



Preston Street BIA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

450 Preston

Attendance: Steve Moffatt, Marcus Filoso, Lauryn Santini, Tony Zacconi, Sabrina Mtanos, Joey Frangione, Claudio Lepore, Houry Avedissian, Lindsay Childerhose

Absent: Shane Olsen

1. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Approval of Agenda
Approved by Marcus Filoso
Seconded by Houry Avedissian

Approval of Minutes
Approved by Marcus Filoso
Seconded by Sabrina Mtanos

2. Chairwoman's Report

2.1 SPAO Artwalk Update

Last week, the Board put forth a motion to approve sponsoring the SPAO Little Italy Artwalk for \$35,000. The Board voted unanimously in favour of this partnership by e-vote. The sponsorship agreement was sent to Jon Hobin who is currently reviewing the terms. The Artwalk is set to launch in April of this year and will be presented to members in the next newsletter.

2.2 MTO Bridge Replacement Agreement

Lindsay circulates meeting minutes from January 2020 in a discussion between the BIA, WSP and MTO regarding the Preston Street rapid bridge replacement. A meeting with MTO was held on December 7th, 2022 to confirm that the terms discussed in the January 2020 meeting still apply and are accurate as to what the BIA can expect for the project.

During the December 7th meeting, MTO was asked if additions to the engineering plans could be made to accommodate the BIA's mural project. MTO indicated that any adjustments to plans for the bridge structure would not be accommodated.



A summary of the minutes is provided in detail.

2.2.1 St. Anthony's Soccer Field – Lay Down Area

Starting in October 2023, St. Anthony's Soccer field will be used as a laydown area for construction. In the first phase of the project, contractors will access the field at Louisa only. Public use of the city parking lot is to be maintained for all of 2023.

In July 2024, the south parking lot and the north portion of the soccer field will be assumed. It is intended that the field will be returned to the School Board in time for the 2024 school year.

At the time of the meeting with MTO, the BIA requested that WSP remove the vegetation along the fence at St. Anthony's to improve visibility; WSP will accommodate this request.

St. Anthony's intends to negotiate that a turf field be reinstated. MTO has indicated that they will only negotiate with the property owner for this type of request.

2.2.2 Underpass Features – Encroachment Permit

The agreement with MTO and WSP outlines a plan for the existing facets of the underpass, each of which are itemized.

- a. Bollard Lamps: The BIA does not want the bollards reinstated; WSP will remove and dispose of them.
- b. Blade Signs: The BIA will remove and store the signs; the contractors will reinstate the footings. There is currently one blade sign in storage at Heritage Grade, Lindsay has asked for a quote to store and refurbish the signs and mural panels while the project is underway. There are 5 blade signs and 30 mural panels.
- c. Neon Signs: To be removed and stored by the BIA. MTO will provide embedded ducts in the bridge barrier walls for the power supply to the signs. The BIA will re-install them once the work is complete
- d. Benches: The BIA will remove and store the benches (to be discussed with Public Realm). The BIA has asked Public Works not to install new benches here in the Spring during the bench replacement.

The full onus of all "engineering" is on the BIA. The BIA is to submit an updated Encroachment Permit with a proposal detailing all requirements for mounting onto MTO structures.



In the December meeting, Marcus asked that Lindsay confirm if the City will assist the BIA with storage needs for the bridge replacement. Lindsay updates the Board that MTO is unaware of the City doing this for other bridge replacements, however, she has put in a request with Kathleen Wilker at Public Works who is currently looking into it.

2.2.3 Other

All four quadrants of the overpass will be cleared of vegetation. Landscaping plans have not yet been received.

In early 2024, the retaining wall at St. Anthony's will require repairs, and a storm sewer connection will be constructed behind St. Anthony's. A small staging area will be set up on St. Anthony Street, impacting the back parking lot.

MTO will install new LED lighting which will significantly improve illumination under the bridge and improving the visibility of the murals.

2.3 Ottawa Footy Sevens Proposal

The Ottawa Footy Sevens have approached the BIA in hopes of discussing plans for a turf soccer field reinstatement following the completion of the bridge replacement work. The Ottawa Footy Sevens have installed turf fields at other locations across the city including RA Centre Dome and Immaculata High School. Lindsay is to set up a meeting including the Executive Committee and representatives of the Footy Sevens.

2.4 Second Archway Committee Proposal

Angelo Filoso has written to the Board with a proposal to form a committee to spearhead building a second archway at Preston/Albert. The proposed committee would include former Board members Joe Cotroneo, Delio D'Angelo, Angelo Filoso and the original designer for the gateway, Leo Bortolotti.

A second request regarding the archway was received by Joe Cotroneo who asked that the BIA secure the land from NCC as a cultural landmark before LeBreton Flats is further redeveloped.

This agenda item has been carried forward from the December meeting, during which Marcus suggested that the Board should seek the Councillors support before presenting plans to or beginning discussions with NCC. The Board also agreed that, if a committee were to be formed, there should be good representative from the BIA and its Board members.

Steve underscores the importance of the BIA maintaining control of the project, and that all committee members would need to understand that they are representing the BIA.

Tony adds that the development of LeBreton Flats will take years, but that it would be worthwhile to begin these discussions now.



