

**Ottawa St. Business Improvement Area**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Date:** January 3, 2024

**Location:** Virtual meeting through Zoom

**Present:** Ettore Bonato, Mike Osborne, Mark Trudell, Syx Langemann, Lawrence Holland,

**Regrets:** Tracy Paterson, Mark McKenzie, Constable Andie Suthers

**Guest Speakers:**

- None

**Absent:** None

**Recorder:** Ettore Bonato

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:08PM

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Mark Trudell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Osborne, CARRIED

**Disclosure of Interest:**

- None

**Adoption of Past Minutes:**

- AGM minutes ; 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Trudell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ettore Bonato
- Will have September and October shortly
- Will have minutes of the Environment Department from the City of Windsor shortly

### **Coordinators Report:**

- All merchants now have the QR code sticker
- We need something to entice members to become more involved in events, or even just ideas of what they would like to see
- Win Your Purchase participation was up from last year; many ballots
- Certain merchants were able to get their patrons involved more than other merchants
- Most all winners won the full amount of \$200 in BIA Dollars
- When it comes to events, the board should see if we can find corporate sponsors
- Syx will give a list of possible donors to Mike
- We need to come up with a sponsorship package; we have many to follow as an example
- Hallowe'en this year, we need direction markers for flow of traffic; there were so many people last year it was chaotic and dangerous

### **Council Report:**

- Was not present
- The board would like information on the revitalization of Lanspeary Park; UPDATE: City council voted January 15 to go ahead with the project at a cost of \$12,000,000.00
- Where can ward funds be directed for BIA's; only specific things?
- Can we move the benches closer to bus stops which need them?

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Things are up to date; filing is almost finished
- After our 2<sup>nd</sup> installment and all payouts, we have almost \$34,000 in the bank

- Credit card has zero balance
- The donation of money has been deposited and tree lights are now working again; cost just over \$10,000
- The BIA budget has been filled out and sent in to the City for approval
- The paperwork has been printed out for the HST refund; will fill out the proper forms and mail it in
- All payments have been made
- Zoom is paid for the 2024 year

#### **Safety & Crime Prevention Committee Report:**

- Constable Andie was no present
- Many have noticed the police and social workers still on Ottawa Street
- There is a lower amount of homeless people in the area due to weather becoming colder and wetter

#### **Communications:**

- Still waiting for response about the BIA expansion; UPDATE: Ettore will contact the City and see where we stand
- The recycle programme for the City of Windsor's business districts was discussed again; UPDATE: Mike and Ettore went out and wrote down all the addresses needed by the City in our business district including proposed expansion area
- Meeting will be e-mailed at a later date

#### **Chairperson's Report:**

- The fall in 2023 was a little overwhelming and became behind in work for the BIA; that's why the December meeting was cancelled, not prepared for it
- Would appreciate more help from other board members

- Syx has been asked to ready a presentation for a new contract coming up in March; have it ready for next BIA meeting
- Went to the City Council meeting January 15, representing the Ottawa Street BIA, in support of the revitalization of Lanspeary Park; presentation by our delegation is on file along with map of work to be done in phases; UPDATE: Council approved money, \$12,000,000.00, to upgrade and revitalize the park

### **New Business:**

- Merchant holiday window displays have been announced; 1<sup>st</sup> Holland Auction, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bella Shanti, 3<sup>rd</sup> Karen's 4 Kids and Siblings, a tie
- Would like some help in delivering the prizes; UPDATE: Ettore took care of it, winners received their cheques
- Holiday windows made the street look better and brighter, safer for all to walk
- We should vote on a definite judging date for the holiday window displays and ask merchants to stay open until 8PM that evening, making this another event for the BIA
- A suggestion was made to stay open on Sundays during the month of December
- We received 1 nomination for the empty board seat available after Byron moved his business off Ottawa Street; waiting to hear from City if the applicant is approved
- Will be invited to next meeting to see how we operate and to be introduced to the board

### **Next Meeting**

- To take place virtually via Zoom
- Future meetings: all on first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise specified
- February 7 @ 7PM
- March 6 @ 7PM
- April 10 @ 7PM
- May 1 @ 7PM
- June 5 @ 7PM

- July 3 @ 7PM
- August 7 @ 7PM
- September 4 @ 7PM
- October 2 @ 7PM
- November 6, the AGM, doors open 6:30PM, meeting begins @ 7PM; location to be determined
- December 4 @ 7PM

**Adjournment:**

- Motion to adjourn, Lawrence Holland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Osborne
- Time adjourned 8:05PM