

Via Italia Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: July 21, 2026

Location: BIA Office, 836 Erie Street East

Time: 7 pm

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

General Members: Leo Silvestri

Non-Member Public: Brandi Myles

Regrets: Pete Vitti, Mark McKenzie

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

Finance

The BIA currently has \$26,020, with an additional \$25,407 held in reserve. KPMG is currently conducting the audit. Another levy cheque is expected in August, along with an HST reimbursement later in the year.

Discussion took place regarding upcoming and recurring monthly expenses.

Marketing / Events

Carrousel of the Nations

The Board discussed what went well during this year's Carrousel of the Nations and areas that could be improved. Overall feedback from the public and participants was positive. WindsorEats also reported a successful Mexican Village overall.

Discussion took place regarding event costs and opportunities to reduce expenses without detracting from the success of the event. Further discussion will continue.

Heritage Garden and Butterfly Festival

There is currently no storage container at the Heritage Garden. The previous shed was dilapidated and has been removed. Inquiries have been made regarding shipping containers and associated costs. Due to the location of the existing base pad, a 20' × 8' container would need to be craned into place, adding considerably to the cost.

Mike Vonella moved that the BIA approve up to \$6,000 for a stable, secure and durable storage unit at the Heritage Garden to accommodate garden supplies and other BIA assets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Leo S. suggested transitioning the garden to metal planting containers and approaching businesses regarding potential sponsorship opportunities for the containers.

Open Streets

Open Streets will return to Erie Street on September 20. WindsorEats will also be holding its Alley Party that weekend.

Brandi requested a budget for programming during Open Streets. Based on the programming expenses and budget from 2024, Mike Vonella moved that the BIA approve up to \$5,000 for Open Streets 2026. **Motion carried unanimously.**

University of Windsor Welcome Week

The University of Windsor approached the BIA regarding sponsorship for Welcome Week (Frosh Week). The Board discussed the possibility of contributing promotional items or merchandise from BIA businesses. Brandi will assemble a small gift basket featuring items from BIA businesses as a donation.

Safety / Beautification

Streetscaping

The new garbage receptacles are still expected. Jim Leether has been contacted and advised that they should be installed soon.

The Board discussed ongoing neighbourhood lighting concerns and ways to deter repeated vandalism. ENWIN has repaired the affected lights twice, and further repairs are again required. The BIA will continue to follow up with the City and ENWIN.

The busts at the four corners have been painted. The crosswalks at Parent Avenue have also been painted.

The Board discussed approaching Councillor Agostino again regarding decorative lighting solutions for the area.

Open Discussion / Other Business

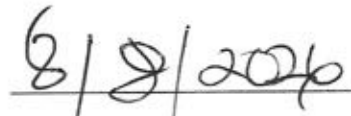
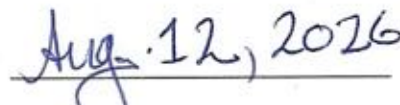
Pete DiPonio submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors, effective immediately.

Adriano raised the possibility of using the BIA's social media platforms to promote available commercial spaces within the district and encourage new businesses to locate on Erie Street. Jaylyn will look into options, including the possibility of promotional window coverings for vacant properties. The Board also discussed whether there may be value in having a real estate agent specialize in Erie Street commercial properties. The matter will be revisited.

Adriano will revise the initial BIA sponsorship proposal and circulate it to the Board for review.

Adjournment

Mike Vonella moved to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**


Mike Vonella, President
Date
Brandi Myles, Coordinator, in lieu of Secretary
Date