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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING	
Date: October 1 st 2024	
Location: Zoom	
Present:	Herb Wodehouse (Whitley Wodehouse CPA), Maja Prvanovic-Kogut (Zoran Designs), Melanie Lourenco (Circle Studios), Peter Quaglia (Dodsworth & Brown Funeral Home), Kristin Kusturin (Seasoned Restaurant), Clay Burns (Studio 205), Suzanne Lanthier (Theatre Aquarius), Morgan Mackenzie (Denninger's Foods), Susie Braithwaite (Executive Director), Brendan Wetton (Community Engagement Coordinator), Sgt. Cory Gurman (Hamilton Police Services), Cristina Geissler (City of Hamilton), Judy Lam (City of Hamilton), Norm Schleeahn (City of Hamilton)
Regrets:	Councillor Kroetsch (Ward 2)
Absent:	
1.	Meeting Called to Order: 10:00 AM
2.	Changes to Agenda: None.
3.	Approval of Agenda: (PRVANOVIC-KOGUT/LOURENCO) CARRIED
4.	Introduction of 2024 Board of Management: Herb introduced each of the 2024 Board of Directors.
5.	Presentation of 2025 International Village BIA Proposed Budget: Herb outlined the proposed 2025 International Village BIA budget. Herb explained there is no significant increase in the budget this year adding that this year's budget is an overall 3% increase to account for costs related to inflation. Herb noted there is a contribution to the operating budget from the reserve fund of \$25,000 to help offset increases to members. Herb explained the BIA continues to be aware of the rising costs for members which is why there is only a minor increase. Herb asked if any of the attendees had any questions regarding the 2025 approved budget. No attendees had any questions regarding the budget
6.	Year in Review – Herb Wodehouse, Chair: See attached document below "Year in Review – Herb Wodehouse, Chair".
7.	Hamilton Police Services Update – Sgt. Cory Gurman: Cory reviewed stats for September: 7 assaults, 2 break-and-enters, 3 thefts from autos, and 1 theft over \$5000. Cory reviewed stats for the last year: 41 assaults, 23 break-and-enters, 10 robberies, 33 thefts from autos, and 3 thefts over \$5000. Cory explained there has been an increase compared to last year in some categories, where others have decreased. Cory added trespass, ambulance assists, and suspicious behaviours continue to be 90% of the calls for service. Cory noted they are using the RPAS for service calls to determine if an issue still needs attention before sending officers to investigate. Cory noted the Core Patrol team has been tripled for a pilot program of 3-months adding that these officers have been asked to go into businesses, make connections, and be more of a face to the community. Cory explained he is aware of the BIA's request for paid duties in the holiday season and will be taking to Superintendent Robin Abbot to see if scheduling changes or the mounted unit could be used to offset some of these costs. Cory noted it is important for businesses to continue to report issues. Cory asked if any of the attendees had any questions. No attendees had any questions. Herb thanked Cory for attending and for his continued support.

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<p>8.</p>	<p>Economic Development Update – Norm Schleeahn – Director of Economic Development and Judy Lam – Manager, Commercial Districts and Small Business Section and Economic Development: Norm thanked Herb, Susie, Brendan, and all the members of the International Village BIA for their continued advocacy around the issues that face businesses in the core. Norm added the BIAs advocacy has contributed to many of the new initiatives like the Core Patrol. Norm explained that the Mayor and the City Manager have made downtown a priority even hosting a walk through with all the General Managers at the City of Hamilton to show them the issues present in the core today. Norm added issues in the core affect all aspects and departments of the corporation. Norm noted it is a priority to relocate the soup kitchens from Ferguson Station and Gore Park so that they are not within the boundaries of a BIA. Norm added more progress has been made Judy noted Economic Development was able to increase waste collection and street cleaning standards this year and that this increase in service has been built into the 2025 budget. Judy added this year remediation work at Ferguson Station has started with new murals being put up, a plan to fix the fence, new bird netting, traffic box wraps, lights on the trees, fixing the gates, and painting the structure itself. Judy noted multiple events have been planned for the season at Ferguson Station. Strangewaves has been doing weekly concerts on Thursday night, the first international market pop up was held on September 28th with a vendor market and salsa dancing. Judy added the next installment will be the partnership event with the International Village BIA for Pop-Up Village Pride on October 19th. The YMCA and the Hamilton Business Centre will also be running markets at Ferguson station later in the month. Judy noted 11 applications have been completed for grants from Economic Development which amounts to over \$18,000 in grant money being used by members of the BIA. Suzanne asked if there are any detailed stats on the grants and how much the project value is. Judy noted it is a matching grant to a limit; project values could be higher than the grant itself and all grants that were applied for were received.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Other Business: Cristina noted for the holiday season in 2024, the 2-hour free on-street parking program will continue with changes possible in the future to the program in 2025. Cristina will be providing the BIAs will stickers for the meters like the previous year. Cristina added for 2025, the parking revenue share grant will continue as it is with the funds being supplemented by Economic Development. Cristina noted the program will be changed in subsequent years; BIAs will receive a base grant of \$7,500 with the formula considering the specific BIA location versus the current funding model that looks toward the entire city. Cristina noted Economic Development will be continuing to work with the BIAs on marketing support. Next year, BIAs will be able to submit quality of life content which can be shared on the Economic Development Instagram account to boost and amplify messaging. Cristina added they are working closely with all the BIAs to see what their marketing needs are for the future. Cristina noted they will be working on a new updated version of the BIA Toolkit including a BIA Asset Management System for the BIAs to use to track public assets in the area. Norm thanked Cristina and Judy for all their work. Susie thanked Norm, Judy, and Cristina for being the strongest supporters of our BIA and for all the help they provide throughout the year. Susie explained the Downtown BIAs have joined forces to bring a list of specific asks to Councillor Kroetsch saying the motion with these asks will be presented to Council soon.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Adjournment: 10.42 AM (QUAGLIA/PRVANOVIC-KOGUT) CARRIED</p>

