Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia
AGM – April 16, 2025
Pinnacle at the Pier
138 Victory Ship Way, North Vancouver, BC

Minutes

Present BIABC Board: Patricia Barnes (Hastings North BIA), Mark Burley (Downtown Kelowna Association), Jeremy Heighton (Kamloops North Shore BIA), Teri James (Downtown Langley Business Association), Isabel Kolic (Heights Merchants Association), Maureen O'Brien (Ambleside-Dundarave BIA), Angelene Prakash (Downtown New West BIA), Teri Smith (West End BIA), Winki Tam (Downtown Vancouver BIA), Colleen Van Mook (Downtown Prince George BIA).

Additional Members: Michelle Barile (West Broadway BIA), Karen Beaubier (Uptown Rutland), Jon Bevan (Lower Lonsdale BIA), Jennifer Broadwell (Downtown Salmon Arm BIA), Greg Chadwick (Downtown Courtenay BIA), Thea Hitchcock (Downtown Duncan BIA), Angela Evans (Collingwood BIA), Tracey Gravel (Downtown Surrey BIA), Karley Holley (Mission Downtown BA), Landon Hoyt (Hastings Crossing BIA), Katja Kovanen (Quesnel Downtown Association), Heather Leary (Oak Bay BIA), Kerry Neil (Downtown Squamish BIA), Rita Orley (Strathcona BIA), Howie Reimer (Kamloops Central BIA), Brett Turner (Downtown Penticton BIA), Celise Verge (Downtown Maple Ridge BIA), Sherry Yonkman (Williams Lake Central BIA)

Secretary: Lori Baxter (BIABC)

1. **Welcome:** A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with Jeremy Heighton in the Chair.

2. **Presidents Introduction:** Heighton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the current BIABC board.

3. **Approval of AGM Minutes May 1, 2024:**
   Motion to approve the minutes of the AGM held on May 1, 2024.
   Moved by Downtown Kelowna. Seconded by Collingwood. **CARRIED.**

4. **Report of Directors:**
   Heighton referenced the Annual Report distributed to members and available in the room. He highlighted the advocacy efforts and how they have gained traction. An example of this is the Ministry of Labour insisting on speaking with him as Chair of BIA before the recent announcement on the elimination of sick notes. Heighton acknowledged Kelly Gleeson and the work of Laura Balance Media Group in helping with BIABC's strategic messaging.

5. **Review of 2024 Financial Statements:**
   Angelene Prakash, Treasurer, presented for information the board-approved financial statements.

6. **Appointment of Accountant to do a Notice to Reader 2024:** On behalf of the board, Prakash proposed to keep Nelson Alvarez and Co. as the firm to prepare the year end statements for 2025.
Moved by Hastings North. Seconded by Heights Merchants Association. **CARRIED**

7. **Nomination and Election of Board Members:**
On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Teri James presented the following slate to the membership:

Board Members to be Elected

Patricia Barnes, Hastings North BIA	1st year, 4th term
Karley Holley, Mission Downtown Business Assoc.	1st year. 1st term
Isabel Kolic, Heights Merchants Association	1st year, 5th term
Kerry Neil, Squamish BIA	1st year, 1st term
Maureen O'Brien, Ambleside Dundarave BIA	1st year, 2nd term
Teri Smith, West End BIA	1st year, 5th term

Continuing Board Members – no election needed

Jeremy Heighton, Kamloops North Shore	2nd year, 2nd term
Teri James, Downtown Langley BIA	2nd year, 2nd term
Angelene Prakash, Downtown New West	2nd year, 1st term
Winki Tam, Downtown Vancouver BIA	2nd year, 1st term

There being no objections, the slate was accepted by acclamation.

Heighton thanked outgoing board members, Bonnie Burnside and Philip Aguirre, who were not in attendance. Mark Burley and Colleen Van Mook were thanked in person and presented with gifts for their service.

8. **Report on Operations:**
Heighton presented the work of the Sustainability Committee, which has been working on ways to make BIABC more financially sustainable. Efforts have included applying for government grants and launching the Preferred Vendors Program. A proposal to increase membership annual investments was presented with participants seeking clarification in several areas. The proposal will be further presented to the membership over the next few months with the hope of implementation in 2026.

9. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.