Joey adds that NCC likely already has formalized plans for the area of Preston and Albert/Scott, which, at one time, included the continuation of Preston Street past Albert.

The Board agrees that, before any formal motion is passed, the Board should meet with Angelo and the proposed committee. Lindsay is to reach out and schedule a meeting with all parties. Marcus offers to recuse himself from the proposed meeting.

2.5 Neon Archway Repair

The Green Neon on the Carling Archway has been out for some time. At the December meeting, Lindsay presented two quotes to the Board to have this repaired by Neon Empire. The first quote is for replacement of just the green neon LED glass tubing, totalling \$10,350. Neon Empire has indicated that the material is relatively obsolete and has been difficult to source. This replacement would also require a full road closure.

The second quote is to replace the glass tubing with six illuminated glass channels, made of the same LED glass material of the Little Italy signs. This is Neon Empire's recommendation. The LED glass signage can be built and repaired in-house by Neon Empire, would be brighter than the existing LED and could be more easily and cost effectively repaired going forward if one of the six channels were to burn out. However, the channels would not be lit from the back and the archway would now only be visible from Carling. The quote for replacement of the glass tubing with LED glass channels is \$17,775.

At the December meeting, Marcus asked that Lindsay confirm the rate to repair just one of the six channels going forward. This quote was shared with the Board, at \$5,400.

The Board agrees that replacing the system is the best option, however, expresses concern over the loss of lighting on both sides of the archway. Lindsay is asked to get a second opinion and report back to the Board.

2.6 Italian Festival – OPS Date Conflict

In November, the Board voted to move the Italian Festival date for 2023 to the weekend after Father's Day (June 23-25) to avoid conflict with the Canadian Grand Prix and ensure that the Ferrari Festival could be held in its full capacity.

At the time, the BIA reached out the City to ask if this move would be feasible. The City indicated that the June 23rd weekend is one of the busiest in the City for events and that resources would be competitive. Just before the holidays, Event Central reached out to the BIA to confirm that Ottawa Police Services (OPS) have decided, based on high demand, to restrict the June 23rd weekend from any new event applications. Events that have taken place on that weekend for more than three years consecutively will be grandfathered.



Lindsay and Shannon Whidden met with Event Central the following day, which included Mark Nethercot, the OPS contact for Paid Duty Police. The BIA discussed the date constraints that the event is facing and asked if there was any room to make the June 23-25 weekend work. OPS indicated that the existing events are currently understaffed and at capacity, and that any new events would represent a significant safety risk for the city.

In discussing with the other event organizers for the festival, two possible courses of action were established:

- a. Move the festival up to June 9-11, which would require the Bike Race to remain on Sunday, June 18th to avoid St. Anthony's Procession. Bike Race Ottawa would prefer this.
- b. Ask for the councillors support to ask the OPS to pull resources from OPP to man the event.

Tony expresses concern over moving the festival to an earlier weekend, as cold weather can negatively impact event traffic.

Claudio adds that hosting the event on a less-competitive weekend would likely be better for traffic.

Marcus asks about St. Anthony's procession. Lindsay responds that the Bike Race would prefer to remain on Sunday, June 18th, as they have Kawartha Lakes Bike Race scheduled for June 11th. This would work to avoid conflict with the procession on the Sunday of the event weekend. Marcus asks that the BIA ensure that St. Anthony's is included (or corresponded with) in the festival programming going forward.

Lindsay adds that Italian Week is currently in discussions with the OPP to see if they can manage staffing the event on the June 23rd weekend. If they respond with a resounding "no", the only option will be to move back to the weekend of June 9-11.

The Board agrees that OPP's response will dictate the outcome and that they are comfortable with either option, June 9-11 or June 23-25.

An internal deadline of January 13th has been set to make a decision for the 2023 event dates.

3.0 Marketing Update

3.1 Market Research Reports

Lindsay updates the Board that the BIA has acquired market research data, or trade area statistics, for the Little Italy catchment area; a SiteWise report and Environics data. Using some marketing grant funding, Lindsay will be sending this to the members in a digestible format.



3.2 Preston Street Holiday Hunt

Lockdown Ottawa's Holiday Hunt wrapped up on January 8th. In total, 36 BIA members participated in someway; by hanging a snowflake puzzle piece in their storefront window or by featuring their logo as a sponsor of the event. Lindsay adds that this is fairly good member engagement for a BIA event.

In total, the Hunt had over 1780 registrations, with many of these being teams of 4 and the highest being teams of 12. This suggests that players were coming in groups to the street, having dinner or a drink, and trying out the experience.

Steve asks that these results be shared with the membership to encourage member participation in future events.

Houry adds that she really liked the idea and enjoyed watching players come to her store window throughout the holidays.

Sabrina echoes this feedback and adds that Avenue North saw lots of foot traffic as part of the event.

The Board agrees that they are happy with the event outcome and would like to continue a relationship with Lockdown Ottawa.

Houry adds that Jacquie and the team put a lot of work into the Holiday Hunt and that they may need to be given greater resources or more support in future renditions of the event.

Lindsay will be having a post-mortem meeting to review and debrief the program and will bring this feedback to the meeting.