



LEAMINGTON BIA Board Meeting *MINUTES*

Thursday, July 20th, 2017 8:45am

Gabriele Furniture Board Room, 55 Talbot St W, Leamington ON

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Lisa Bradt called the meeting to order at 8:47 a.m.

Attendance:

Members of B.I.A. Board: Lisa Bradt, Gerard Rood, Cindy Lasi, Chad Robinson, Wendy Parsons, Shawn Bodle

Members of Council: Bill Dunn, Absent: Hilda Macdonald

Members of Administration: Kelly Baillargeon

Guests: Michelle Fortier (Bank Theatre)

Absent: Stephan Viselli, Shelly Gabriele Gale, Chad Riley

- 2) **ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA** – no changes were presented.

Moved by C. Robinson, seconded by L. Bradt to approve the agenda. **CARRIED**

- 3) **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** – Gerard pointed out that item 10)c) should have “week” added to end of sentence.

Moved by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Lasi to approve the amended minutes. **CARRIED**

- 4) **REPORT FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATION** – Bill spoke about surveying customers. The survey may help find inroads to solutions. We need to turn diversity into a positive. We need the community to embrace what is there.
- Chad thought that Kristi Reed made a good point about the Lodge. Bill noted that he had learned about it too. Administration is pushing back to enhance the operations of the Lodge. He suggested that people call the OPP about panhandling and threats. They need to have reports done to track concerns and take it to the next level. Copy Ruth Orton and the County on any issues. The municipality can't just deal with complaints.
- Lisa noted that there are “no loitering” signs at the Marina. She understands the signs were installed due to complaints. She stated that we need to fix the issues before painting and beautifying the area.
- Lisa believes that we should treat all peoples as equals. The issue is perception from the outside. Her peers think that Leamington is not a place to shop on Thursday, Friday or Saturday.
- Michelle asked if the BIA does surveys. Lisa replied that it has been discussed but not done yet.
- Wendy suggested that we could send out surveys. Lisa noted that the Policing Committee did a survey. It highlighted the concerns with the uptown.
- Kelly suggested that the municipality needs to enhance the Parks, have music, and make things a family atmosphere. Chad suggested that we need to have Wi-Fi for gathering areas to draw people. We need to make more use of the green spaces. Sometimes loitering is not a bad thing.
- Bill noted that bylaw officers can't enforce loitering. Only the OPP can ask for ID. He believes that more presence is needed. The concern is that there may be a perception of discrimination.
- Chad suggested that we need integration to change the perception. Lisa and Kelly noted that they

helped the Mexican restaurant even though it was not a BIA responsibility. Bringing 3000 people to the uptown is a challenge. It is local people who need to be encouraged to integrate. Lisa noted that the BIA can help make the uptown family-friendly.

Bill advised that they have a Mexican baseball tournament this weekend. This will bring different nationalities together. Lisa commented that it is not a race issue. It is perception that is the problem. Bill stated that if you go to court it will come out as racism. All lawyers are providing the Municipality with similar feedback.

Kelly suggested that we need to create other spaces. Bill recommended that this be discussed with migrant workers and find out what they want. Cindy agreed that making contact with them and getting their input was important.

- 5) **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Kelly circulated an update of the income statement. She discussed some of the details. She advised that Shelly had not noted any real changes to the numbers.

Moved by C. Robinson, seconded by L. Bradt to approve the Treasurer's report. CARRIED

- 6) **COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING (July 19) Review** - Chad believes that the cultural divide was not addressed at the meeting. He stated that it takes time for things to take effect. He believes that bylaw enforcement is needed. The question is how to do this without discrimination. One of the biggest issues is business registration. He noted that Ruth Orton said that they have enough staff to do the enforcement. He believes that the municipality needs to educate the bylaw officers and the police thoroughly. He commented that Robert Aho used to be a good enforcement bylaw officer.

Bill noted that all information has been collected. They will be doing a letter to the OPP. The intent is to get more presence uptown. He stated that Ruth Orton has been addressing property standards. There have been 26 orders put in place.

