
Meeting Minutes Board of Management October 17, 2023: HDTC-BIA Office

Attendance: Nancy Dudley; Connie Beneteau (BIA); Clair Culliford (Secretary); Liz Nauta (The Myrtle Flower Shop); Anthony Wilson (Ec. Dev.); Sergeant Rene Cowell (CK Police); Curtis Lemieux (Willy's Cannabis Supply Co.); Ken Labonte (CK Fire); Conor Allin (CK Council) and Paul Shettell (Treasurer)

Guests: Lucinda Harp (Boardwalk Condos); Yvonne Toma; Lisa Munro; Kim Hinnegan; and Zak Owen (property owner)

Nancy welcomed everyone for coming and introduced herself and asked everyone to do the same.

Lucinda was given an opportunity to explain what she did in the past as a interior designer. She also said she did some research on the history of Chatham and on the Tecumseh Park Revitalization Project that never came to realization. She said that “the architecture downtown was great with the detail to these building”. She has 45 years ‘skill-set’ in design. She believes the events we have create animation to our downtown. Her specific interest is in beautification and enhancing what we already have created. “A revitalized look/Enhanced branding/Stable destination.”

Nancy said that was wonderful to hear as part of our mandate is beautification. She welcomed the guests and she looks forward to working with them in some capacity to help make that happen. Lucinda understood that fundraising is a whole other entity she learned working with Lisa Lester.

Question: What would draw people to our downtown? The guests asked why we do not have a Farmer’s Market? Paul being from a farming family answered that question.

Question: What is your biggest barriers? Answer is: funding, resources and adversity to change. They understood, it is a lot on business owner to add to what they are currently doing already to stay afloat. Need to add passion and expertise to jump start the downtown again.

Anthony said to ask the business owners what they want. The BIA did put out a survey recently. The answer mostly came back to more policing (daytime). The guests suggested that they are not comfortable with begging and/or violence. Sgt. Cowell did explain that it is not an offence to be homeless. The CK Police offer services but they do not have to accept the help. Kim mentioned the Come Together CK group and what they are doing to help some homeless people by giving them a purpose. Sgt. Cowell said the root cause for majority is the mental health and addiction. Housing is still the number one issue. To get them into a stable housing so they can accept the services to help them. “Resources are available, the challenge is getting the to want to get help.”

Nancy asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was first made by Clair and seconded by Conor; all were in favour. Motion carried.

Sergeant Renee Cowell reviewed the monthly status report for the downtown area. “We know we have youth disturbances in our downtown. The Bike Patrol was still out in September but will probably not be out in October now. Clair asked about youths and being charge by age.

(Reminder to call not-emergency number 519-352-1234 ext.9)

A motion was made to approve the Police Report first by Clair and seconded by Curtis. All were in favour. Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Previous Board Meeting Minutes: (Sept 2023). Seeing not we moved on.

A motion was made to accept the Previous Board Meeting Minutes first by Clair and second by Paul. All were in favour and Meeting Minutes were approved.

Nancy asked if there were any declaration of conflict of interest? Seeing none, we moved onto the Board Reports.

Board Reports

Co-Chair: Nancy Dudley: Nothing to add currently.

Secretary: Clair Culliford: OBIAA newsletter, if you would like Connie to forward you the OBIAA, just ask. The Guests would like that as well as the CPTED. Mayor's promise to the BIA \$5,000 for the next 4 years as a match for Art Projects. This can help with the Mural replacement project. Crowfest has been completed. Friday night was excellent where Saturday rained all day, unfortunately.

Office Update: Connie: Small Business Week – Oct. 15 – 26 -10 BIA's involved and sharing. No new news on the Mural updates. We are waiting to see if we get a grant to assist with the project. We will not start a project until we know all funding is available that will be needed to complete a project. Then we will need to put it into the Annual Budget for Life Cycle. H4TH and Santa Parade. Businesses have until the end of the month to respond who is participating. We will be running radio and newspaper ads. We have a website and Facebook for updates of activities. I was asked: What is being done to entice the average person moving to Chatham to spend their dollars here? They would like to see more but to have a marketing campaign, that would cost big dollars. Some people are not on Facebook and only Instagram and other are not on Instagram and only read papers or listen to the radio. We try to spread that out.

Treasurer: Paul Shettell reviewed the budget verses actual and said that there is money in the bank to get us through the rest of the year. Identifying that past years were struggled a little bit. We are still looking at raising the levy for next year.

Conor, nothing to add at this time, the same with Anthony.

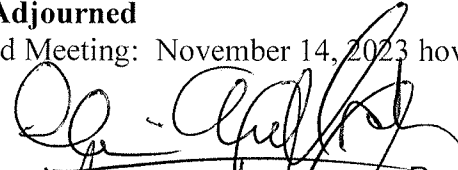
MCK Fire Rep: Prevention Chief, Ken said that there have been 6 fires on Simcoe Lane alone.

A motion was made to approve the board reports first by Curtis and second by Paul. All were in favour. Reports were approved.

Nancy asked if there were any new businesses to report? Anthony asked if we could set a date for discussions/actions on how we can increase funding for specific new projects that would benefit the businesses downtown. Or another one on social media strategies. Any help for the businesses here, we need to make a list.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Board Meeting: November 14, 2023 however AGM is November 29th and regular maybe cancelled.

Secretary: 
Chair: 