



Hamilton Business Association Inc.

ABN: 43 576 863 540 | INC ID NUMBER: INC1901585

BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Abbreviation	Business represented
Reece Hignell	RH	Cakeboi
Amanda Hinds	AH	Origin Architecture
Chelsea Willis	CW	YPT
Dan Taylor	DT	CommBank
Josh Distefano	JD	Vera Wines
Alissa McCulloch	AM	Community Member

GUESTS

Rebecca Morley	RM	CN
Cr J Barrie	JB	CN
Kathy Sloss	KS	Macleans Books
Ram Khatri	RK	Overtime Cafe
Anup Phago	AP	Overtime Café
Emily O'Brien	EO	Newcastle Legal & Conveyancing
Janice Musumeci	JM	July Jones Style Studio

MEETING OPEN: 5.02pm

MEETING CLOSE: 6.12pm

MEETING MINUTES

Date	21/08/24
Location	Blind Monk – Private Room
Minute Taker	Janice Musumeci

ATTENDEES

Name	Abbreviation	Business represented
Reece Hignell	RH	Cakeboi
Dan Taylor	DT	CBA
Josh Distefano	JD	Vera Wines
Alissa McCulloch	AM	Community Member
Rebecca Morley	RM	CN
Cr J Barrie	JB	CN
R Khatri	RK	Overtime Cafe
Anup Phago	AP	Overtime Cafe
K Sloss	KS	Macleans Books
E Griffith	EG	Newcastle Legal & Conveyancing
J Musumeci	JM	July Jones Style Studio

APOLOGIES

Cr C Duncan	CD	CN
A Hinds	AH	Origin Architecture
C Willis	CW	Young Peoples Theatre

MINUTES

Item No	Agenda Item	Details	Actions
1. Welcome – RH Welcome to guest’s business owners and brief explanation of the HBA and projects			
1.1.	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	Approved: RH Seconded: DT	Nil
1.2.	Conflicts of Interest	Nil	
1.3.	Budget at Bank:	At bank 01/08 \$14.62 ATO refund \$2828.00 At bank 22/08 \$2842.62 One invoice to pay Taggarts inv \$231.00	Nil
1.4.	City of Newcastle Matters	RM Introduction & brief of role as Economic Development Lead at CN Christmas activation program for Newcastle. If there is anything happening for Xmas, please let CN know for the Xmas program. Suburban SBR funding update - awaiting approval of the minutes and will then be communicated RH Sits on SBR contestable funding panel and successful applicants yet to be notified. We will discuss at next meeting. RH Meeting with CN next week to discuss any reserve SBR funds. Plans to discuss collaboration with CN to bring better attractions to Hamilton.	JM to share Rebeccas details with Board
1.5.	Correspondence	Cr C Duncan – Letter to Board with thanks for the work of all the BIA Volunteers and businesses who have made Hamilton BIA an exemplar for the BIA program. Congratulated the Board on the success of many projects over the years with the recent nighttime activation with food trucks in the plaza and Fringe collaboration being phenomenal. Noting the genuine collaboration between the BIA, City of Newcastle and the diverse local population makes Hamilton a special place. Paul Murphy – Letter to Board asking for assistance with anti-social activity and homelessness to assist small businesses. Suggested bringing security into the street.	

		<p>Cr Barrie – Has spoken to PM about these issues and understands that security in the street to move on homeless and beggars is not the correct course of action as there are already agencies involved helping.</p> <p>Sam Reynolds Music – Hawker St Markets expression of interest addressed and forwarded to PWP Events</p> <p>Cr Barrie – concern from business owners about homelessness in the street and 111 Beaumont St ongoing vacancy. Services in the precinct to assist with rough sleepers. We have empathy but surrounding businesses find it a problem. Also comments from business owners about the cleanliness of the street.</p> <p>RH – if this is publicised it could have a diverse effect on the precinct causing people to stay away. Agree this is a concern and understand this is also a humanitarian issue.</p> <p>JM – Letter of request to Board to write to Council to activate the empty premises at 111 Beaumont St refer Geneal Business</p> <p>RH – As an association we cannot address homelessness, but we will advocate with CN to have their empty space filled.</p> <p>RH approached by several individuals who are running in local elections. BIA have obligation to invite sitting councillors only.</p> <p>RH has declined recent requests for individuals to meet Board for campaign purposes and has advised these individuals to speak to businesses directly.</p>	
2. Items for Discussion and Decision			
3.1	Subcommittee Report: Beautification	<p>2 x prepaid green beams installed Good Folk and Manisha Fitness by Herb Urban</p> <p>Information regarding ongoing service from Jan 1, 2025, provided to all businesses with a green beam.</p>	
3.2	Subcommittee Report: Social Media	<p>Pepperit Report Stats – Past 90 days</p> <p>Inst reach 16k up 58% interactions 2.3k up 62% Growth Total 3100 New 164</p> <p>FB reach 16k down 37% interactions 973 up 35% Growth Total 2686 New 79</p>	<p>JM send report to Board</p> <p>JM send reminder to database for collaborative posts</p>

