



January 27, 2021  
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS • MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** Linda Jutzi, Darryl Moore, Erika Holenski, Phong Tran, Cara Watson, Councillor Debbie Chapman, Julie Phillips, Kathy Crossley, Michael Rederer, Councillor Sarah Marsh, Cory Bluhm, Darren Becks, and Cst. James Mitchell.  
**Regrets:** Benjamin Mathew and Mayor Berry Vrbanovic  
**Recorder:** Stefanie Golling

The meeting began at 8:32 a.m., with Darryl Moore as Chair.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

*Moved by Julie Phillips seconded by Phong Tran*

“That the Board approve the January 27, 2021 agenda, with edits.”

**Carried Unanimously**

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Moved by Julie Phillips, seconded by Councillor Debbie Chapman*

“That the Board approve the November 25, 2020 meeting minutes.”

**Carried Unanimously**

### WRPS UPDATE

Cst. James Mitchell provided an update on the following:

- There is a more directed effort with Grand River Hospital towards assisting individuals suffering in/around the core.
- Graffiti increase around Fredrick and Benton Street.
- This will be Cst. James Mitchell’s second last meeting as he is being transferred; Cst. Amanda Gruber will be filling this role.

### Q4 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Treasurer, Phong Tran provided a Q4 financial update.

Linda Jutzi shared that staff have reached out to KPMG for an official auditing process.

*Moved by Kathy Crossley, seconded by Cara Watson*

“That the Board approve the Q4 Financial Statements.”

**Carried Unanimously**

## **UPDATE FROM THE CITY OF KITCHENER**

Cory Bluhm shared the following City of Kitchener Updates:

- The City of Kitchener will follow all Provincial orders for large events during the Summer of 2021. There will be no major festivals or gatherings and should they be permitted to have events, they will host no more than 100 people. The Special Events group are working with augmented procedures.
- Construction at the front of Kitchener City Hall is anticipated to continue until approximately August of 2021; the back is projected to start in the Fall of 2021.
- Winter programming will focus on small-based opportunities, with the goal to motivate and not have residents cooped up. Part of this will include the new digital walking tour app, with expert content. Would love to see the DTK Art Walk included.
- Council passed the City's budget, with \$250,000 in funding to address downtown challenges. This includes the removal and replacement of the trees on King Street, once the irrigation system is complete in the Spring – and the replacement of paving stones in necessary areas along King Street.
- The first *recovery plan* report is going to Council in 2-weeks and will have subsequent reports in the coming years to fully understand businesses needs. The first report proposes: free evening and weekend parking, waiving patio program fees, and to carry on with Digital Main Street should there be a need.
- Darren Becks added that staff are working on a horticulture plan that would include mapping planters along King Street and hanging baskets to for a more attractive look and consistency.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEEDBACK**

Linda Jutzi, and Darren Becks provided a high-level overview of the questions asked as part of the membership feedback calls. Some of the important feedback received was:

- Majority of businesses do not want to see King Street closed
- Some suggested a partial closure only, but that it not just be one block
- Majority of restaurants expressed need for patio enhancements with coverings to compete
- Many businesses are feeling the pain of the Provincial closures. It is important that staff develop a plan with maximum flexibility and continue to build on it.
- The need for community space, that allows customers to stay downtown where dining may not be available.

## **2021 PATIO SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Linda Jutzi stressed in her comments that if the BIA wants to assist with RECOVERY for businesses in DTK that the BIA should invest in a grand scale patio program

- Business recovery will heavily depend on outside interactions that feel open and safe given what was learned from 2020 and what we know will still be a part of 2021 (restrictions for inside and out)
- Ms. Jutzi shared that while her original path was to provide patios with coverings there would be benefit to working with Streetpatio Inc. as they can be a supplier for patio builds that include fencing, flooring, benches, flower pots and secured coverings, and that they can provide the City of Kitchener will all the diagrams required for operations
- Ms. Jutzi stated that the business owners desire to have patios up as soon as possible, for recovery and creating a space that competes across Waterloo Region for foot traffic
- Ms. Muller could work with patio owners to assist with design inside their patio that compliments their uniqueness
- Darren Becks shared visual concepts from Streetpatio Inc.
- Ms. Jutzi stressed that a February Board meeting decision was important to meet the April deadline to construct close to twenty(20) patios and three (2) community parklettes

Directors discussed the following:

- Community seating
- Storage for existing patio furniture
- Renting vs. owning the potential new patio furniture, including storage
- Potential interference of King Street updates
- Accessibility
- Benefits for other members, including retail.

Linda Jutzi expressed the importance of coming to a final decision at the February Board of Directors meeting. At this meeting they will present cost details.

*Moved by Cara Watson, seconded by Phong Tran*

“That the Board approve Linda Jutzi to move forward, with the City of Kitchener, to procure costs.”

**Carried Unanimously**

### **DTK ART WALK**

Linda Jutzi provided an update on phase two of the DTK Art Walk. Ms. Jutzi noted that installations will not be standard in size but will fit the selected businesses window. Artwork will be placed in occupied and vacant spaces throughout the core based on request.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Cory Bluhm provided an update on the Kitchener Market, and vendors.

- St. Mary's Parish has launched their Tiny Home Takeout. A tiny food truck that provides free meals for everyone from 5:00pm-7:00pm most evenings.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Julie Phillips, seconded by Councillor Debbie Chapman*  
"That the meeting adjourn."

**Carried Unanimously**