



Downtown
Kitchener
Business
Improvement
Area

January 22, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
260 King St. W., #300
Kitchener, Ontario

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - MEETING MINUTES

Present: Linda Jutzi, Darryl Moore, Cara Watson, Phong Tran, Councillor Debbie Chapman, Jessica Toomer, Jordan Dolson, Julie Phillips, Laird Robertson, Michael Rederer, Sarah Pearson, Councillor Stephanie Stretch, Mayor Berry Vrbanovic, Aura Hertzog, and Cory Bluhm.
Regrets: Martha Wallace, Cst. James Mitchell, and Cst. Lee Elliott.
Recorder: Stefanie Golling

The meeting began with Darryl Moore as Chair.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

Moved by Julie Phillips, seconded by Laird Robertson

"That the Board approves the January 22, 2025, agenda."

Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Cara Watson, seconded by Julie Phillips

"That the Board approves the November 27, 2024, minutes."

Carried Unanimously

DOWNTOWN SAFETY MEETING

The Board discussed the most recent Downtown Member Safety Meeting. Discussions included:

- The emotional, operational and financial challenges businesses are facing.
- Mayor Vrbanovic shared that staff and senior management at the City of Kitchener are committed to advocating and working with the Downtown Kitchener BIA to tackle these issues.
- A Downtown Safety Task Force, including representatives from various organizations, has been established to develop an action plan.
- Another membership meeting is planned to address the concerns further.
- Media observations and opportunities.
- Potential short-term solutions, including shifting funds to support the immediate needs of the membership.

Moved by Laird Robertson, seconded by Sarah Pearson

"That the Board approves in 2025, an allowance of up to \$200,000 focusing on safety and security. Funds are to be distributed in a manner that serves the best interest of the BIA, with the expectation that Linda Jutzi will report back to the Board in advance."

Carried Unanimously

The Board commended Linda Jutzi and the team for organizing the membership meeting.

Action items: Directors to setup a meeting with member business to discuss media concerns.

Action items: Discuss allocation of shifted funds at the February Board of Director Meeting.

SURPLUS FUND: ROOFTOP PARK

Jordan Dolson expressed enthusiasm for the possibility of a Rooftop Park. The Board discussed providing Ms. Dolson and Laird Robertson the ability to begin creating a preliminary plan to bring the idea to life.

LONG-TERM PARKING STRATEGY SURVEY

Aura Hertzog provided an update on the Long-Term Parking Strategy and shared that a questionnaire is being developed specifically for businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jessica Toomer, seconded by Jordan Dolson

"That the meeting adjourns."

Carried Unanimously