



**HxBIA Board Meeting
May 20, 2021**

Minutes

Location: Zoom

Time: 1:00 PM

In attendance: Caithlin Scarpelli; Ash MacLeod; Dirk Falconer; Gordon Casey; Steve Johnston; Devon Boorman; Adam Hayashi

Regrets: Deanna Wing

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM.

2. Additions to the Agenda

No additional items were added to the agenda.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Steve moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Gordon.

4. Adoption of Minutes from April 2021 Meeting

Steve moved to adopt the minutes; Gordon seconded.

5. Update on Action Items

Adam had committed at the April board meeting to drafting discussion notes for a meeting between representatives from the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health, and BIA members around the intersection of Pender and Abbott. These notes were shared by email.

6. General Update

a. City of Vancouver (DTES Market, OPS Site, Congestion Pricing)

Adam updated the board on the move of the DTES Street Market from 58 W Hastings to 62 E Hastings in late April. This interim location is expected to host the market until the 26 E Hastings site becomes available in September.

Adam summarized the speaking points for engagement with VCH and CoV around the Pender/Abbott issues. The emphasis is on ensuring better engagement in future while communicating that we support the work of OPS.

Steve provided an update on a conversation with City staff on their work to facilitate conversations between OPS staff and drug dealers on the site. The City's objective is to reduce the conflict that is happening on and around the site.

There was discussion around resources that may be available to affected businesses around the site, including financial resources. Adam is working with VCH to set up a meeting time.

Adam had a meeting with City staff on congestion pricing. The City's ambitious timelines have been deferred from the initial plan to have a program outline established by May 2021. Instead, the City is now issuing an RFP for a consultant to do a technical analysis. At the same time, the City plans a stakeholder engagement process beginning in July. Adam will join this process to represent the interests of HxBIA members.

b. Placemaking (DTES Lights grant; graffiti)

See written update below.

c. Social media

Chris Neale-Clarke, the BIA's IT consultant, will be away for some time on personal matters. Adam is exploring social media support to ensure our campaign of profiling members is launched.

7. Other business

8. Adjournment

Ash moved to adjourn at 1:33 pm; Gordon seconded.

As not all agenda items were addressed in the allotted time, Adam has addressed the omitted items below.

6. b) Placemaking

DTES Lights project: HxBIA partnered with Carnegie Foundation on a grant application to the Healthy Communities Initiative. The funding would go to support an expanded second year of the holiday lights program that was launched in 2020.

We received notice that our application was unsuccessful, as were the other Vancouver BIAs who applied. Apparently, there was funding of \$31M available to respond to requests of \$300M.

We aim to re-apply in June. The City has agreed to provide a letter of support.

Graffiti: This issue has been noted by City Council as a growing problem. At the May 19 meeting of City Council, there was discussion on Councillor Dominato's and Councillor Fry's motion on the subject (<https://council.vancouver.ca/20210519/documents/pspc9.pdf>). Note that the motion was approved May 27. The motion called for less enforcement of the bylaw to clean graffiti, which is problematic for locations that struggle to keep on top of repeated tags; directed staff to look at new enforcement and tracking measures for prolific taggers; proposed \$300K in grants for BIAs to remove graffiti; and suggested the City could work with BIAs on sanctioned graffiti zones.

HxBIA has begun to explore funding for street art from Reaching Home grant money. Will continue these discussions.

Patio program: A number of Vancouver BIAs are working together on a patio promotion project to launch in June. Food and beverage patios will be promoted in various media outlets; there will daily giveaways and weekly contests; and influencer visits in support of social media activity. Adam will continue coordinating with BIA Partnership team and HxBIA members.