



**Preston Street BIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES**

**The Gladstone Theatre
Monday, November 18, 2024, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Board Attendance: Steve Moffatt, Marcus Filoso, Joey Frangione, Sabrina Mtanos, Tony Zacconi, Claudio Lepore, Houry Avedissian, Shauna Bradley, Lindsay Childerhose, Katy Morassutti

Absent: Lauryn Santini, Jason Anbara, Daniele Cambareri

Membership Attendance: Laura Scaffidi – Anka's Esthetics, Elias Skaff – Avenue North Realty, Gabrielle Assaf – Carmelito Café, Mohammad Dourou - Collaburo, Francesca Bellatone – Dolci Saponi, Louise Murray – Exp Realty, Rolando Di Labio – Exp Realty, Steve Gabellini – Exp Realty, Betty Le – Floss Dental, Barry Hobin – Hobin Architecture, Nelio Caldeira – La Dolce Vita, Onnika Caldeira – La Dolce Vita, Nino Shallal – La Favorita, Katie Binkoaski – La Favorita, Maria Papalia – La Roma, Francine Chan – NuChic Hair, Gordon Chan – NuChic Hair, Joe Calabro – Pasticceria Gelateria Italiana, Bongo Biche – Preston Event Centre, Joe Cotroneo – Pub Italia, Shannon Walsh – Roberto Pizza, Leondra Suckra – Roberto Pizza, Danene Whiting – Sala San Marco, Jonathan Hobin - SPAO, Robin Guy – The Gladstone, Betsy Burns Johnson – The Gladstone, Dan Andre – The Moonroom, Trever Proulx – The Prescott, Dominic Carroza – Trattoria Italia Cafe, Natalie Esau – Upkeep Shoppe, Amanda Papalia - Vincent

Community Partners: Angelo Filoso – Committee Member, David Harding – Bicycle Race Ottawa, Doug Corner – Bicycle Race Ottawa, Giuseppe Castrucci – FCA Ottawa, Mariano Ranallo – FCA Ottawa, Carina Della Valle – Fonte d'Amore Tarantella, Delio D'Angelo - Italian Car Club of Ottawa, Sebastien Lemay – Ottawa Police Services, Stephanie Lemieux – Ottawa Police Services, Tony Lofaro, Dana Yamamura

City of Ottawa: Councillor Ariel Troster, Tessa Franklin, Bryden Denyes

7:00pm Welcoming Remarks

Motion to Open the Meeting

Moved by: Steve Moffatt

Motion to Approve the 2023 AGM Minutes

Moved by: Tony Zacconi

Seconded by: Claudio Lepore

Unanimously Accepted.

Motion to Approve the Agenda



Moved by: Joey Frangione
Seconded by: Houry Avedissian

7:10pm Address from City Councillor Ariel Troster. 7:10pm-7:15pm

7:15pm Chairman's Report: Presentation of the Annual Report and Year in Review by Lindsay Childerhose

Question – Will a bridge reopening event be held?

There is no formal plan to host a bridge reopening event. The timeline to replace the decorative features of the underpass is still unknown.

7:25pm Presentation by Angelo Filoso, Second Archway Committee Chair

Question – What are the 2025 Italian Festival Dates?

The dates for the 2025 Italian Festival will be June 6-8, with the Bike Race remaining on Father's Day on the north end of Preston Street. The main festival weekend will be one week before its typical weekend in June. This is because Formula One Races will once again take place in Montreal on Father's Day weekend. This decision was made so that car clubs (FCA Ottawa and ICCO) will have the participation level that they need to have their events take place.

7:30pm Presentation of the proposed budget for 2025

Motion to Approve the 2025 Budget

Moved by: Steve Moffatt
Seconded by: Tony Zacconi
Approved.

