment other than the donation of \$1000 towards the festival and use of the barricades. Teresa S to deliver cheque at next St. Angela meeting.

Beautification/Safety:

Heritage Garden:

- Leo Silvestri requests attention to the garden lights and streetlight poles that aren't working. Filip reports that Enwin is scheduled to fix all the poles on the street that night.
- Leo S asks when the mulch will be spread. It is noted that next year it will be best to schedule people to spread mulch before having it delivered. Discussion as to how to best get the mulch spread as quickly as possible.
- Leo S would like a media release to go out for the Butterfly Festival, as well as a request to go out for restaurants to make special Butterfly Festival menus to promote the event.
- Brandi mentions there is still a need for watering the garden on Saturdays and Sundays. Mike V states that his TLC group may be able to water on some Saturdays and will let Brandi know.
- Leo S brings lawn signs and discussion regarding where and how they should be placed. They are also available for anyone to place in their own gardens to promote pollinator gardens.

Flag Banners:

- One has been repaired by La Stella after having been hit by trucks.
- Estimated 28 flags left for future use.
- Bracket numbers are low, and Pete D has repurposed many. Three are missing east of Lincoln.

Open Discussion/New Business:

Shuttle:

- Graham Marko has listed the shuttle on behalf of the BIA on Kijiji and Auto Trader and stated that he has received 5-6 email inquiries and has sent them details. The shuttle is listed for \$8000 and Graham comments that once the interested parties see the mechanic report, they are no longer interested at that price point due to the work that will be needed to make it road worthy. Graham states that he has mentioned the price could go down to \$6000 but they still are not interested. Pete suggests Graham might be able to ask the initial interested parties what the shuttle is worth to them and negotiate from there. Graham to reach out to them.

Digital Main Street Grant:

- Grants available for individual businesses. Filip requested that Brandi attach the link in email correspondences, and Filip and Graham have received a grant from them in the past. Brandi has sent out link 3 times this past year, and a few merchants have clicked on the link but there have been no questions regarding it directed to the BIA as of now.

Tree Lighting:

- Additional tree lighting was requested by Windsor Eats. Filip received quote for 48 strands at 25' each to be added to trees. \$8000 total. It is noted that if the BIA were to add new trees to the lighting initiative it would be for all trees on street missing lights throughout the BIA and not one area only. Discussion deferred.

Alley Name by Windsor Eats:

- Brandi messaged city regarding why the alley by Windsor Eats was missed in the naming of alleys. Waiting on reply.

Bocce Court:

- City in talks with developers regarding storm sewers. Engineers/developers have asked the BIA for help negotiating and facilitating with latest pause in the development. Brandi or Filip to message Councillor McKenzie to inquire about best way to progress.

Real Estate:

- Old Alla Barese café is being torn down by owners. Half to stay up and half to be torn down according to their plans. Massage therapist to move in when construction is done.
- Former Il Gabbiano restaurant still under construction. Hoping to be open by the fall.

Insurance:

- Due on July 15th. Brandi to message Ives Insurance (current insurance providers) to see if they can match the insurance quote that was received from Hamilton Insurance for comparison.

Traffic Accidents:

- Filip messaged Councillor McKenzie to implement some traffic calming measures as have been discussed over the course of the last few years. Reoccurring accidents happening on the street and residents and merchants have complained to the BIA. Discussion on temporary poles installed in different areas throughout Ontario and how effective they are. Waiting on city to report back on how best to proceed.

Crime:

- Pedestrian was robbed in daylight within the BIA. The suspect's vehicle was caught on video from a resident's camera system.
- Displaced parties and open drug users have been asked by various merchants and residents to move on from the street. Discussion about port a potties in alleys from construction crews and how they should be moved to detract from drug use inside of them.
- Filip notes that downtown cameras have been helpful with deterring criminal activity. The cameras use facial recognition and have helped with arrests. Filip to reach out to Councillor Agostino to see how the cameras are progressing downtown and express an interest for Via Italia to potentially install some in the future.

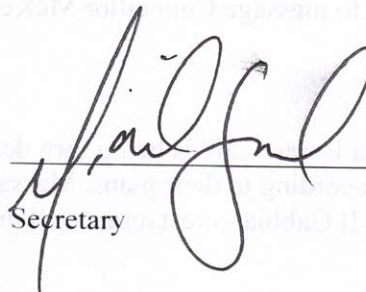
Motion to adjourn:

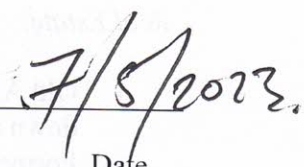
- Pete DiPonio makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

- The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at the BIA Office, at 7:00 PM.

End of meeting.


Secretary


Date

[Handwritten Signature]

President

July 5, 2023

Date

