

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT | JUNE, 2023

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 21, 2023

Submitted by: Marijo Cuerrier

1) COUNCIL/ CITY OF KINGSTON COMMITTEES

Delegations:

None

2) ADVOCACY

The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) was an important lifeline to many businesses who found themselves suddenly unable to be open or provide services as normal. The Federal Government has announced that businesses are required to pay back the full amount of their loans by December 2023 in order to receive \$20,000 of forgiveness.

The Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA), the Ottawa Coalition of BIAs (OCoBIA) and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business each recently conducted independent surveys that strongly indicate that repayment deadlines will adversely affect businesses.

Immediate action is necessary to support small and local businesses.

Offering small businesses a multi-year repayment plan would alleviate the pressure that many of them are feeling due to the looming repayment requirement.

As members of OBIAA we will be calling upon the Federal Government to:

- Create a multi-year, no interest, repayment plan for small businesses who received the Canada Emergency Business Account.
- Forgive 33% up to \$20,000 for businesses who agree to a multi-year repayment plan.

OBIAA Advocacy Committee Timeline

- May 15 – review of Toronto CEBA Resolution
- June 6 – develop a timeline and develop the OBIAA/OCOBIA resolution
- July to August - Toolkit for BIAs to send letters to Councilors via BIAs
- July – Best Practice Call – share how BIAs can participate on behalf of their members.
- After Summer recess, BIA representatives will bring it to their Council.
- Early Autumn - Develop and Release media release
- Early Autumn - Work with BIA Umbrella groups across Canada to share wording
Date – Federal budget consultation submission

OP-Growth Analysis and Urban Lands Study

The City of Kingston has retained CN Watson as a consultant to assist in the preparation of 3 background studies as part of the City's Official Plan Review. I attended an open house to hear a presentation (Slide deck: OP-Growth Analysis Urban Land Needs Study.pdf). There are some very interesting stats in this file for those that are stats and forecast minded. The evening presentation was focused mainly on population, housing and employment forecasts for the City of Kingston.

** Employment Land Review Commercial Land Review is a part of this process and in both cases the presumption is that the growth of the City is expected to require that more land be planned for industrial development, business parks, power centres and local shopping centres. By starting with these studies the City will begin a quantitative assessment of employment and commercial needs, leading to a new Official Plan. When the Plan is completed and approved, it will guide the City's decisions and development industry initiatives until the Plan is reviewed again, which probably won't happen until 2032-2034.*

This is therefore a critical moment for DKBIA. The new OP will determine conditions for business in the Downtown for the next decade. Promoting the Downtown as a business or shopping area is one of the primary functions of the BIA as set out in the Municipal Act.

As the studies progress, it will be important that the BIA and its members are engaged for the sole purpose of ensuring that the health and vitality of the downtown core is at the forefront of discussions. I will be actively working to ensure we are considered as the process progresses. If anyone is interested in engaging on this topic with me, please reach out.

**Source: Letter to Marijo Cuerrier from Jack Dougan, Markets on Main Street*

3) BOARD

Committees:

- Community Spaces Ad Hoc Committee: Despite the pending hiatus, this committee met with City representatives to discuss correspondence that was received by some members regarding [Municipal Class Environmental Assessment \(MCEA\) Study Pedestrianization of Ontario Street at City Hall Notice of Study Commencement](#). More information is included in the Committee report in your Board Package.
- Accommodations Advisory Working Group: This Advisory group met to discuss the same assessment mentioned above and to discuss the possibilities and possible challenges of a conference centre in the downtown core. More information is included in the Committee report in your Board Package.

- Board Culture onboarding session polls will be sent out to all board members shortly. These sessions will be focused on Board culture, partner organization relationships, the one-voice concept for Board members and Board member responsibilities outside of the Boardroom.
- Pending Committee and Advisory Working Group meetings to be booked:
 - i) Clean and Safe
 - ii) Development and Intensification
 - iii) Finance

4) TEAM/OFFICE

- a. This year's Downtown K-Town Runaround was a successful event with 16 teams consisting of 71 participants. Last year, we had a budget of \$10K, with \$5000 coming from TK and KAP together, which allowed us to contract out the event as this is an incredibly busy time in events season for the office. This year, we had a \$5000 budget. This allowed us to do a hybrid version of the event using the contractor in a consultant role, working with our students to create, engage and execute the entire event, with oversight from the events team. This is with the intention of bringing it inhouse next year.
- b. Post event report can be reviewed here: [Runaround Post-Event Report.pdf](#)

5) PEDESTRIAN COUNTS

- 3 new eco-counters have been installed and tracking at the following locations since June 2:
 - i) NW corner of Princess and Bagot
 - ii) NW corner of Princess and Sydenham
 - iii) NW corner of Princess and Barrie

Locations may be moved as we work with a multi-counter system. To access pedestrian counts you can now go to this url: <https://data.eco-counter.com/ParcPublic/?id=8688#>.
More detailed reports will be included in your Board Package.

6) FINANCES

- We now have budget vs. Actual reports by department from Eco Bookkeeping functioning. January-April 2023 are included in your package.
- The Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet will be available at the next Board meeting.

7) GRANTS

Nothing to report

8) SAFETY & SECURITY

- Please see the Clean and Safe report included in your package for more details on Safety and Security.

9) BEAUTIFICATION

- **Florals and Banners:**

- i) Large flower planters on Princess and in SMS have been delayed. In shipping. According to Public Works, they are hoping for delivery next week and installation the week after that.
- ii) Over 100 Flower baskets have been installed throughout downtown as well as a number of florals and ferns in Rochleau Court, funded by the BIA.
- iii) You may have noticed the Rainbow banners with the new design for 2023 that is more inclusive on Princess this month. We have received a number of positive comments on this initiative and will continue to implement it in the coming years, starting in the month of June.

- **Cleanliness:**

- i) Painting of all downtown garbage receptacles are complete.
- ii) 90% completion of new cans in the downtown core with 4 cans to be installed on Queen St and 3 that are ripped out of the cobblestone requiring concrete pads on Princess due to cobblestone damage.
- iii) We are receiving compliments on the cleanliness of our downtown. This is a good thing!

10) PARTNERS

- The Downtown Activation Plan:

- i) Eight locations have been identified for placement of the first of several downtown parkettes over the next 3 years. These 8 parkettes are scheduled for delivery mid-august. Installation to be determined. For more details on the parkettes and their locations please refer to the document in your package.

11) SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Sydenham St summer activation:**

- i) 18-HOLE min-putt is doing very well and attracting a lot of positive attention
- ii) The rubber flooring for the play area will be installed in June. 26.
- iii) The playground will be installed in 2024.

- **Art projects in the downtown core:**

- i) Nothing to report