		RH A lot of funding spent on marketing the businesses in the precinct via social media and Pepperit posts are monitored and continue to improve with regular feedback.	
3.3	Subcommittee Report: Events	<p>Hawker St Markets</p> <p>PWP have booked the next event Sept 14</p> <p>Locked in food vendors and performers</p> <p>Murray St to Tudor St closed</p> <p>RH explained the project and future for Hawker Markets</p> <p>RH will call meeting with AH upon her return with PWP</p>	
3. General Business			
4.1	111 Beaumont St - JM	<p>JM - Addressing Board as a local business owner and on behalf of many other business owners. Request HBA write a letter to the CEO of CN about the vacant shopfront premises of 111 Beaumont St Hamilton (Municipal Building) that has been vacant for many years. The CN has been unable to find a tenant at the current asking rent. There is a chance it will remain vacant in this current economic climate. The space is dirty and a target for graffiti and the frontage is now occupied by a rough sleeper.</p> <p>JM Propose the HBA request this space be positively activated by CN suggesting the CN could seek EOLs from NFPs to move into the space. The HBA had previous success with such a request to Westpac with the vacant premises owned by Westpac at 99 Beaumont St. This space was constantly vandalised and a graffiti target, also the frontage was a magnet for anti-social gatherings. Men's Shed have been in that space now for 4 years at a reduced rent.</p>	

		All Board present (RH,DT, JD, AM) voted unanimously to write to the CEO to positively activate the space at 111 Beaumont St.	
4.2	Operation Confidence	<p>AM – Asked about a possible stronger police presence in the street.</p> <p>RH Informed of the Business & Community Forum Oct 2023 at The Hive, with Police addressing and explained we had around thirty attendees which was disappointing. Feedback and education required or coffee with a cop in James St Plaza.</p> <p>JD was told by Police that patrols were to be fortnightly, but this has not been the case. Has noticed that more visibility works calming the anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>JB Police have been understaffed and now promoting that there are now more police, and the strategy could be a presence at least quarterly to talk to community and businesses. Business owners must report incidents to police.</p>	JD – to ask Police if they would like to do another community catch up in the plaza.
4.3	Taggarts Accounting	<p>VOTE – Continuation of service</p> <p>RH Proposed to continue with Taggarts</p> <p>Board in attendance agreed to continue and to renew Audit Sheild</p> <p>RH, DT, AM, JD voted to continue with Taggarts and Audit Sheild</p>	
4.4	Mosaic Planters	<p>Action from Correspondence.</p> <p>RH - HBA has tried to revitalise numerous times but always vandalised. Have a small budget for beautification. Could be looked at next Board meeting,</p> <p>JD could they be repurposed into seats.</p> <p>RH we can discuss at the next board meeting.</p> <p>RK mentioned beautifying the street with lights to attract people could this be a project for consideration.</p> <p>RH mentioned this has been discussed by Board in the past. There is potential to be looked at in future.</p> <p>KS asked about the CN person who attends to cleaning the posters off assets in the street. Sited her own frontage and is always asked about promoting posters for events. CN worker has been pulling posters off the wall and KS would prefer that they be kept in situ if she has agreed to promote.</p> <p>JB will investigate this for KS</p>	



4.5	AGM Date Change & Location Confirmed	Hudson St Hum can assist with location on Monday Nov 18. Approved date change RH,AM,DT,JD	JM change dates and advise Hudson St Hum
4.6	New Board Nominations	RH Nominated Kathy Sloss of Macleans Books, Emily Griffith of Newcastle Legal & Conveyancing and Ram Khatri of Overtime Café onto Board as Ordinary Board Members Seconded by JD DT, AM agreed and welcomed new Board members	