

OTTAWA STREET BIA MEETING

March 24, 2026

6:00PM-7:00PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

T. Lute
A. Clark
E. Grad
S. Weiler
M. Nethercot
K. Rogelstad
A. Mayer

K. Swayze
P. Fonovic
A. Lantos
C. Chabot
M. Weide
J. Weide
C. Morphy

Welcome & Introductions – T. Lute

Minutes for Board Meeting – T. Lute

Motion to approve minutes from February 2026

1st A. Lantos 2nd K. Swayze Carried

Treasurer's Report – E. Grad

Ottawa Street Bia: \$80,254.93 Contingency: \$756.54

Membership Statement – L. Lute

T. Lute provided a statement advising that he has stepped up to serve as Board Chair, and that the BIA is currently dealing with a misappropriation of funds involving the previous Chair, M. Carruth. He noted that the matter is under investigation.

Beautification Updates – S. Weiler

Benches:

The Board discussed parkette improvements that are currently underway, including removing the tables and benches for sandblasting and repainting black, repairing trip areas in the interlock, power washing and scraping between interlock stones, and applying new polymer sand to reduce weeds. It was also noted that the large power panel will be wrapped with Ottawa Street “buttons and thimbles,” and that new black fluted garbage bins will be installed. The target completion date for this first phase is May 1.

Spring Decor Swap

S. Weiler reported that she found the holiday tree on the sidewalk at the parkette on Sunday, March 8, and contacted HHP to remove the tree urgently. HHP retrieved the tree and is assessing the damage, reporting that it was “torn out of the sidewalk and vandalized.” At this time, it is undetermined whether the décor is salvageable. A safety concern was raised regarding the length of time the tree remains in the parkette and the condition of its mounting. S. Weiler will look into removing the tree earlier than the usual

February/March swap and will explore additional mounting options. Icicles and snowflakes were removed, banners were replaced, and suns were hung on the poles. The Board will decide whether the tree is worth repairing or should be replaced, and S. Weiler will obtain a repair quote and discuss next steps with the Board.

BIA Advisory Committee – S. Weiler Passport Working Group

S. Weiler reported that the Passport Working Group has closed its Open Call for marketing ideas to support food-based businesses across 12 Hamilton BIAs. A shortlist of ideas was reviewed by the committee, and a business has been selected to fulfill the marketing initiative. The chosen business will present to the BIA Subcommittee at an upcoming meeting.

Elections

The Board discussed a potential partnership related to the upcoming election, recognizing the Ottawa Street BIA's broad communication channels and strong community connection. The goal is to help ensure Hamilton residents are informed, prepared, and supported, and Elections may wish to attend BIA events to reach residents. It was also noted that residents can now vote anywhere within their ward and that there is a larger advance voting window.

BIA Coordinator– S. Weiler Interns

S. Weiler provided an update regarding intern Heather, who will assist with planning, organizing, and coordinating trucks for Sew Hungry, provide on-site event support (including setup, coordination, and guest assistance), support outreach to local businesses, partners, and community members, and assist with Sew Hungry administrative tasks and communications.

Review of Parking Rates

At a recent in-person meeting discussing 115 Campbell Ave municipal parking lot with councillor T. Hwang it was determined that Ottawa Street BIA wishes to consider a review of parking rates. The Ottawa Street lots were noted as having a minimum rate of \$0.50, an hourly rate of \$1.00, and a daily rate of \$6.00. Mulberry Street at James Street was noted as having a minimum rate of \$3.25, an hourly rate of \$3.25, and a daily rate of \$15.00. Parking rates for Ottawa Street lots were compared with downtown Hamilton lots, and it was noted that further discussion and member feedback are needed before any considerations move forward.

Community Meeting: Construction at Ottawa & Main

S. Weiler reported that she and P. Fonovic attended a community meeting at Laidlaw United Church February 26th with Ward 3 and the City of Hamilton regarding construction at Ottawa & Main. Construction is expected to begin at the end of May and continue until the end of September, and Main Street will be closed from London to Grosvenor.

Other – S. Weiler

Vice Chair Appointment

Motion to approve A. Clarke as vice chair for Ottawa Street BIA

1st K. Swayze 2nd K. Rogelstad Carried

Dismissal

Next Meeting: April 21, 2026

Location: Hybrid, In-person at 3 Britannia Avenue
Or online