7:35pm Presentation by Steve Moffatt, Chairman

7:38pm Questions and Answer Period

Question - We have witnessed some terrible things on our beautiful street in Little Italy. Individuals are consistently engaging in disruptive behaviors on the streets, like blocking traffic, undressing, shouting, and rummaging through dumpsters, among other things. Given these issues, what steps can we take to address this situation, including increasing police presence and exploring other potential solutions?

Constable Stephanie Lemieux and Lieutenant Sebastien Lemay: The Ottawa Police Services has noticed a decrease in incident reports since 2020. They ask that members report incidents when they occur to ensure accurate data is captured for our community. OPS is an intelligence lead



department and when incidents are reported, they indicate hotspots that need police deployment.

There are also many non-police resources available including the new 2-1-1 Non-Police Crisis Line (ANCHOR) and the SWCHC Community Resource Team. The SWCHC Community Resource Team is an outreach program with trained professionals available to deal with mental health crises.

A free service that OPS offers is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, a program that looks at the surroundings and gives advice on how to make a safer environment. For more information, please visit the [Crime Prevention website](#). Please contact the BIA to receive a “Make the Right Call” magnet or “Who To Call” sheet.

Councillor Ariel Troster: If there are hotspots, please contact the Councilor’s Office (ariel.troster@ottawa.ca). Many of the issues cited in the question fall under the domain of the ANCHOR program, for which members should call 2-1-1.

Question – Are there any communications campaigns that the BIA is pushing for the upcoming calendar year?

The BIA will be working with the Kitchissippi times on various articles and placements, throughout the year, including paid placements for BIA events.

The BIA continues to offer a print marketing program, which has had very little uptake over the past year. Through this program, the BIA will take out ad space in well-known Ottawa publications and advertise multiple businesses under the umbrella of “Discover Little Italy”. Businesses pay \$100 for the spot, versus the \$1500 or \$2000 it would cost to advertise there alone. Members can contact Katy (social@prestonstreet.com) for all social media and advertising requests.

Question – What events can businesses participate in next year?

Businesses are encouraged to take part in BIA events, like Taste of Little Italy and Italian Festival. In 2025, the BIA will create more opportunities for retail or service-based businesses to have a presence at these events.

Question – Are there any plans to clean up the graffiti that has been sprayed on the Queensway underpass and the abandoned house on Preston Street, next to Casa Mexico?

The graffiti has been cleaned on the abandoned house at 224 Preston Street. The MTO is responsible for cleaning any graffiti on the underpass.

Question – How can we stop the daytime parking ban, down streets that have commercial businesses.



Bryden Denyes – City of Ottawa Roads and Parking Services: Roads and Parking Services can work with the BIA to alert bylaw not to ticket cars. The city is open to discussing including Beech Street in the main street commercial business area so that Bylaw does not target that section.

Question – Day time snow removal stakes, this should be done at night down commercial streets (Beech Street).

Bryden Denyes – City of Ottawa Roads and Parking Services: Roads and Parking Services prioritize routes given the vast number of streets in our city. Beech Street is prioritized closer to the start of the removal program. Unfortunately, it is a daytime removal as there is a parking ban during the day. The city could look into changing it to a night-time removal and ban, but that could create a significant delay in the clearing of snow, possibly one to two weeks. Roads and Parking Services is open to discussing this with the BIA and its members.

Question – Paid parking should end at 4pm, allowing restaurants to have more after work customer stop and/or stay in Little Italy to enjoy dinner. We are a destination area and need to make it more attractive to other areas of the city.

City Councillor Ariel Troster: Unfortunately, a lot of the paid parking times were made decades ago. City staff are currently developing decision-making criteria needed to make paid parking consistent throughout the city. There is going to be a parking report next year on paid parking. The public can attend committee meetings to talk about why there should be a change in paid parking in a given area. If you have any issues, please contact the City Councillor's office (ariel.troster@ottawa.ca).

Motion to close the Annual General Meeting for 2024

Moved by: Houry Avedissian

Unanimously accepted.