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<b>Board of Management Meeting</b>	
<b>Date:</b> June 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	
<b>Location:</b> Zoom	
<b>Present:</b>	Herb Wodehouse, Maja Pravnovic-Kogut, Peter Quaglia, Melanie Lourenco, Clay Burns, Councillor Kroetsch
<b>Also Present:</b>	Susie Braithwaite, Brendan Wetton, Sgt. Cory Gurman, Cristina Geissler (City of Hamilton)
<b>Regrets:</b>	Kristin Kusturin, Suzanne Lanthier
<b>Absent:</b>	

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting Called to Order:</b> 10:01 AM	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Changes to Agenda:</b> None.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda:</b> (QUAGLIA/PRAVNOVIC-KOGUT)	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b> (PRAVNOVIC- KOGUT/QUAGLIA)	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Crime Manager Update Sgt. Cory Gurman:</b>            Cory outlined crime stats for the BIA over April/May noting 10 assaults, 0 thefts from auto and, 6 break and enters. Cory explained the number one call they've been responsible for in downtown has been trespass complaints, saying due to the volume of calls HPS is not able to respond as quick to these calls. Susie noted the encampment at Ferguson Station continues to grow asking if it is possible to put signage at the park stating it is a not compliant sight. Councillor Kroetsch explained putting signage may not actually deter encampments and it is not in the spirit of the protocol. Susie said there is a concern that the timelines of protocol are not proactive enough, especially with events being planned in the space. It was discussed the response for the encampment protocol includes a housing first mind set. Outreach needs to first contact residents of the encampment to try to provide services before a trespass notification can be issued. It was also discussed that it can be challenging give the competing interests across the city and that the process works on a priority basis. Susie noted the new encampment protocol going forward to council seems to have upgraded service support. Cory added currently there are only two officers as part of the encampment team for the entire city. Herb noted Enterprise had an attempted brake and enter. It was reported to HPS however, it has done a lot of damage that will require repairs. Brendan noted there has been an increase in hate graffiti at Ferguson Station over the last couple of weeks. Cory explained all incidents continue to be reported.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Councillor Cameron Kroetsch Update:</b>            Councillor Kroetsch explained he is prioritizing public washrooms downtown. Ferguson Station has been identified as a location for a temporary washroom pilot program with the possibility of permanent in the future. Councillor Kroetsch added the BIA would not be responsible for the temporary washrooms, they would be operated/maintained by a third-party contractor and nine parks in total have been identified for the temporary washroom pilot program. Peter said he had requested public washrooms at Wellington Park when the encampment started to form and the request was declined by the city adding that washrooms are needed in downtown, he fears that without 24/7 security at the washroom location it would become a gathering area. Councillor Kroetsch noted the city would not be able to provide security 24/7, adding that this program is a pilot to gain valuable data, if the washrooms do not work at this location they can be removed. Councillor Kroetsch noted a permanent washroom could have security and other options could be investigated at that time. Susie noted concerns about graffiti and maintenance of a temporary washroom at Ferguson Station. Herb explained he is very concerned with a washroom at Ferguson Station, noting it would become a gathering space for people adding responsibility, maintenance, and reporting of issues would fall to the BIA</p>	

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like Wellington Park putting more strain on the BIAs resources. Councillor Kroetsch noted the city is working to gather data on temporary washroom sites downtown as this will inform any decision in the future. Councillor Kroetsch added if the washrooms become too disruptive with a couple of weeks, they are temporary and can be removed. Councillor Kroetsch noted he would be the one spearheading this project and making the recommendations for locations. Maja asked if other locations were considered in the BIA. Councillor Kroetsch noted that he is open to suggestions on other locations where the temporary washrooms could be located. Susie asked that over the next week Board Members send feedback which can be forwarded on to Councillor Kroetsch. Cristina asked how often the washrooms are maintained. Councillor Kroetsch noted it might be weekly explaining there have been no issues reported from parks staff at other locations. Councillor Kroetsch noted that in terms of safety issues in the area, HPS is aware of the issues that residents and business face. Cameron noted it is not up to councillors to direct police operations, adding this is a resource allocation issue that he is advocating to change. Councillor also noted other options including the Toronto Community Crisis Response are being looked at to add more support. Herb noted if issues continue with a temporary washroom that there will be a need for more support. Cameron noted many of these issues are not the same as before and that residents and businesses want a new type of service. And that he will continue to advocate for these changes.

