



Downtown  
Kitchener  
Business  
Improvement  
Area

February 25, 2026  
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
260 King St. W., #300  
Kitchener, Ontario

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS - MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Linda Jutzi, Cara Watson, Martha Wallace, Councillor Debbie Chapman, Jessica Toomer, Jordan Dolson, Julie Phillips, Laird Robertson, Michael Rederer, Sarah Pearson, Councillor Stephanie Stretch, Aura Hertzog and Sgt. Ryan Leslie.

**Regrets:** Darryl Moore, Phong Tran, and Mayor Berry Vrbanovic.

**Recorder:** Stefanie Golling

The meeting began with Cara Watson as Chair at 8:31 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS**

*Moved by Martha Wallace, seconded by Jordan Dolson*

"That the Board approves the February 25, 2026, agenda with amendments."

**Carried Unanimously**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Moved by Jessica Toomer, seconded by Julie Phillips*

"That the Board approves the January 28, 2026, minutes."

**Carried Unanimously**

### **WATERLOO REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE**

Sgt. Ryan Leslie shared updates on call volume in the King Street East area, new leadership at Central Division, crime prevention and support.

**Action item:** Linda Jutzi to provide an update on the Downtown Resource space.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Aura Hertzog shared the following Economic Development updates: focused efforts on waste management, removal of holiday décor, introduction of a micro-market in Square Peg, and the approval of a secondment position to focus on retail attraction.

## **Q4 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Michael Rederer shared the Q4 Financial Report, noting the shift in banking services. Directors further discussed Q4 spending and the financial audit process.

*Moved by Sarah Pearson, seconded by Laird Robertson*

"That the Board approve the 2025 Q4 Financial Report, as presented by Michael Rederer."

**Carried Unanimously**

**Action item:** Linda Jutzi to include Security discussion in March/April agenda.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Aura Hertzog and Linda Jutzi provided an update on the new Region of Waterloo Waste Management program, highlighting residential delivery, cart rollout, collection placement, member communication, Bylaw enforcement, and operational changes.

Directors discussed increased communication and a process for program inquiries and concerns.

## **MAKE IT KITCHENER 2.0**

Cory Bluhm joined the meeting to discuss the Make It Kitchener 2.0 Economic Development strategy, which aims to foster a vibrant, flourishing economy. Directors engaged in a discussion of the industry challenges they are facing, opportunities for growth, and potential major investments the City of Kitchener should consider to stimulate economic growth.

Mr. Bluhm shared that the information collected will be brought to Council in April/May, outlining areas of focus.

**Action item:** Cory Bluhm to share PowerPoint presentation with the Board.

**Action item:** Linda Jutzi to include the discussion topic on the April agenda about how the DTK BIA can support the city's shift.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Jordan Dolson, seconded by Laird Robertson*

"That the meeting adjourns."

**Carried Unanimously**