

Locke St BIA Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2018

- 1) A Locke Street South BIA meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. on March 27, 2018 at the Melrose United Church.
- 2) The following members were in attendance:
 - Georgina Mitropoulos (Brux House Craft Beer + Kitchen)
 - Susan Gregor (Maddison Avenue)
 - Bettina Schormann (Earth to Table Bread Bar)
 - Robyn Allan (Nest)
 - Leo Tsangarakis (The Burnt Tongue)
 - Brandon Stanicak (The West Town)
 - Heidi Vanderkwaak (Donut Monster)
 - Kirsten McNamee (Judy Marsales Real Estate)
 - Frank Torelli
 - Diana McClure (Treasurer)
 - Tony Greco (Chair)
- 3) Minutes from previous meeting were approved
- 4) Diana McClure reported on finances, including a:
 - \$2,000 deficit due to a lack of city grant
 - \$52,000 bank balance
- 5) Bettina Schormann and Leo Tsangarakis requested and received BIA approval/endorsement to apply to the city for pop-up patios over the summer
 - Minutes will be sent to the city to inform personnel of BIA approval
- 6) Tony Greco congratulated Brux House Craft Beer + Kitchen and Franjipani on their BIA awards of excellence announced at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Achievement Awards on March 20
- 7) Tony Greco acknowledged the work police did in containing protestors on Locke Street on March 25
 - A letter will be sent to the police chief and team on behalf of the BIA to thank them for keeping the city safe during the protests
- 8) Starbucks on Locke Street South has put a call out for volunteers to help clean up the street on April 22 (Earth Day) in exchange for free coffee
 - The call for volunteers will be shared among BIA members and on BIA social media channels
- 9) A discussion around when city sweepers will clean Locke Street arose
 - Debris and salt has accumulated on the street, sidewalk, and alleyways
 - Diana McClure clarified the city is not responsible for sweeping alleyways; only roadways with street signs
 - For the most effective cleaning, it was suggested street sweeping take place at an hour (early morning) when cars are not parked on the street
 - The BIA will contact the city to inquire about when city sweepers will be cleaning Locke Street in the near future

Locke St BIA Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2018

- 10) Georgina Mitropoulos spoke to the potential of a food and beverage event on Locke Street, and it was decided to put a call out to BIA members to gather input and see if there is interest.
- Georgina Mitropoulos suggested a monthly event for food and beverage businesses wanting to participate
 - A possible concept could include each venue offering a bite-sized food sample and small beverage to pair
 - Participants would travel between venues to sample, rather than stay
 - It was also suggested that:
 - Rather on a Saturday, when businesses are already busy, the event could take place on a weeknight
 - The event could piggyback on the Live on Locke events in support of An Instrument for Every Child, a sell-out, four-part concert series taking place from September-December
 - The event could include a passport to combine food and beverage with retail
 - The event could launch during Locke Street Festival and continue afterward
 - A sub-committee of food and beverage businesses form to discuss possibilities
- 11) Diana McClure spoke to the issue of the new, cement electrical poles that replaced the street's wooden poles not having the right hardware and electrical boxes for banners and Christmas lights. While the BIA has the electrical boxes that Alectra Utilities removed, they need to be re-installed as Alectra does not take responsibility for rewiring the utilities. She estimated the job to cost about \$10,000, and suggested approaching Ward 1 Councillor Aidan Johnson for the funds to rewire the poles through the Ward 1 Participatory Budgeting initiative. Failing that, she suggested using \$10,000 from the BIA's beautification reserve to hire an electrician to rewire the poles.
- This prompted much debate among attendees
 - Some thought the new pole agreement would include the transfer of transformers from wooden to cement poles
 - Some were concerned why the street didn't have buried wiring, like other city streets
 - Heidi Vanderkwaak mentioned Participatory Budgeting initiatives were already in motion, and that the BIA should come up with a plan to take advantage of the program for next year
 - Diana McClure said it was still worth inquiring whether funds through Participatory Budgeting could still be spared, or if parking revenue could cover the cost
 - The general consensus among attendees was if the city will not pay for the rewiring, the BIA will not go into reserves to cover the cost (this means no Christmas lights for the 2019 holiday season)
 - It was decided that more members needed to weigh in before making a decision, and that the issue should be put forward to a future meeting
 - Brandon Stanicak proposed speaking to a construction sub committee on which an Alectra rep sits to discuss potential solutions

Locke St BIA Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2018

- In the meantime, Tony Greco and Brandon Stanicak will get quotes on the cost of rewiring the poles from contractors
- 12) Locke Street South storefronts wanting a mural are able to donate a wall for youth to paint on
- If any business are interested, please let Carlo Gorni know
 - Participating businesses will work with an architect and city planner to ensure the mural is appropriate
- 13) A local pastor Jamie Harsevoort reached out to the BIA with a letter that communicated the church would be donating Sunday collections to help fix damages in the wake of the Locke Street protests
- It was discussed that insurance is covering damages, with the city taking care of shortfalls
 - Tony Greco said it was a lovely gesture
 - It was decided to let businesses that were victimized during the protest know about the offer, and respond to the pastor
- 14) Robyn Allan mentioned she was getting requests to advertise in Hamilton Magazine/Tourism Hamilton's Visit Hamilton guide, and wondered what the feasibility of a group ad would be
- Frank Torelli mentioned the BIA advertises with The Hamilton Spectator's Destination Hamilton magazine
 - It was suggested that ad rep from Hamilton Magazine canvas Locke Street businesses to gauge interest in advertising in the Visit Hamilton guide
- 15) Heidi Vanderkwaak asked if the BIA would endorse/support Donut Monster's bid for a pop-up patio in the summer
- It was decided the BIA would approve the request

Prepared By: Elaine Mitropoulos