7.

**Village Pride Project:**

Brendan explained that many businesses participated in the last Open Streets Hamilton on May 26<sup>th</sup> and that the feedback was great, businesses saw lots of customers/visitors although not as much as last year's Open Streets; overall it made for a very good day. Multiple businesses were closed due to vacation or illness so this Open Streets Hamilton on June 23<sup>rd</sup> combined with Village Pride will be a bit livelier from participating businesses. Brendan added some of the feedback is that they would love to see it go longer as many people started to show up around noon, having it run longer until 4pm or even later would be a great addition for future Open Streets. Susie noted for this Open Streets the BIAs event Village Pride will be taking place at Ferguson Station between 10am-2pm. Susie explained there are 15 vendors planned to be at Ferguson station as well as a DJ. Drag performances will happen each hour focusing on a different era of music starting in the 80s up until the present day. Susie added the BIA has purchased rainbow balloons that will be put throughout the area, also Emily Walsh from the Downtown BA has purchased rainbow balloons to their section from John St. to Mary St., to make it more uniform. Susie noted the BIA has created magnets and postcards to be placed in our branded Pride Bags for vendors to hand out on that day. Susie explained the BIA will be setting up a station in the conference room for the drag performers to get ready and take breaks during the event. Susie added she will be bringing in a volunteer for the day to watch the office to make sure there are no issues. Susie noted the BIA is encouraging businesses to participate in Village Pride this year through a Pride focused special item or window display as we really want to make the members of the two S LGBTQIA plus community feel welcome.

8.

**Wellington Park Encampment:**

Susie explained the encampment protocol is going to Council next week. Herb wrote a written delegation to Council about some of the issues that businesses and the BIA has been facing due to the Wellington Park Encampment. Susie added she was recently on CHCH News discussing the Wellington Park Encampment and the impact it has had on the businesses within that area. Susie added the new recommendations for the protocol include a 100-meter separation from funeral homes. Susie added she has requested the businesses that have been affected in the area around the Wellington Park Encampment prepare written delegations to keep the momentum going and get this recommendation through Council. Susie noted that she will keep the Board up to date on the outcome of the vote at Council.

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<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Community Engagement Coordinator Update:</b></p> <p>Brendan noted GoBIA has created an educational campaign focusing on what a BIA to be shared for the rest of the year; GoBIA is also working on the summer campaign focusing on staying in the BIA sort of a “Staycation for the Summer”. Brendan noted two giveaways were held over the last couple of months: Mother’s Day giveaway and RBC Canadian Open giveaway with tickets provided by Tourism Hamilton. The Mother’s Day giveaway had a bit better reception as it was more geared to our demographic, most of the new followers were from this giveaway, and we engaged with about 1/4 of the accounts that already follow us. We received over 60+ new followers. Brendan noted they met with Metrolinx and City of Hamilton staff regarding the new LRT concept design, adding they are still in the planning stages with no new information or concept design. Brendan explained they made sure to bring up many of the items that were included on the Board's previous wish list and expressed the frustration members are having with no timelines or dates. Brendan noted when asked about the timing of Main St. two-way conversion, LRT staff said no two sections will be under construction at the same time. The Hamilton LRT team does not have a timeline for when the project will be implemented or when project plans will be available to view. Susie noted during the meeting she made sure to voice concerns that there is no new information as this has been the same conversation for some time. Brendan noted the BIA participated in the Hamilton Butt Blitz; Removery was able to participate and collect over 3 bags of cigarette butt litter in the area. Brendan explained the building beside the Jarvis Street parking lot (303 King St. East) is undergoing renovations; they will be adding 10-units to the upper floors, replacing the vacant commercial units. Brendan noted a graffiti audit was completed for the spring and sent into bylaw; this is a growing problem as the majority hotspots continue to have graffiti. Brendan noted an audit of the banners was completed; the banner installer is working on fixing any banners in need of repair. Brendan noted an audit of the vacant properties in the area was done for June. Compared to March 2024 we are up six vacant units to 47; with a vacancy rate of 27% One of those spaces is the new rental unit at 1 Jarvis. Last month, Imperial Coin, Ultimate Lengths Hair Extensions, and Cook Reynolds Lawyers moved from the area; currently there are 13 buildings for sale. Brendan noted overall many businesses are frustrated, not motivated. Brendan explained multiple have expressed how hard it is to open each morning knowing that they will make \$100 or less in a day. Not all days are like this, however, on those days it does not cover their cost to be open. Brendan added multiple professional businesses have noted customers are not feeling safe walking from the parking lots and that staff are escorting them in/out from appointments. Some businesses near Ferguson Station do not book appointments on Wednesday nights as customers have noted concerns about the Wednesday night event. Brendan added there have also been issues with broken windows including the old Forbidden city and people removing the flowers from the gardens, Brendan has been able to replant some of the flowers while doing walkthroughs of the area. Maya asked Brendan about social media and tagging businesses in the area. Brendan will work on tagging more of the businesses and social media posts.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Executive Director Update:</b></p> <p>Susie noted Fringe is continuing to use Theater Aquarius as their festival headquarters this July. Ferguson Station will be animated as part of the festival, Fringe on the Streets, with theater performances that will travel across downtown. Also in July, the City of Hamilton will be painting the fence at Ferguson Station and putting up murals by an indigenous artist. Susie noted in August the City of Hamilton will be completing work to remediate Ferguson Station including adding automatic doors and painting the concrete benches, they are also looking at hanging Edison lights along the alleyway. Susie added in September, Ferguson Station will be animated with an event called Strange Sounds on Thursday nights. Additionally, the city is still waiting to hear back on their My Main Streets Grant application for animations later in the year. Susie noted members have been talking about using the \$10,000 provided by the city for animations, however, nothing has materialized</p>