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Attachment: Year in Review – Herb Wodehouse, Chair

- This has quite possibly been the most challenging year the BIA has ever seen. As a board, we've had to shift our priorities this year from activations and events to advocating for cleanliness and safety priorities downtown.
- Our BIA staff including Executive Director Susie Braithwaite and Community Engagement Coordinator Brendan Wetton have never worked harder trying to manage and mitigate the daily challenges we are currently facing.
- Our board meets quarterly, and we are very up to date with the work our staff are doing to help our members and to try to keep the area moving forward.
- Susie has been fighting for our businesses non-stop this year harder than ever. She has met with upper management at the City of Hamilton, Councillor Kroetsch, the Mayor, City Manager and Chief of Police several times in some cases and has strategized and begged for more supports for our BIA.
- She's been raw and real about the pressures our businesses are feeling and the lack of supports we are dealing with when it comes to sensitive issues like homelessness, crime and drug use.
- She has been pushing the city to remove and relocate the Wednesday night soup kitchen that although is meant to help people in need, isn't suitable to be located within a BIA. They have been very destructive to Ferguson Station and surrounding businesses. Susie has been told that the city is working to have the soup kitchen relocated to a more appropriate location.
- Susie and I have also delegated to council and been quite vocal about the negative impacts that encampments have had on our BIA over the last 2 years.
- It is because of the pressure that the city has received from our BIA and member's letters and public delegations, that the encampments at both Ferguson Station and Wellington Park were finally removed.
- I, myself have joined Susie in meetings with the chief of police and mayor to ensure that our messaging is very clear. We do not deserve what we are being left to deal with right now. Our businesses deserve better. That message has been heard loud and clear and we are now starting to see some more supports but we need more.

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- One example of this is that the chief of police during a meeting with us, agreed to triple the presence of Core Patrol adding an additional 4 officers to the core. This is a start, but we will continue to ask for more supports.
- Susie also continues her committee work as Chair of the BIA sub-committee and Vice-Chair of the Cleanliness and Security in the Downtown Core Task Force as well as sits as an advisor on the LRT sub-committee to council and works with economic development and tourism on an ongoing basis.
- She also works closely with the Chamber of Commerce's CEO Greg Dunnett and staff.
- Brendan has been busy out on the street helping the businesses with day-to-day management such as dumped garbage, banners, graffiti and the overall cleanliness of our BIA.
- He is also working hard on social media to continue to try to attract visitors to our area through unique and creative ways of marketing including Instagram contests and giveaways.
- Brendan is also a great support and sounding board for our members.
- We were very happy to hear that the City of Hamilton planned to close King St. for 2 Sundays this year for Open Streets. We saw thousands of people visit our BIA and the businesses who took part said it was fantastic.
- The BIA hosted Village Pride at the June Open Streets and we saw a huge crowd come out to see our drag performers and the queer marketplace.
- Special thanks to House of Adam and Steve who partnered with us on this event and will also be partnering with us to do Pop-Up Village Pride on October 19th through funding from the City of Hamilton and as a highlight of our annual Ghostly Block Party event that Clay from Studio 205 coordinates.
- The City of Hamilton also hosted some events at Ferguson Station this fall including Strange Sounds on Thursdays in September, as well as a Welcome Week event on September 20th that saw a marketplace and salsa dancing take over Ferguson Station.
- The City of Hamilton also continues to try to improve and remediate Ferguson Station with upgrades and public art. after Susie has been advocating for better management of that space. You will see more physical improvements planned between now and Spring.

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- This Christmas we are looking at hosting a nighttime shopping event the first Friday of December. We'll be announcing more details on that shortly.
- This spring/summer we also put up fun décor in our area that gave the street a pop of colour and continued to share a message of inclusivity for the queer community in our BIA.
- You will also see cornstalks go up again for fall shortly and Christmas décor go up as well like we did last year.
- November 2nd will be Hamilton Day, and this is an excellent chance to highlight your business. The BIA will hire roaming musicians for the day and hopefully we'll see another successful year.
- The board has decided to shift our Christmas programming this year to prioritize safety and we will be hiring paid-duty officers for the 4 Saturdays leading up to Christmas to ensure our businesses feel supported and their customers feel safe. We feel this the best use of our funds this year given the challenges we are facing.
- As always, your BIA works extremely hard to advocate for our businesses and continues to do what we can to keep this community moving forward.
- We encourage you all to reach out to us at any time with ideas, suggestions and information about what your business is up to.

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