



Preston Street BIA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Zoom**

Attendees: Marcus Filoso, Lauryn Santini, Shauna Bradley, Houry Avedissian, Sabrina Mtanos, Joey Frangione, Tony Zacconi, Daniele Cambareri, Lindsay Childerhose, Katy Morassutti

Absentees: Steve Moffatt, Claudio Lepore, Jason Anbara

1. Confirmation of Minutes, Agenda and Call to Order

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Shauna Bradley

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Approved by: Marcus Filoso

Seconded by: Lauryn Santini

Unanimously accepted.

1.3 Approval of Minutes

Approved by: Sabrina Mtanos

Seconded by: Joey Frangione

Unanimously accepted.

2. Chairperson's Report:

2.1 Taste of Little Italy Update

Taste of Little Italy is currently sold out. The BIA has worked to create media opportunities for participating restaurants at the event. The event has been promoted by the Kitchissippi Times and Ottawa Business Journal. 10 local Food Bloggers have been invited to the event, along with various media outlets.

The BIA will be donating all proceeds to the Fonte d'Amore Tarantella Group.

2.1.1 Event Participation

Katy shares the list of the participating businesses for Taste of Little Italy Ottawa.

2.1.2 Marketing Rollout



Katy shares details of the marketing rollout, including the social media plan and the press release.

2.2 Tulip Festival Decorations

The Tulip Festival will take place from May 10-20 at Dow's Lake. The BIA is once again the Official Tulip Neighbourhood for the festival by way of a \$5,000 sponsorship, as approved in the annual budget. The Little Italy SPAO Photo Walk has been accepted as an official Tulip Festival activity and will be included in festival's schedule of events.

Lindsay reports that the Tulip Festival has replaced the street decor tulips that have been used for the past many years. New free standing tulip displays will be placed by the Corso Italia archway during the festival acting as a portal to Little Italy from the main festival site. The Board requests that they are chained down to prevent theft.

2.3 Ottawa Italian Festival

All Italian Festival events have been conditionally approved by the City during the SEAT review meeting on March 11. This includes the Concours d'Elegance at Commissioner's Park, which was given conditional approval by both the City and the NCC. This new event will take place from 7:00am to 4:00pm on Friday, June 14.

At the SEAT meeting, the BIA asked to discuss the special event parking provision with Traffic Management. Traffic has agreed to host a separate meeting to review the no parking application on each street in the BIA in advance of the event. This meeting will take place on May 10 at 1:00pm via Zoom. Lindsay is to send this meeting invitation to the Board.

The Board agrees that there are no remaining updates to the Italian Festival sponsorship agreements and Lindsay is to send the agreements to the partner organizations this week.

2.4 Second Archway Update

2.4.1 Public Realm Update

The Committee has received a proposed sequence of work from Public Realm that outlines next steps for the archway project. It also proposes that the project could be taken over by the City in full, which is currently in review with City of Ottawa Asset Management. Public Realm has also confirmed that City staff do not have authority to approve a structure of this size, so the project will need to be taken to Council.

The City is requesting an up-to-date structural engineer's report for the first archway and Bambini. They are also requesting that the new location be reviewed with Hydro Ottawa and Enbridge. The Councillor is asking that the Committee take two potential locations to public consultation.



The Committee met with Hydro Ottawa last week to review potential locations and conflicts at the north end of Preston Street. An update is shared on the meeting with Hydro Ottawa representative, Andy Welmers. Committee Chair, Angelo Filoso, is proposing to extend the sidewalk between Albert and Primrose into the parking lane to give more space to the gateway feature and avoid conflict with Line 21. Drawings will be sent to the Board and then to the City for review.

2.4.3 Engineering Report

Step one of the proposed sequence of work is to produce a structural engineer's report for the first archway. All BIA procurement policies must be adhered to for this, meaning that, if the expense is \$5,000 or more the BIA must obtain two quotes or provide rationale for sole sourcing. Houry proposes to connect the Committee with her structural engineer.

Daniele offers to produce the report pro bono.

Lindsay is to follow up on these options and present them to the Committee for recommendation. The expense will ultimately be approved by the Board as dictated by the Archway Committee Terms of Reference.

2.5 Preston Street Bridge Replacement

The Preston Street Bridge Replacement has been picking up speed in the last two months. The BIA will send more frequent updates to the membership as the project progresses and road closures are put in place. The timeline that was shared at the 2023 AGM is still accurate according to MTO. The full road closure of Preston Street will begin after the July 1 weekend and the bridge lift and Highway closure will take place on July 25-29. The businesses between Aberdeen and Gladstone have been contacted by Morrison Hershfield directly.

2.5.1 Overpass Reinstatement Plan

Lindsay requests the Board's feedback on the reinstatement plan for the new underpass, which includes:

1. *Heritage Blade Signs*
 - Heritage Grade has provided MTO with stamped drawings of the concrete footings for the blade signs under the overpass. When the concrete pour is done for the new bridge, the footings will be included. MTO will allow Heritage Grade to install a threaded rod during the concrete pour to later secure the posts.
2. *Heritage Mural*
 - The BIA will post a mural callout in July for artistic submissions. The Board agreed in December that the mural concept should remain the same, showing the history of the area. Design submissions will be presented to and voted on by the Board. The mural is planned to be painted in Spring 2025.



3. *The Overpass Signs*

- Lindsay is to schedule a site visit with Graphics2K at Bayview Yards to review the overpass signs while they are in storage. Electrical ducts will be included in the new bridge for the gateway signs on the north and south sides.

4. *Landscaping Plans*

- MTO has provided brief landscaping plans for the quadrants.
- Joey asks if the BIA could request that evergreen trees be planted as they will fill the space nicely and will be conducive to tree lights in the wintertime.
- Lindsay is to contact MTO and provide an update to the Board.

2.6 Graffiti Management

The BIA has requested a quote from Goodbye Graffiti to remove the graffiti on the overpass that has been revealed by the excavation of the four quadrants.

2.7 Parking Services

Parking Services have indicated that a rate increase of \$0.60/an hour is planned for Preston Street. The timing of this rate increase raises concern as the 301 Preston Street lot, two lanes of parking under the overpass, and St. Anthony's Street will be removed as part of the bridge replacement. The Board agrees that the BIA should speak to the Councillor about this issue.

3. Marketing Update:

3.1 Social Media and Website Report

Katy shares a social media report. A full report will be circulated to the Board post meeting.

6. Motion to Close the Meeting - 10:55am

Motioned by: Tony Zacconi

Seconded by: Houry Avedissian

Unanimously accepted.