



**BURLINGTON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ~ IN PERSON & ZOOM
WEDNESDAY JUNE 7, 2023**

Present: S. Bell, L. Bouchard-Bain, B. Glazier, A. Ucar, E. Vine, B. Wodhams and Councillor Kearns

Present via Zoom: S. Peachey

Staff: L. Birmingham and B. Dean

Regrets: P. Skoretz and D. Walker

Guests: J. Jones – Membership Services
D. Kuchma – The Kuchma Team Remax (Potential Director)
N. Gardner – Bodhi Bar (Potential Director)
D. Gray – Creature Comforts & Bubbles & Blow (Potential Director)

1. Call to Order 8:05 am by L. Bouchard-Bain

No conflicts of interest were declared for this meeting.

2. Approval of Board Minutes: Wednesday May 3, 2023

Motion by: S. Bell Second by: B. Wodhams

“To approve the minutes of Wednesday May 3, 2023, as presented.”

Motion Carried

3. Nominations to Board of Directors: L. Bouchard-Bain

L. Bouchard-Bain explained there are two vacancies on the Board and three candidates. Each candidate will be asked the same question and then another question on a more personal level.

The candidates will be notified by June 9, 2023

The two successful candidates will begin their term at the September 13, 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion by: L. Kearns Second by: S. Bell

“To dismiss staff while an in-camera session takes place with the Board discussing and voting on the two candidates.”

Motion Carried

Motion by: B. Wodhams Second by: S. Bell

“To reopen the meeting at 9:15am.”

Motion Carried

4. **Councillor Update:** Councillor Kearns

- Councillor Kearns will be receiving 6 summer students this summer and has offered their assistance with downtown data collection. The students are eager to learn and will make excellent downtown ambassadors, setting up a tent in Spencer Smith Park, doing surveys and handing out information about the city and downtown. They range from Grade 9 to post-secondary student.
- In July, the city will begin the process of creating soft projections for the 2024 budget. Councillor Kearns will be looking at the vacancy rates and will be proactive in ensuring we do not have a corridor of empty store fronts when the new development is complete. B. Dean requested an official funding application be included in the 2024 budget to help with programs such as the Patio Walkways. Councillor Kearns agreed and stated she will be putting in a business case for funding.
- The BDBA has submitted its opinion to City Council regarding the Food Truck Festival, but we need to continue our case to have the event moved to a different part of the City. It was recommended a restaurateur and/or a member of the Burlington Restaurant Association be present to add another voice to the BDBA and Councillor Kearns. The Food Truck Festival does not add any vibrancy to the downtown but rather deters customers from visiting as the parking garage is full and it does not add anything positive to downtown.
- The promenade in Spencer Smith Park will be closed during set-up for any large events such as The Sound of Music for safety precautions.
- There is now 5.6 million in the budget to redevelop Civic Square. Councillor Kearns was not happy with the prior design and will be seeking new plans.
- Councillor Kearns urged anyone not already receiving her newsletter to sign up for it, keeping you up to date on anything happening downtown. Ward2@burlington.ca

5. **Central Managed Patio Walkways Update:** B. Dean

- L. Bouchard-Bain, B. Dean and COB Transportation toured all the patio walkways pointing out issues that need to be resolved i.e., random sandbags, directional signage. Additional waste containers will be placed in corners of the barriers and walkways. Cycling racks will also be relocated.
- B. Dean stated we are on target for the budget.
- 74 white barriers are wrapped around 3 restaurant walkways. The BDBA was surprised by this development. It was known at the time of rental (of the walkways from Pop-Up Street Patios Inc.) that the municipality would be reviewing high impact areas and preparing to install barrier functions. During the installation of the by-passes the City Transportation Department, citing adherence to the *2023 Ontario Traffic Council Guidelines for Municipalities*, Transportation Department installed white, water-filled barriers across the full length of the walkways on Lakeshore Road and Elgin Street.
- The Directors questioned why Burlington is the only city where this rule is being applied. Lisa/Brian noted that they raised this question with the Director of Transportation, his decision has not changed.

