



LETTER OF SUPPORT

August 2025

The Sam Cancilla Park Revitalization Concept Plan

On behalf of the Downtown Barrie BIA Board of Management, we are pleased to express our full support for Michael Hassey and Rick Webster, representing the LākHouse Condos residents, who at this time speak for a large and growing collective of community members in favour of the Sam Cancilla Park Revitalization Concept Plan.

As a conceptual plan, we believe it reflects a much-needed enhancement to public space in Downtown Barrie. With residential development in our downtown continuing to grow—guided in part by the Ontario Intensification Plan—safe, accessible, and welcoming public spaces for residents, families, and visitors to gather are essential to fostering a vibrant and inclusive community.

The Downtown Barrie BIA is well-acquainted with the transformative impact of public realm investments. As a key partner in the public-private redevelopment of Meridian Place, we contributed both capital funding and ongoing operational investment. The results speak for themselves—Meridian Place now welcomes over 300,000 annual visitors through active programming, with countless more enjoying the space for informal gatherings, coffee with friends, or simply to take in the downtown atmosphere. The economic and social benefits of such enhanced public venues are clear.

We see the revitalization of Sam Cancilla Park as a natural complement to Meridian Place and a strong asset for the entire downtown area. With the opportunity to align this project with already approved capital budgets and the planned decommissioning of the waterworks on-site, the park can be developed in a cost-efficient way. This revitalized space has the potential to become not only a thriving hub for community connection but also a catalyst for future residential and commercial growth in Downtown Barrie.

The Downtown Barrie BIA is proud to support this initiative and looks forward to the positive impact it will bring to our downtown and our community.

Regards,

Downtown Barrie BIA Board of Management

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Please see attached rendering for reference of the conceptual redevelopment.

