



**Preston Street BIA
BOARD MEETING
MI**

Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

[Zoom Video Call](#)

Attendees: Steve Moffatt, Marcus Filoso, Shane Olsen, Lauryn Santini, Joey Frangione, Lindsay Childerhose, Katy Morassutti

Absentees: Houry Avedissian, Tony Zacconi, Sabrina Mtanos, Claudio Lepore

1. Approval of Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Approved by: Steve Moffatt

Seconded by: Shane Olsen

1.2 Approval of Minutes

Approved by: Steve Moffatt

Seconded by: Shane Olsen

2. Chairperson's Report:

2.1 Annual General Meeting

2.1.1 Date, Format, Location

A date, time and location for the 2023 Annual General Meeting is proposed. The Board agrees to hold the AGM on October 17th at 7:00pm in a hybrid format with light refreshments. Lindsay is to look into booking event space at Collaburo for the meeting and report back to the Board. Katy and Lindsay will begin communicating with the members about the AGM this month to ensure good participation in the meeting.

2.1.2 Guest Speakers

The Board discusses what topics are important to raise with the membership at the AGM. Last year, a representative from Hobin Architecture gave a presentation on the area developments. This year, the Board agrees that a community safety update (Ottawa Police Services, Neighbourhood Response Team or Somerset West Community Health Centre) or a presentation on the Building LeBreton Project would be most impactful.

2.2 Discussion: Closing QED to Vehicles

The Board discusses the NCC's proposal to close the Queen Elizabeth Driveway for active use. The current active use pilot project, which sees the QED closed from the Pretoria Bridge to downtown on weekends has proven successful. However, the new proposal would see the QED closed indefinitely from downtown to Preston Street.



The Board agrees that the QED is a major artery for motorists to access Little Italy. The bike paths and running lanes are already well-used. It is noted that other impacts to traffic in the area will be taking place in tandem with this closure (should the proposal be accepted) including construction of the new Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus and the Preston rapid bridge replacement.

As the BIA has begun to receive inquiries regarding its position on the QED closure. The Board agrees that the BIA is not in favour of closing the QED to Preston for active use.

2.3 Discussion: Community Safety Update

Last Tuesday, August 8th, Councillor Troster held a community safety roundtable at City Hall for Somerset Ward. Panelists included the Councillor, the Chair of Centretown BIA and the NRT Constable for Vanier. Beyond hearing from the community, the panel introduced a new pilot that was recently approved at council for a 9-1-1 alternative to mental health crises in Ottawa. More information will be distributed on this service in the coming months.

2.4 Discussion: 1010 Somerset Community Hub

An update about the 1010 Somerset Community Hub was shared with the Board, including information on the “Save Plouffe Park” campaign that is being spearheaded by five local resident associations.

2.5 St. Anthony’s Soccer Field Update

There is currently no update on the St. Anthony’s Soccer Field as the BIA has not received a proposal from the Footy Sevens.

2.6 Street Maintenance, In-Progress Items

2.6.1 Bridge Replacement Update

An update on the Preston bridge replacement is shared. The project officially began on June 23rd. A general timeline, along with some FAQ’s regarding the bridge work was shared with the Board and membership last month. Some delays are now expected due to Hydro Ottawa’s ongoing labour strike. As of now, power has been disconnected to the Preston underpass and will not be restored before the bridge is removed and reinstated. This means that the overpass neon signs will not be lit leading up to their removal. The BIA is still waiting for MTO to dictate when the overpass signs and murals are to be removed, as they have officially assumed the site. The city has provided a storage container at Bayview Yards to store the signs and murals during the bridge work.

The BIA will continue to gather information for the members regarding the bridge replacement. The BIA is now aware of that a claims process is in place for businesses that are impacted by MTO construction projects. Members will need to provide proof of revenues before, after and for at least one year following the bridge work to make a claim, given there is substantial loss. The BIA is waiting for the MTO to provide documentation on the process. The BIA intends to provide details on this to the membership before or during the AGM.



2.6.2 Heritage Murals Update

Last month, the Board agreed that the background painting for the heritage murals (the murals painted on the bridge concrete) should be replaced with their traditional look, feel and concept. Lindsay has connected with the original artist, Karole Marois, about replacing the artwork. Karole is interested in redoing the murals, and has informed the BIA that they are still under CARFAC licensing.

Lindsay has asked the MTO to confirm what, if any, budget is available for the replacement of the murals. From there, the artist will provide concepts for the new bridge, which are to be shared with the Board upon receipt.

2.6.3 Street Maintenance

Three street maintenance updates are shared:

1. Nutrilawn, or Christmas Décor Ottawa, has replaced all the string lights on the trees in the BIA. As per our contract, the lights are to be replaced every three years.
2. The city has now completed maintenance of the grass and vegetation at the base of the tree guards, city benches and the Bambini.
3. The long, tapered Italian flag banners will be removed by SignFX at the end of September. This is to a) keep them vibrant and not expose them to the winter elements, and b) to bring them back out in the spring as a way of advertising the Italian Festival

2.7 Discussion: Side Street Members

The Board discusses the issue of side street members feeling unsupported or left out of the BIA. It is agreed that the best way to improve the experience of side street members in the BIA is to improve support to all members. Lindsay and Katy have introduced routine visits to members businesses, a practice that the Board feels was lost during Covid and needs to return. At the same time, a type of “CRM” will be introduced to better document and track member issues and the topics that arise from discussions with members. Some examples are shared based on recent visits, including the Nutty Greek, Collaburo and The Gladstone. A CRM update will be shared with the Board at the next meeting.

3. Marketing Update:

3.1 SPAO Artwalk Update

Katy shared an update with the Board about the SPAO Artwalk. SPAO has submitted over 10 permits for public art installations. The installations will take place after the permits are approved and another round of permits will be sent to the city. New locations have also been confirmed.

3.2 Local Landmarks Page Walk Through



The BIA is introducing a new “Local Landmarks” page on the BIA website. The landmarks page will include a menu of all the public art in the area, including the Postcards from the Piazzas sculptures, heritage murals, Portal Archway and more. Each will have their own page describing their background, history, and artist information. The new page is almost complete; members will be notified through the newsletter about this update on the website.

3.3 Photography for BIA Members

The BIA is offering free photography for all BIA members.

3.4 Social-Media and Website Report

Katy shared the monthly social-media and website report with the Board.

3.4 Non-Member Newsletter

Last month, the BIA sent out another non-member newsletter to the community. It highlighted events on the street, news from the BIA, and information about the bridge replacement. It was well received, with an open rate of seventy percent.