

Thorold BIA General Membership Meeting

MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2012 8AM

THOROLD COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

TYPE OF MEETING	General Meeting
FACILITATOR	George Cottage, Chairman
MINUTES TAKEN BY	Erica Villeneuve
ATTENDEES	Chair George Cottage, Councilor Tim Whalen, Treasurer Michael Skrtich, Vice Chair Serge Carpino, Erica Villeneuve, John Bratton, Alan Parker, Erik Olesen, Lauren Krupa, Terry Ohm, Gary Oblinsky, Marsha Coppola, Ricky Lakeit, Jeff Blay, Frank MacIntyre, Nicole Cairns
ABSENT	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order at 8:02am

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2012

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
A motion was made by Michael Skrtich to approve the minutes from the last General meeting held November 13, 2012. Second by Erik Olesen. CARRIED.	n/a

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A) TREE TRIMMING

DISCUSSION	The first 3 trees were trimmed and the last 7 trees were trimmed under the supervision of the City. All trees are completed now. The trees along Front Street are considered ornamental trees and are subject to pruning but they may not be applicable to the City's tree trimming policy. The BIA should do some research into the specifics of the tree trimming policy and depending on the results work with the City to revise their tree trimming policy.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Michael Skrtich made a motion for Erica Villeneuve and Terry Ohm to research the City's tree trimming policy and find out what we can do to help the ornamental trees downtown. Second by Ricky Lakeit. CARRIED.	Terry Ohm and Erica Villeneuve

B) PLANNING GRANT

DISCUSSION	A meeting was held with City planners where the BIA executives had input regarding the master plan. They want to put the plan out to tender. Ideas discussed include extending the downtown area to include Beaverdams Park and the Pine Plaza. In 2014 we should be able to apply for grant money in order to make greater changes to the downtown area.
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	Members will be asked for input when the time comes.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

C) DOWNTOWN SOUND

DISCUSSION	<p>The speakers are up. It's not very loud because the volume is currently tied in with the volume inside the café and to turn it up would be too loud for inside. Separate controls for the outside volume would allow it to be louder.</p> <p>For those who have heard it, responses have been positive. The control box is the largest expense for this project and Michael will contact Sam to get prices on speakers and receivers with the options for radio, satellite radio and internet radio.</p>
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Get quotes for pricing on speakers and receivers for the downtown sound system with all options for radio.	Michael Skrtich

D) CHRISTMAS EVENTS NOTICES

DISCUSSION	2300 were printed. They went to the schools and were handed out to the students. Merchants should pay attention to how many customers/participants they get as a result of this project.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

E) PARKING SIGNAGE

DISCUSSION	Towpath parking is often full and the parking behind the old fire hall is private as well as some public. This issue will be addressed in the master plan.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) BOUNDARIES

DISCUSSION	<p>There is talk about expanding the BIA to include the Pine Plaza and the plaza featuring Big Red Meats.</p> <p>The planners will hopefully comment into the expansion with a streetscaping plan and the BIA will wait to hear what they recommend. This will be discussed in more detail as the streetscaping planners get further in the process.</p> <p>The BIA attended a meeting arranged by the City regarding all partners in tourism.</p>
CONCLUSIONS	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

B) GUEST SPEAKER - GNCC

DISCUSSION	Deferred to next meeting
CONCLUSIONS	

C) OTHER

DISCUSSION	<p>PARKING BYLAW PROPOSAL Deferred until master plan is ready.</p> <p>ALLEYS The BIA now has approval from the City to handle the laneways with regards to clearing snow. The laneways will be cleared for a price of \$25/time. This includes the steps down to the Towpath parking lot.</p> <p>The alley between the Quebec Bank Building and On The Front Café – people drive through there and think it’s a road. Someone was almost hit by a car because of this. It might be a good idea to look at placing a post at the end of there that can be removed if necessary.</p> <p>SNOW There is no parking on Front Street from 3am to 7am. This means that snow clearing will hopefully be done regularly for the street. Emphasis should be places on clearing sidewalks and parking lots.</p> <p>PARKING People are still parking in prime parking spots on Front Street. The construction crews make it worse at times. Parking is free in December but come January, the parking will be enforced 3 days a week (any 3 days/week). This should help clear out merchants parking in front of their own or other businesses. Signs are posted with parking times and people will be ticketed.</p> <p>CLEAN UP The BIA sidewalks are messy with garbage and cigarette butts a lot of the time. The BIA employs a street cleaner to go around and clean up but there is no specific mandate for them. The street cleaner should go up and down each street in the BIA. They are paid salary \$10K divided up into 52 weeks for pay.</p> <p>The BIA should look into the cigarette butt disposal units and place them strategically around the BIA. Some people might use them while others don’t so we would need to educate people about their existence. Also, in St. Catharines, people break them open to get to the butts. This could also happen in Thorold.</p> <p>GARBAGE People are still placing garbage in front of other buildings not their own.</p>
	CONCLUSIONS
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Michael Skrtich made a motion to have the BIA design a job description for the street cleaner. Second by Marsha Coppola. CARRIED.	

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48am.