Mill Street is to be revitalized. There appears to be some disconnect between Council and Administration. We need to see property standards revisions, signage standard revisions, and an updated master plan by 2018 with the plan to connect the waterfront to the core. There are some issues with C.I.P. Bill noted that money is put aside for C.I.P. each year. It now has to be approved again. Lisa noted that \$80,000 was left over. Bill stated that the process has to be followed.

Chad asked if the BIA should reach out to Administration to see how assistance can be provided. Bill believes it is a great idea to offer this. Chad suggested that it might be a good time to pursue this now. Lisa noted that Tim Wilkinson wants to see the slate cleared between the uptown, Council and Administration.

Kelly commented that 80% of the uptown are locally owned properties. She believes it is the locals who are failing to act. Bill noted that they are trying to encourage action similar to what was done in the past. We need to establish what direction the town wants to go, whether modern or historic.

Lisa noted that by-law revisions have been requested for two years and this includes business licensing, property standards, and signage. The BIA would like timelines on these matters.

- 7) **MILL STREET MARKET BLOCK PARTY Review** - it was unfortunate that the event was rained out. Kelly believes that we had a good layout and set up. Chad thinks it's important to inform security about alcohol licensing. Chad noted that in the first year the block party was piggybacked on the Hogs for Hospice event. The second year we were doing a piggyback on the Canada Day celebration. His concern is that there is no opportunity to reschedule. Kelly

commented that we could not reschedule due to the insurance, town requirements, and other matters related to set up. Chad suggested that we find a way to do the event so that we could hold it on Friday or Saturday. Kelly commented that the municipality controls these events. Chad believes it is important to facilitate a rain date to keep the momentum going. Kelly suggested that we may need tents. Lisa noted that there are controls and restrictions on using tents. Chad suggested that we could possibly set up a tent in Shotton Park next year.

Chad discussed insurance. He suggested that we have the BIA and insurance agent meet with the municipal representatives and municipal insurance to determine how coverage can be provided. Wendy noted that the Chamber has insurance for the entire year and can host events if notice is provided. Chad recommended that we look into changing our insurance so that it covers us for the year. Lisa noted that Orillia has weekly shutdowns and we need to establish alternate insurance options. Chad noted that the alcohol is insured separately. Wendy stated that the Chamber just needs to notify HUB insurance of activities. She is sometimes asked to give certificates to the various owners who need proof of coverage. Kelly commented that general insurance would simplify things.

Bill noted that Council and administration are all pushing for the Mill Street activities. Lisa commented that we may need to look at farming out the set up work. Chad commented that the best fencing to use was what we had. Kelly commented that the market lighting was tough. She has asked Ruth about permanent lighting and was told that options need to be presented.

Lisa asked what the BIA wants to do with the lighting and insurance. It was established that we should take this to Council and Administration and work together.

Chad suggested that we could do a Mill Street closure every Friday. This would not just be for the BIA. The Chamber could do things as well as consulate events.

Bill noted that we could have charity activities. Michelle suggested that we could have world-class music acts. Chad suggested that we could have a Carousel of Nations on Mill Street.

8) UPCOMING EVENTS

- a) Sidewalk Sale August 4/5 - Cindy commented that she didn't understand the six-foot requirement. Lisa noted that this has been brought up to Ruth Orton. The new rule is that 6 feet is required anywhere on the sidewalk. She noted that Leamington does not expect to police this. Businesses can put stuff out on the sidewalk but they need to leave some room for pedestrians to walk by.
- b) Corks & Canvas - Chad Riley was not available for an update.

9) UPTOWN PROJECT UPDATES

- a) Garbage Proposal Update - no new information was presented.
- b) Customer Parking Education - this will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c) Security System proposal - this was also left for the next meeting.
- d) Monthly Business Profile Promotion - Kelly noted that the Monthly Business Profile was Gilligan's.
- e) Uptown Business Guide - there were no updates.

10) BIA MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS - no information was presented.

11) CURRENT/ONGOING CONCERNS - most matters were discussed in the items above.

12) NEW BUSINESS - nothing new was presented.

- 13) ADJOURNMENT** - several people noted that they would not be available for the August meeting. It was suggested that the next meeting be on September 21.

Moved by L. Bradt, seconded by C. Lasi to approve the next meeting date. **CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Moved by L. Bradt, seconded by G. Rood to approve the adjournment. **CARRIED**