



April 26, 2023
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, Martha Wallace, Councillor Aislinn Clancy, Councillor Debbie Chapman, Jordan Dolson, Jessica Toomer, Laird Robertson, Sarah Pearson, Darren Becks, Cst. James Mitchell, and Michael Rederer.
Regrets: Julie Phillips and Mayor Berry Vrbanovic.
Recorder: Stefanie Golling.

The meeting began with Darryl Moore as Chair.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

Moved by Laird Robertson, seconded by Jordan Dolson

"That the Board approves the April 26, 2023, agenda."

Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Jessica Toomer, seconded by Cara Watson

"That the Board approves the March 22, 2023, meeting minutes."

Carried Unanimously

WATERLOO REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES

Cst. James Mitchell provided an update on behalf of Waterloo Regional Police Services, highlighting the process for sharing information, downtown patrol, encampments, and washroom facilities.

Q1 FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Phong Tran provided an overview of the Q1 Financial Reports.

Moved by Jordan Dolson, seconded by Councillor Aislinn Clancy

"That the Board approves the Q1 Financial Report, as presented by Phong Tran."

Carried Unanimously

OBIAA CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

Linda Jutzi shared an overview of her experience at the OBIAA Conference and the high-arching challenges BIAS are facing. These challenges included programs, staff turnover, board changes, strategic planning, parking, social issues, retail and business attraction, as well as foot-traffic.

Directors discussed similarities, including the conversion of 22 Frederick Street to residential, interest in pop-ups, and seasonal use of space.

MUSIC CITY CONFERENCE – CITY OF LONDON

Directors shared their experience at the Music City Conference in London. Discussion included: intentional investments, municipal support, bylaw considerations, UNESCO designation, and recognition that Downtown Kitchener is on the right path.

Director conference attendance: Linda Jutzi, Jessica Toomer, Laird Robertson, Cara Watson, and Darren Becks.

NEW SUMMER PROGRAM 2023

Linda Jutzi proposed a new summer program in 2023, using surplus funds from a federal grant. The intent is to increase the frequency of activity between large festivals to keep Downtown interesting and attractive. Activation would include Sunset Sessions (Vogelsang Green), soloist in the East-end on Saturdays, City of Kitchener entertainment support on Gaukel Street and the Indigenous Market.

Directors discussed: marketing and communication of programming, consideration for day-time hours, data collection, and the inclusion of equity-deserving communities,

Moved by Cara Watson, seconded by Laird Robertson

“To approve the Spring/Summer program to activate diverse and inclusive music events using surplus funds acquired from grants for a maximum spend of \$130,000.”

Carried Unanimously

GAUKEL STREET ACTIVATION

Darren Becks updated the Board on the Gaukel Block between Joseph and Charles Streets. The block was initially used for passive programming; however, after receiving a sizable grant, the City of Kitchener decided to take the area to the next level.

Shipping containers were dropped in the area and will be wrapped in art from 18 local artists. A kick-off event will occur in conjunction with Neighbours Day; Luke Swinson's roadway work is being refreshed, and large planters will be added as a roadway barrier. The area is expected to be used on a per-event basis from the end of May to September and should be complimentary to larger events like Canada Day, Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest, and Christkindl Market. The containers are not insulated; however, are water sealed. City staff will maintain the area, including garbage collection, similar to other public spaces.

Directors further discussed the following: plans for the other portion of Gaukel Street, loss of parking in the area, regular use of space, and city resources dedicated to supporting the area.

DOWNTOWN VISIONING COMMITTEE

Darren Becks shared that the City-led Downtown Visioning Committee was set up to participate in a series of conversations to help establish the direction of where the City will go for the next 10+ years. The feedback has not been surprising and highlighted creating a space for everyone. The input gathered (from the committee, community groups, and online) will be used to draft a vision of Downtown Kitchener and define a set of principles for future decision-making. This will be shared with the public for further input in June and then will be presented to Council for endorsement in the Fall.

Action item: Darren Becks to follow up with Linda Jutzi to include on a future agenda.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS FEEDBACK

Linda Jutzi shared a brief overview of the feedback received during the consultation process for the development of the new Strategic Priorities. L.Jutzi shared that there will be a full written report at the May Board Meeting and a budget presentation at the June Board Meeting.

The Board discussed targeting people living in the condos and bringing them together to talk about the urban experience. The Marketing Committee will lead this discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

*Moved by Councillor Aislinn Clancy, seconded by Phong Tran
"That the meeting adjourn."*

Carried Unanimously