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yet. Susie added this money can be used next year if it is not used the BIA will be able to access this for programming. Susie noted the soup kitchen on Wednesday night continues to be an issue for surrounding businesses and is very disruptive. Susie explained the city is looking to sell the parking lot at 171 Main Street using the revenue for new affordable housing units. Susie added the ideal scenario would see the commercial parking lot replaced in the new building, we will find out more information and get back to you about this. Susie noted the added services including waste collection and street cleaning have been affected by the cyber security incident. It was noted that the City of Hamilton has begun hiring for these positions. Susie noted she will be leading a tour for council and senior staff at the City of Hamilton on June 27th, the tour will focus on the issues that are facing the downtown core. Susie explained the Downtown Hamilton BIA has compiled the survey results and sent this to the City of Hamilton. They are trying to take a less aggressive approach than going public with this information, at the end of the day it is up to the Downtown Hamilton BIA Board to decide whether they want to go public with this. Susie noted they attended multiple events recently including the Fringe Gala, CHCH 70th anniversary event, and the launch of construction for First Ontario Place. Susie added the City Manager's Breakfast hosted by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is next week and the BIA will be attending. Susie noted the next Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Committee meeting is today; multiple things will be brought up including the fountain on Ferguson Ave. and business safety. Peter asked about the status of the Wellington Park fountain. Susie noted a part was needed for the fountain and should be fixed soon. Maya commented it might be worth it to release the survey data publicly. Susie explained this survey at the end of the day is the Downtown Hamilton BIA's responsibility, their Board will be looking at all options. It was discussed the Board will come up with multiple locations for the temporary washrooms as having temporary washrooms at Ferguson station could cause it to become a gathering place. There is a worry that any issues that happen with the washrooms at this location will be brought to the BIA and that minimal maintenance will cause problems. Susie added she will be writing a letter to make sure that the Councillor is aware of the BIA's preferred options and feedback around the location of a washroom at Ferguson Station. Maya thanked Susie for all her hard work and for going above and beyond in the recent months, saying that the board completely trusts her. Susie thanked the board for continuing to support her during these challenging times. Peter thanked Susie for all her hard work with the issues at Wellington Park, as it was a relief to see that the new protocol will exempt funeral homes. Melanie echoed the sentiment of the rest of the board saying thank you for all your hard work. Herbed thanked Susie for her dedication and hard work to the BIA.

11.	<b>Other Business:</b> None
12.	<b>Next Meeting:</b> The next meeting of the Board of Management will be held on <b>September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</b>
13.	<b>Adjournment:</b> 11:47 AM (QUAGLIA/PRAVNOVIC-KOGUT) <span style="float: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></span>

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