

Combined Board of Directors Meeting - Sparks Street BIA & Mall Authority

Monday, April 11, 2022

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Teams Call

- ***Kevin McHale***
- ***Court Curry***
- ***Sue-Ellen Holst***
- ***Scott Lennon***
- ***Michael Swan***
- ***Marissa Lord***
- ***Ian Wright***

Declaration of conflicts *NONE*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda** *Scott, seconded Ian*
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting – SSMA** *Ian, seconded Scott*
- 3. Declarations of pecuniary interest including those arising from prior meetings** **None**
- 4. Opening Remarks – Chair**
 - *Court was able to catch up with Kevin last week, exciting to talk about events that are going to happen on the street and the enthusiasm and a good dose of public realm funding*
 - *A lot going on in precinct after Occupation, but positive momentum*
- 5. Public Realm Projects Update** *Kevin presented the deck*
 - *Green Zone summary – received funding from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund Includes Four tree boxes, AV towers and Green Walls Play and Grow is progression slowly, funding is in place, we are looking to line up with parks department to get elements together*
 - *Reach out to landscaping architects to see who is available and has bandwidth Interlock update – five different contractors reached out, Lafleur included, we will see what pricing comes out for, we’ve asked the vendors to provide price per sq We are seeing supply issues; We wanted work done by end of May but supply issues we will work with them*
 - *They are smaller spots, it can be done on a smaller scale*
 - *Water will be turned on in the next week, we will be able to confirm Block 3 water valve replace and reinstate*
 - *Transferring two lampposts from block 5 to block 1*
 - *Spring operations underway, bollards and sweeping have begun*
 - *Benches returning this week, we will be thinning out on other blocks and relocating to block 5 as experiment, emulating around war memorial, along*

concrete walls will be purposeful in lining up multiple benches beside each other, unified look

- *Tulips first week of May and hanging baskets end of May, concrete planters June 6*
- *Ribfest in advance of plantings*
- *Patio contracts have gone out, return to higher standards and enforcement*
- *2022 rental fees waived,*
- *Going through design review with Little Victories and Stolen Goods, two new applicants*
- *Temporary Signage policy, eliminate flags and other formats that takes away from sightlines*
- *Future steps to include standardized A-frames 1-2yr down the road, can discuss providing this as part of fee*
- *Exceptions to the rules as some members are behind a raised sidewalk, etc but we started this due to clutter owners having multiple signs*
- *Michael Swan – one per location only*
- *Court would like to see a business owners perspective*
- *Ian remarked has never used a sandwich board, but neighbours use multiple and understand why they do to get word out about the businesses and we do need some rules to follow, one is sufficient and images on windows to help enhance, need a structure*
- *Court added its an ongoing issue in Byward Market and Elgin, flagged by ward councillors. This is a reasonable compromise*
- *Kevin remarked that just because we are on Sparks Street it doesn't exempt us from the temporary signage bylaw (highway traffic act) we have no authoritative power on that, if we had a major issue, we are still accommodating the legal mechanism for enforcement*
- **ACTION** *Kevin will be presenting this to the BIA Board and members are in agreement we will draft for formal approval. We will inform members who are investing in these assets don't buy them because you will be unable to put them up*
- *We will use photos to simplify, and we will identify the space*

6. Executive Director Report – Kevin

- *Kevin Outlined the event and programming list*
- *Asian Night Market a new addition*
- *Wellington Closure update, we no longer have loading zones, traffic services is aware*
- *Tour busses are affected, we have been working with us and Traffic services is aware, Kevin has spoken to Matt Gravelle in the Mayor's Office*
- *Closure could be a good thing but the City is required to consult with the BIA and residents before making a decision*
- *We will provide update to traffic services if things change*

- *Kevin announced that Sparks Street has won two OBIAA Awards for PR and Community improvements (Bottle Filling Stations and Sparks Gives)*

7. Other Business - Round Table

- *Ian remarked that the businesses are still having significant challenges with lack of workforce downtown and closures, hopes events will increase foot traffic, we thank the BIA they are doing a great job*
- *Court remarked the organization coming back one day a week, but we will return May 2, hope to see City Hall filled up*
- *Michael looked at stats for repopulating the downtown core but unfortunately Ottawa is last, our foot traffic down 82.2% since pre-Covid. Comparing this to Washington, it is not as affected as Ottawa; Ottawa seems to be the slowest to recover from North American cities, staff returns today, full time, 5 days a week*
- **ACTION:** *Kevin will send the Environics study to the Board that discusses the downtown core population and demographics*
- *Scott confirmed approval from the Senate to roll Victoria into the block 2 redevelopment plan, it will save the tax payers a significant amount in economies of scale*
- *Scott is announced his retirement*
- *The Board Congratulates Scott*

Adjournment *Michael, Ian*