



**HxBIA Board Meeting
June 17, 2021**

Minutes

Location: Zoom

Time: 2:00 PM

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

Regrets: Caithlin Scarpelli

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Dirk moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Steve.

4. Adoption of Minutes from May 2021 Meeting

Steve moved to adopt the minutes; Ash seconded.

5. Update on Action Items

6. General Update

a. City of Vancouver (OPS Site, Decriminalization of Poverty)

Steve provided an update on the DTES street market based on conversations with MaryClare Zak from the City. The current site at 62 East Hastings will only be available until the end of July 2021. There are concerns that the City may not seek a site for the interim period before the 26 East Hastings site is ready; little demolition appears to have been done on that site. The City is looking to adopt some recommendations from the vending report they commissioned, and to receive support from the street market society on the logistics of running vending during the interim period.

Adam summarized the meeting between the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, and several HxBIA members located near the OPS site at Pender and Abbott. We made a point of expressing our support for OPS services and for their place in the community. Members shared their concerns around: personal safety in the alley and in places of work surrounding the site; increases in gang activity; and the challenges of graffiti and garbage. VCH committed to regular meetings and has since followed up seeking dates. They have promised to work with VPD on some of the challenges getting responses to incidents when BIA members call. And they are working on clarity regarding graffiti and garbage on and around the site.

b. Placemaking (DTES Lights grant; graffiti)

Adam updated that BIAs, including HxBIA, were unsuccessful in applications to the Healthy Communities Initiative. Other funding would be pursued for the Lights program. Several conversations have taken place with groups including Community Policing Centres, Embers Eastside Works, and Mission Possible regarding a program to address the graffiti challenges in the BIA. City funding of \$25,000 will be made available to Hastings Crossing.

Ash agreed that systemic issues driving graffiti would be a challenge. Linkages between artists and mentors could help. Ash expressed interest in a revived arts and culture committee.

c. Patio Program

Adam highlighted the promotional efforts taking place in several BIAs to increase patio visits. Social media postings would be created to raise awareness.

d. BIAs (ED Changes; Filming; Tax)

Adam spoke of the two recent changes to DTES BIAs: Stefanie Schultz departed from Gastown and the new ED is Wally Wargolet, whom Adam has met with. Theo Lamb was leaving Strathcona and a search would be carried out to find a new ED.

e. Audit

The documentation for the audit is complete and the process was scheduled to begin in July.

f. Strategic Planning

Adam committed to following up with more detailed draft material.

7. Other business

8. Adjournment

Ash moved to adjourn; Dirk seconded.