



**Preston Street BIA
BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

**July 8, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Zoom Video Call**

Attendees: Steve Moffatt, Lauryn Santini, Tony Zacconi, Marcus Filoso, Joey Frangione, Sabrina Mtanos, Shauna Bradley, Claudio Lepore, Lindsay Childerhose, Tessa Franklin

Absentees: Ariel Troster

1. Call to Order – 10:05am

The meeting was called to order by Steve Moffatt.

1.1 Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May meeting were approved by Claudio Lepore and Joey Frangione.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by Lauryn Santini and Joey Frangione.

2. Chairman's Report

2.1 Italian Festival Review and Discussion

Board members shared positive feedback regarding this year's Italian Festival, highlighting the impact of the new charity and sponsor tents, increased member participation, and successful children's activities

- Businesses, especially restaurants, reported record-breaking traffic and sales.
- Inflatables were a hit with families and ran smoothly.
- The BIA raised an additional \$10,000 through sponsorships which improved programming.
- The 301 Preston parking lot was identified as a “dead zone” during the festival.

Action: Lindsay will schedule a meeting with Italian Week to review this year and discuss 2026. Proposed meeting dates: July 21–23 at Waterford in Preston Square. Participants to include Steve, Marcus, Tony, Joey, and Lindsay.



2.1.1 2026 Event Dates

Discussion was held around the Canadian Grand Prix moving to May for the next 10 years and its impact on the Ottawa Italian Festival. Letters from FCA Ottawa, ICCO, and Joe Cotroneo were reviewed.

It is noted that the Ferrari Club is proposing a weekend outside of Italian Week.

Many businesses support returning to Father's Day weekend.

Concerns were raised about Escapade Music Festival also occurring on Father's Day weekend in 2026 and the potential for limited police resources.

Action Items:

Lindsay to consult with the City about Escapade's timing and feasibility.

A pros and cons list for potential weekends will be prepared by Lindsay.

A board vote on the date will follow City consultation.

2.2 Blade Sign Program

The board agrees to restart the Blade Sign Program. Businesses must be on Preston Street for a minimum of 5 years to enter the program. Members will be invoiced by the BIA for their blade. The BIA will coordinate production and installation with Heritage Grade.

Two mural panel spots are available in the design of the new heritage mural. It is agreed that these will be made available through an application process. Businesses must have 20–30 years of continuous presence on the street and must submit a letter of intent and historical significance to be considered.

4.3 Mural Update and Design Approval

An update was given on the mural project. The permit from MTO is pending due to panel inspection requirements. MTO is requesting that the BIA remove the panels once every two years for a visual inspection of the concrete.

Lindsay, Steve, and Andre will meet with MTO to discuss the concrete inspection and panel mounting requirements.

Joey proposes additional signage on the exterior of the sound barrier above Preston Street, though concerns were raised about MTO restrictions.

MOTION: That the Board approve the mural design by Style Over Status and proceed with signing a contract.



Moved by: Joey Frangione

Seconded by: Steve Moffatt

Unanimously approved.

2.4 Overpass Signs

2.4.1 Mounting System Update

The BIA is working with D+M Structural for drawings of the new mounting systems required by MTO. Permitting is expected to be lengthy.

2.4.2 Timeline

The board agreed to delay installation of the signs until spring 2026 for budget and planning purposes. By shifting to a new calendar year, the BIA can apply to the City's Mural and Architecture Fund in 2026, which is an annual grant program currently being used for the underpass mural in 2025.

2.4.3 Old Signs and Community Use

The Board agrees that finding a community use for the old signs is best. Lindsay has connected with the Councillor's office about the prospect of including one of the old signs at the 1010 Somerset Community Hub field.

Tony proposed installing one on the north-facing wall at Sala San Marco, which the board supported as it keeps the sign within the community.

Lindsay reminded the board of the need to follow Municipal Act procedures for disposal or transfer of public assets.

2.5 Boundary Expansion

Lindsay provided a brief update on the boundary expansion.

- The contract has been signed with Acacia Consulting.
- Work has begun on mapping commercial properties, reviewing development activity and gathering business data.
- A draft report is expected in less than 8 weeks.

Lindsay will continue to provide updates and share the draft report with the board once available.

2.6 Parking Advocacy Request



Lindsay shares concerns and comments raised by Joe Calabro, owner of Pasticceria Gelateria Italiana. Joe requests that the BIA prepare a report sharing information related to customer behaviour and parking patterns on Preston, based on the lived experience of business owners.

The board approved moving forward with advocacy.

A future meeting with the Councillor and select businesses was proposed.

Action: Lindsay will begin planning the data collection and outreach.

2.7 Hiring Plan

Lindsay provided a brief update on the upcoming marketing position, including a plan to post the job in August and a goal is to have someone in place by early September.

2.8 Annual General Meeting 2025

Lindsay proposed hosting the AGM at Heart and Crown. The venue is considered a new and appropriate option.

Action: Lindsay will connect with Shauna to explore catering options for the meeting.

3.0 Adjournment – 11:08am

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08am by Steve Moffatt.

Action Items:

- Lindsay to schedule a meeting with Italian Week (July 21–23 at Waterford in Preston Square)
- Lindsay to consult with the City about Escapade 2026
- Lindsay to prepare a pros and cons list for potential 2026 festival weekends
- Steve to meet with Andre and MTO to discuss concrete inspection and panel requirements
- Lindsay to begin planning parking data collection and outreach
- Lindsay to connect with Shauna to explore catering options for the 2025 AGM at Heart and Crown