



Downtown  
Kitchener  
Business  
Improvement  
Area

June 24, 2026  
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
260 King St. W., #300  
Kitchener, Ontario

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS • MEETING MINUTES

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

The meeting began with Darryl Moore as Chair at 8:30 a.m.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA/DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS

*Moved by Jessica Toomer, seconded by Cara Watson*

"That the Board approves the June 24, 2026, agenda."

**Carried Unanimously**

(1) Declared conflict filed, related to the budget funding allocated to Special Events.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Moved by Martha Wallace, seconded by Councillor Stephanie Stretch*

"That the Board approves the May 27, 2026, minutes."

**Carried Unanimously**

### WATERLOO REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Cst. Lee Elliott joined the meeting on behalf of WRPS to highlight several initiatives: a successful project outcome in the East End of the district targeting drug dealing and open drug use, pedestrian safety education efforts in the West End, and measures taken to address safety concerns before and during Canada Day.

**Action item:** Cst. Lee Elliott to investigate who is responsible for hazardous material collection in and around Victoria and Weber Street.

**Action item:** Aura Hertzog and Councillor Debbie Chapman to share Canada Day information with internal City of Kitchener departments and neighbourhood associations.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**

Aura Hertzog provided updates on behalf of Economic Development, highlighting upcoming special events and programming, the successful launch of summer initiatives, planned investments for future activations, efforts to enhance vibrancy around City Hall through new murals and seating, and staffing updates.

Directors inquired about the activation of Gaukel Block over the summer, the use and promotion of the splash pad, and the enforcement of non-smoking areas.

**Action item:** Aura Hertzog to share feedback with internal City of Kitchener staff regarding concerns around non-smoking areas.

**Action item:** Aura Hertzog to investigate sharing splash-pad closure information with the general public and DTK BIA members.

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Jordan Dolson provided an update on the Lunch and Learn session for potential new Directors, noting that three individuals have expressed interest, with two able to attend the session.

Additionally, the Governance Committee recently met in response to the City of Kitchener's request for an election-related policy for the DTK BIA. The Committee developed a policy for Board approval that addresses conflicts of interest for both Directors and Staff.

*Moved by Jordan Dolson, seconded by Sarah Pearson*

"That the Board approve the proposed Use of Election-Related Resources policy as presented by the Governance Committee."

**Carried Unanimously**

## **SUMMER EVENTS UPDATE**

Arnold Yescas and Lori Muller joined to share upcoming summer events, highlighting: DTK Welcomes the World (FIFA World Cup screening), Sunset Sessions and the Far East Asian Night Market.

Directors shared opportunities for cross-promotion and engagement during large events and applauded Arnold Yescas and Lori Muller for the success thus far on DTK Welcomes the World programming.

## **2027 DRAFT OPERATING BUDGET**

Using feedback from the budget exercise and the 2026 operating budget, the Board reviewed each line item within the following categories: Activate, Beautify & Enhance, Connect, and Safety. This feedback will be shared with Linda Jutzi to assist in developing the initial draft of the 2027 operating budget for discussion at the July meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved by Jessica Toomer, seconded by Cara Watson*  
"That the meeting adjourns."

**Carried Unanimously**