



Downtown Port Colborne BIA - Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 7 2022- 6:00 PM
92 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

In attendance: Larry Beverly, Jesse Boles, Morgan MacLean, Norbert Gieger, Councillor Donna Kalailieff & Councillor Mark Bagu

Staff: Mary-Lou Ambrose-Little & Sarah English

Guests: Olga Loeffen (Ambassador) & Igor from Citrus Seventeen.

Regrets: Taylor Mynlieff, Rosemari Poisson, Ed Cleveland.

Welcome

Jesse Boles, Chair welcome everyone to the meeting.

Call to order

The meeting called to order at 6:09 pm

Declaration of pecuniary interest

None.

Approval of the meeting agenda

Motion: "to approve the agenda. To move up our guest speakers, to the beginning of the meeting." Motion by: Norbert Seconded by: Larry. Carried

Approval of May 2022 minutes

Motion: "to approve the minutes of the May Meeting." Motion by Larry; Seconded by: Morgan. Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Olga presented about the My Main Street Grant, connecting businesses to City Hall and how she is providing support to businesses. She shared about Classes and Webinars that are available free for all businesses. Lots of resources are available to businesses and all should connect with her to learn more.
- Diversity Days put on the backburner for 2022 but will be revisited in the fall to plan for 2023.
- SkyCom has finally been settled.
- Port Cares Lease has been renewed.
- Market Square was successfully renamed Freedom Square, a portable sign to reflect that change.

Reports

Chair's Report- No report

Councillors Report- Lights failing, hoping to see City repair them. Steve Shypowskyj to report back on the status of repair progress. Jesse will be measuring out and mapping for the remainder of the lights to be put up.

The City of St Catharines has started Vacancy Standards Act charging \$850/year. Something to look at for Port Colborne as well. Suggested vinyl over windows or engaging local high schools to keep front of vacant units looking inviting and clean.

The Belmont has applied for a variance to extend the bylaw for their new patio.

Motion: "BIA not in favour of changing the extension of noise bylaw. Willing to consider standard Canal Days customary times. *All in favour.*

Encroachment – Businesses creeping out and some complaints have been coming in.

Parking- West St continues to be an issue. Look into the bylaw amendment so people have to move a certain distance from the previous parking space or to a different lot altogether to assist with the issue.

Governance – No report

Staff Reports- Attached.

Marketing- Meeting held June 6, minutes to be attached. Harvest Fest Logo will be sent out. The website has launched as well with great feedback. The sponsorship package is ready to go out to the public in digital form.

Event-

Canal Days fresh & lively enhancement to this year's festival. Great feedback coming in from the community around changes. Liaison with City to keep the focus on local. Applications coming in and acceptance emails have begun going out to vendors.

Staff Report Downtown Digital MAP discussed. Discussion around a Small Business package for new businesses. Also discussed was BIA not being invited to ribbon cuttings for new businesses and downtown events. Communicate to City that BIA should be in communication around these events so we can be in attendance to welcome them and show support.

New business

A collaborative effort is needed to improve the shopping experience at Canal Days and make it easier for people to shop and get their items instead of having to carry them all around the festival. Suggested a pickup point or offering delivery.

HH Knoll Park continues to be a problem. Folks living in shopping carts by Franks Home Hardware and HH Knoll frequently. The increasing homeless population in the area. Encouraging a vacancy bylaw to discourage individuals from damaging vacant buildings and living in entryways or abandoned units. Will help encourage a safer downtown area?

Methadone Clinic- Need to report to Niagara Region how bad things are getting in the downtown area as Niagara Region is not aware unless we are reporting it.

Crosswalk Maintenance- Rainbow Crosswalk maintenance and warranty work are needed as the damage was done by local children vandalizing it. Look to expand crosswalks, especially in the Clarence St area at the bridge to let the public know that they can safely cross there.

Adjournment

Motion: "to adjourn." Moved by: Norbert; seconded by: Morgan

8:36 PM

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 6:00 PM

Attachments: Staff Reports, Treasurer's Report