

HDTC-BIA Meeting Minutes

Board of Management

September 13, 2016 @ HDTC-BIA office 6pm

Attendance: Stuart McFadden; Sgt Jim Lynds, Clair Culliford, Courtney Wells, Katie Zimmer-Vilaranda, Connie Beneteau, Pete Tsirimbis, Chief Gary Conns, Jim Carrington, Ben Fieldhouse, Jeff Comiskey

1. Jim Carrington: Called meeting to order and had everyone introduce themselves.

2. Guest speaker:

Stuart McFadden (Director, Economic Development Services for Municipality of Chatham-Kent)

- The analytical data offers building owners information to what is needed.
- Municipality would buy the license for the software. The cost would be approximately \$35,000 for all departments to use.
- The only thing Stuart would look for from the BIA is help in promoting information and help get it into the "hands of the right people."
- Is there was a time line with the data? Start late Fall, to January 2017.

Jim Carrington offers: we will entertain the idea with Stuart at another meeting and that we just wanted to let all the Board Members know.

Pete Tsirimbis (Manager of the Chilled Cork and property owner).

- talking with Lynn O'Brien and they wanted to know what the BIA is doing for them."
- he sees is a lot of service but no attracting businesses. "Not to take anything away that the BIA does, but it's frustrating".
- Feels the Municipality used the BIA as a buffer
- Rotary Club should take it over RetroFest.
- He pays the BIA levy taxes of \$11,000.00 and then \$165,000.00 in Municipal property taxes. Pete feels we are doing work that the Municipality should be doing.

Jim Carrington suggested that history has it, if the BIA doesn't do it, then these events won't happen. The merchants won't do these events, the garbage bins won't go down if the BIA doesn't do it, and all the other things people feel should get done but will not.

Katie: "we are all working to make it better for all of the downtown."

Pete: "I suggest the BIA's focus is turned away from what we should be doing, attracting businesses for downtown".

Jim C reminded everyone of July 2012 when the BIA's 'bottom' dropped out and all the struggles that caused by certain people. It was a long struggle but those groups are coming back around. Union Gas is in contact with us for support and the Municipality (Stuart) is here now, all working together.

Pete, said the analytics will tell you what is needed, but if you can't attract them downtown because the buildings are decrepit, the data is no good.

Jim C: We need to know what the data says. "We are each other's cheerleader". "We want more participation!"

Jim informed everyone that Paul Shettell attends many Council Meetings.

Pete suggested to make the businesses accountable for their properties. If they need to be fixed up, make them fix them up.

Motion made to accept the Guest Speakers information as presented. First by Katie Z and second by Clair Culliford. All in favour, yes.

Courtney Wells interested in becoming a Board Member, "Yes". Motion to appoint Courtney to the Board made by Katie, and second by Ben F. All in favour, yes.

3. Police Report by Sgt Jim Lynds

Hard copy of the police report.

Gone up slightly for 2016. 18 calls to DCC but only 2 lead to criminal charges. 18 for Third Street (Tim Hortons 17).

Motion to accept the police report made by Clair, second by Katie and all in favour, yes.

Chief Conns attended the police service meeting today. In the violent crimes compared to 50 equivalent Municipalities, we (Chatham) was 46 out of 50. Chatham-Kent rates very well.

Chief Conns informed the Board that they have received some disturbing emails from one of our Members of the HDTC-BIA. He wants to know if this is our overall opinion for the CK Police Department

Jim C asked Chief Conns if there was any validity in the comments/concerns of "lack of police in downtown Chatham"?

Sgt Lynds stated that the calls for service downtown usually or mostly happen 'after hours' and not during daytime hours

Chief Conns also suggested that foot patrol does not reduce crime.

Jim C thanked the Chatham-Kent Police and identified that we (the BIA) appreciate Sgt Lynds being active on our Board.

4. Business Arising from the Previous Board Meeting Minutes: None

5. Approvals from Previous Meeting Minutes: Jeff C motioned to accept previous meeting minutes, second by Katie. All in favour, yes.

6. Approval of Agenda: Jeff C motioned to accept the Agenda, and second by Katie. All in favour, yes.

7. Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

8. Board Reports:

Chairman: Jim Carrington: we have moved many of the normal items for discussion to another meeting to allow time for all the guest speakers at tonight's meeting.

Jim C. states that the Downtown in the City ~ Extravaganza was a success.

9. New Business:

Lesley Grand letter of resignation due to the change over from St. Clair College back to the Municipality. Lesley would like to continue attending meetings.

Jaclyn Gillier voiced her resignation as a Board Member to the Historic Downtown Chatham BIA.

Motion to accept resignations with regrets by Jeff C. and second by Clair, all in favour, yes.

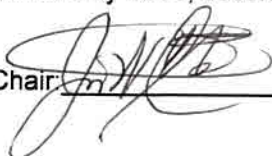
Treasurer position offered to Jeff Comiskey. Jeff accepted offer. Katie motioned to have Jeff C assigned to Treasurer position, second by Ben F, all in favour, yes.

Big Brothers / Big Sisters have asked for our assistance. They participated in our DTIC Extravaganza event on September 9, 2016. They have had a loss of over \$1,500. They are asking if we can financially help them as the event was a BIA event and we would have had to incurred those costs if we were able to do a beverage garden for our event ourselves. It was asked of all the Board members and they were all in favour of paying for the costs incurred for our event.

10. Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting: October 11, 2016

Motion to adjourn first by Katie, second by Clair. All in favour, yes.

Signatures of Chair



Signature of Secretary:

*Lois Benetran - Office Admin.
in case of the secretary.*