

Municipal Election Questions

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Leadership Development

Our BIA believes that strong partnerships between municipalities and BIAs are essential to the success of our downtown, and that BIAs should be actively included in municipal planning, policy development, and strategic decision-making that impacts our business districts.

As BIAs are local boards of Council, how would you enhance the relationship and partnership between the municipality and the BIA? *

Over years of conversations with DBIA staff, board, and membership, it is abundantly clear to me that the key component missing from relationship and partnership between DBIA and Council is a willingness to speak up and help. As a membership some 380 strong, employing thousands of our neighbours, the DBIA represents a huge demographic of constituents who deserve helpful representation at Council.



Would you support the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the municipality and the BIA?

Yes!

With decades of contracts, agreements, by-laws, there is significant value in restating the mechanisms that have been in place all along in a new, streamlined Memorandum of Understanding, permitting each the DBIA and the municipality to function their perspective works without stepping on toes.

For example, the responsibility of garbage collection and clean up (which is aside from weekly curbside pickup, but instead more about the steel trashbins for pedestrian use) used to be uniquely the pervue of DBIA, but now suddenly is not, and the quality of that work has become subject of a lot of frustration by DBIA members now that the City takes care of it. So, whose work is it?

We will gain a lot from an intentional review, and a restatement of purposes through a Memorandum of Understanding.

How will you welcome and support the BIA's involvement in policy reviews, master planning, and strategic planning processes? *

In many demographics there is some wisdom in "Nothing for us without us". To borrow this phrase, I should like it to mean that policies, master planning, and strategic planning that involves DBIA membership should be given an elevated position at the discussion table. Where staff and board and membership are given time to organize and respond, representatives of such should be given proportional representation on committees.

As a DBIA member with a passion for downtown and its improvement, I would love to see how more of my financial future is in my own hands instead of decided by others upon me.

Back

Next

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