

Board Meeting Minutes: Oct 15, 2024

Location: BIA Office

Time: 7-9:00 pm

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

General Members: Sarah Athanasia, Danny Zagaz, Grace Ferrara

Non-Member Public: Brandi Myles

Regrets: Pete Vitti, Councillor Mark McKenzie

Guest Presenter: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Pete calls the meeting to order.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

Presentation by Councillor Renaldo Agostino

- Councillor Agostino discusses possible lighting installations throughout BIA's and where funding could come from. To be continued
- Councillor Agostino presents idea of BIA's working together with ward funds, on city-wide digital scavenger hunt that would involve local artists and data capturing of participants that could be used for further marketing throughout. Questions on who owns data and who can access it. To be continued

Minutes of previous meeting approved unanimously

Open Streets

- Pete moves Open Streets discussion so Councillor Agostino may be present to hear the BIA's thoughts on the event
- Brandi reports it was a success for its first year on the street. 1000's of people came through the area for the event and participated in the activations
- Budget was \$5000 and approximately \$3300 was spent. Consensus that it was well worth the investment and a great event
- Councillor Agostino brings up "Open Doors" and suggests that it might be valuable to be activated within the areas every other year when Open Streets isn't activated in that area.
- Adriano questions origins of Open Streets with businesses involved as opposed to being City controlled
- Recommendations from board that Open Streets could be extended by a few hours. Councillor Agostino suggests writing a letter to the city to recommend it
- Adriano questions Councillor Agostino whether there could be a connection route from Ouellette to Via Italia with Open Streets and in general

Finance

- \$3300 in bank
- \$10,000 in reserve
- Waiting on KPMG to finish their work still so last installment of roughly \$54,000 will be issued. Franca to email auditor again to see why they have taken so long when they have had all the information. -They couldn't access the information before because it was in one of their summer student's emails they couldn't access. They finally accessed it, and are still working on it. The hold up is no fault of the BIA. Brandi to message Cristina at the city to see if there is anything they can help with and to apprise her of the situation. Mike to message his friend, John, at KPMG to ask where the situation stands as well. Brandi to ask Cristina Stanis at the city for possible help.
- Franca still working on HST issue and will continue to pursue other avenues. Mike to also ask his friend, John, at KPMG about it.
- Motion to accept financial report by Graham. Passed unanimously
- AGM on Oct. 22. Franca questions budgeting by committees and presents rough draft of overall budget. Pete reminds board that they will be selecting a new chair/president due to him having been interim president after Fil stepped down, and according to the by-law, a new chair/president is to be named/nominated and selected at a general meeting. He also reminds everyone that he is not interested in continuing as president. Brandi also reminds people that the new by-law also states that each first meeting of the new year, boards are to appoint executive members from the board members, and that they may be re-appointed or newly designated.

Marketing & Events

Christmas Décor

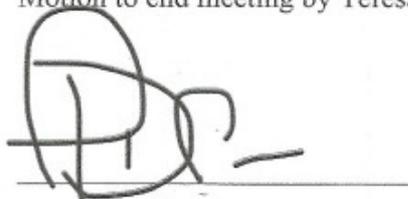
- Despite trying to start early, not much progress is being made due to installer having staffing issues. Storage will also be an issue going forward. The space where it is normally stored is no longer available. The tree is the biggest piece and will take up the most space.
- Discussion on what to put up, and what enhancements needed. Pete to look at the pieces and report back at the AGM next week.
- Discussion on whether there could be a tree lighting ceremony and it's noted that the church would need to be further involved and the new clergy are still getting situated
- Large Tree- \$2500, 4 characters- 1400, 4 little trees -720, Overhead Lit Banner-1500
- Discussion on pole banner enhancers and cost of approx. \$50/pole at \$95/hour vs Bob V at \$100/hr. Big tree needs a big bucket truck due to size and star placement. Discussion on what to do
- Angelstar's invoice last year was \$8000 with storage. Discussion on storage options. Adriano to ask his landlord about storage costs. Other options are storage containers or outdoor spaces.

- Pete and Brandi had a meeting with the city and approx. 4 diff departments to install a light installation at the obelisk at the Parent and Erie roundabout to ask if it could be done. The city has sent their requirements which include items such as, no red, yellow or green or blinking lights, a certificate of insurance, a traffic control plan, a right of way permit application, engineering plans, and the BIA's budget. The BIA has requested to contact the Bright Lights people to help. Discussion about costs and steps involved and to be continued when more information is gathered.

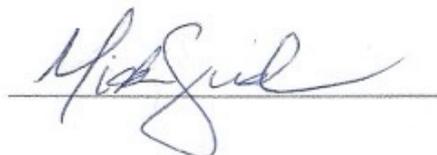
Open Discussion/New Business

- WIFF-Has requested sponsorship. Current ask of \$3000 includes, website posting, pre-roll postings, shared slide, opening night package of two tickets, two general screening tickets, and two tickets for closing night. Discussion regarding the goodwill and demographics involved with supporting WIFF and the ROI. Agreed that it's a worthwhile organization, and that the board would like to see about collaboration with them for a spring or summer outdoor screening in Via Italia as opposed to sponsoring the fall film festival downtown this year. Brandi to send email to Vincent to inquire about that. Adriano asks if there is a sponsorship package criteria ready for people who approach the BIA for sponsorships. It's noted that it doesn't happen often but Adriano to make a criteria list for the board to discuss.

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



Pietro DiPonio, President



Mike Vonella, Secretary