



**Board Meeting Minutes | Monday, May 17th, 2021**  
**Via Google Meet**

**Attendance:** Tracy Macleod (TM), Amy Thibodeau (AT), Karen Donnelly (KD), Ed Cleveland (EC), Alicja Kniffen (AK), Norbert Gieger (NG), Jesse Boles (JB), Taylor Mynlieff (TMy)

**Staff:** Mary-Lou Ambrose-Little (ML)

**Regrets:** Donna Kalailieff, Bonnie Beres, Larry Beverly, Rob Carter

**Welcome**

Chair Jesse Boles welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 5:05PM.

**Declarations of pecuniary interest**

None

**Approval of agenda**

Motion to: "Approve agenda" Moved by: NG; Seconded by EC. Carried

**Approval of minutes**

Motion to: "Approve minutes from the April 26th board meeting" Moved by AK; Seconded by AT. Carried.

- There was no quorum at the Board Meeting on April 26th so the minutes are really just notes from the conversation. No official decisions were made.

**Special presentations**

None

**Chair report**

- Rise in crime in downtown Port Colborne
  - Canalside Kitchen store was broken into, and a number of other vandalism issues major and minor have occurred over the last few weeks with increased frequency.
  - Article in Tribune from this week quoted the Mayor saying crime is down came out on the same day the kitchen store was broken into — adds to the feeling that there may be a disconnect.
  - JB spoke to the Mayor who referred to crime statistics and based on those, it looks like crime is down. A lot of people don't seem to be reporting crimes. More police resources will be deployed based on stats.
  - Given the anecdotal evidence and level of crime for a smaller city, why don't the crime stats reflect what's happening? Why are people filing less? Perception that people may be apathetic because of a perceived lack of consequences for criminals. Need to work on building people's confidence in the city and the police force so they report crimes.
  - Mayor is willing to have a Townhall style meeting with the BIA and a representative from the police force if this is something we're interested in.



## Downtown Port Colborne BIA

Board of Management

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- It would be good for the BIA to put together recommendations for when we meet with the city.
- This is a problem for businesses and locals because it costs time and money, but it's also terrible for the city's brand.
- JB will follow up with the Mayor and request the meeting. Will report back to the board when it's scheduled.

### Executive Director report

- Working on a survey for the residents about what they'd like to see in downtown Port Colborne. Previous survey was for the businesses.
- Summer student with the City is working on updating information on businesses. If they get in touch, please give them the info they ask for.
- ML mentions the "I believe campaign". She emailed out a toolkit to member.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) — Farmers' Market
  - This has been completed and this Friday is the first market of the season.
  - There are approximately 30 vendors attending and we're expecting a big crowd.
  - 10 volunteers are helping.
  - So far \$9,825 revenue and another cheque coming from the city of around \$2,500 for startup funding. Have spent approx. \$500 on things like signs, tables, etc.
  - There is lots of excitement about the market and the Facebook page has high engagement.

### Treasurer report

Attached

- Special note that JB was reimbursed for the cost of a folding table, cart, and water bottles for the market. He did not sign the cheque for this reimbursement.
- Taylor Mynlieff is transitioning to take over from Carrie as treasurer. Required paperwork has been done at TD to give Taylor signing authority.
- Mary-Lou is now also able to deposit the market money directly into the TD account.

Motion to: "Approve the reports in a block" Moved by AK; Seconded by KD. Carried

### New business

#### Marketing committee update

- Logo update: BB is working with the designer of the current logo to tweak it to be more flexible and modern.
- Website update: AT will present a few directions forward to modernize the BIA website with limited time and effort at the next marketing committee meeting.

#### Lift Festival

- Melissa Roberts isn't able to attend this meeting so no update except that the City has asked not to plan for any kind of public event until it's clear what the opening plan will be. As a result, plans are on hold.

#### Audit approval



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- Audit has been completed and the BIA received a refund from the City.
- Should anyone like to review the package it's available and has been reviewed by treasurer and chair
- This audit is done annually as a municipal requirement given the BIA receives public funds.

*Motion to: "Approve the audit results" Moved by EC; Seconded by JB. Carried*

### Beautification of the downtown

- Discussion of beautification opportunities along West Street. Ideas discussed:
  - Wrap or decorate black planter barrels on West Street
  - More benches and seating — idea to get Muskoka chairs and give to businesses to set them outside for their customers to use. Chairs would be owned by businesses and their responsibility to maintain.
  - Discussion about plans to replace the trees that were removed. Those have been replaced by the planters. It would be good to also have some greenery on the business side of the street. Mary-Lou will reach out to the gardener from the City to find out what their plan is.
  - There's a great little area just off Clarence Street right before the bridge that lots of people don't know about. It would be a great place for benches and all kinds of things. It's a great place to watch the boats go by and take photos.
  - Discussion about rainbow crosswalk to demonstrate that Port Colborne is inclusive and welcoming. This could be good to try to get done in June for pride month. Could also ask the City about the possibility of putting in a cross walk at Clarence and West — it is a dangerous corner.
    - Where to put it? The corner of Clarence and West Street is very busy and putting it there might cause problems. Flashing lights at Clarence and Catherine might be a better option.
    - BIA should give the City 3 suggestions and let them be responsible for deciding where it goes. In order of preference: 1) Clarence and West (with safety features added) 2) Existing cross walk on Clarence and Catherine, and 3) Catherine by market square

*Motion to: "Have JB work with Donna K from the City to discuss a rainbow crosswalk in honor of inclusion, including the three recommended spots" Moved by: JB; Seconded by NF. Carried*

**NEXT MEETING**  
**May 21st at 5pm**  
**Via Google Meet**