

Thorold BIA General Membership Meeting

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013 8AM

THOROLD COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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| TYPE OF MEETING | General Meeting |
| FACILITATOR | George Cottage, Chairman |
| MINUTES TAKEN BY | Erica Villeneuve |
| ATTENDEES | Chair George Cottage, Councilor Tim Whalen, Vice Chair Serge Carpino, Secretary Treasurer Michael Skrtich, Erica Villeneuve + approx. 9 members |
| ABSENT | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order at 8:10am

Introductions of newer members: Siobhan from Sew Delicious and Alistair from Longboard Living.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST GENERAL MEETING

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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| A motion was made by Michael Skrtich to approve the minutes of the last General meeting held July 9, 2013. Second by Terry Ohm. CARRIED. | n/a |

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A) BICYCLE RACKS

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| DISCUSSION | <p>The blue bike racks have been installed and people have been witnessed using them. There have been 14 people already signed up to sponsor bike racks (for \$100) and a commemorative plaque will be created with their name and attached to the bike rack they sponsored.</p> <p>There has been no further information regarding the long bike racks that fit 10 bikes each. One was to go by the post office and one by Donnelly's. The bus stop at Towpath could use a bike rack. Serge is still looking into his connection for having them made and Terry suggests purchasing them from the catalogue for ease and speed.</p> <p>Siobhan has a friend whose husband owns Hingston Metal and she will follow up on that lead.</p> |
| CONCLUSIONS | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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B) CAR SHOW REPORT

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| DISCUSSION | The 10 th Annual Car Show was a success. Overall, the weather didn't cooperate but we still managed to get just under 150 cars so it was a great day. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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C) MASTER STREETSCLAPING PLAN

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| DISCUSSION | The Master Streetscaping plan is underway. It will look into the interlocking brick sidewalks of the downtown area. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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D) ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

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| DISCUSSION | <p>The BIA is thinking about installing electric charging stations (1 or 2) in the downtown area. This is part of an overall movement we're thinking of making towards being more "green" and noticing the use of "green" modes of transportation (longboards, ebikes, electric cars and scooters).</p> <p>The cost of installing them at Towpath would be \$25-50K. This would cover bringing the power over to the parking spaces and the hardware for the charging stations would be extra (approx. \$3500 each). We should start by testing the theory on private property where the cost would be significantly smaller.</p> <p>The BIA is thinking about creating a grant for 2 individuals who wish to put a charging station on their private property and make it available to the public. The grant could be any amount. The board suggested \$2500. The membership is divided. Some think \$500 maximum as people who truly believe in going green would pay the bulk of the fee themselves to take that step. Others believe that no one person in the BIA has the money for it and if the BIA (or government) would sponsor a large chunk, then there would be a higher probability of someone installing one. It's possible to charge a fee for cars that park in these spaces. Legally you can't charge for the energy but you can deem the parking spot a "luxury parking space" and charge for that. The BIA might want to wait a few years to see if more electric vehicles surface or to see if the charging adapters change, though the idea was to be the first in the area to install the charger and be "cutting edge".</p> | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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E) KEEPING TSS EVENTS IN THOROLD

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| DISCUSSION | A letter was written to Thorold High School regarding TSS keeping their events held in Thorold institutions. Last year the graduation ceremony was held in Niagara Falls. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
| Follow up the letter with a phone call to the principal of the school. | | Terry Ohm |

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

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| DISCUSSION | <p>We are 58% through the year and only 50% through the budget at this time.</p> <p>We're looking at finishing the Christmas lights along Albert, Clairmont and Regent. We could also spend some remaining money on pumping the remaining trees full of twinkle lights.</p> <p>This is the time the board is putting together the budget for 2014 and is looking for ideas from the membership regarding new items to include. Ideas include: office space for the BIA in the downtown that could be shared with the GTBC. Regarding the office, pros include having a solid presence in the downtown and visibility to the public and members, solid hours of operation and a central location for events and operations. Cons include paying money for something not necessary. In addition to an office, a new laptop computer for BIA use would be a great asset. It could be brought to the meetings for displays and taking minutes and act as a central storage location for all BIA files, documents and information.</p> <p>There is still an issue with garbage in the BIA where people are dumping residential garbage into city bins. The BIA could add garbage bins to the Towpath parking lot or switch to eco-bins so people can't fit a full bag of garbage in there. The eco-bins in the Pine Plaza are free and the company sells the advertising to compensate for the costs. The BIA would rather buy the bins outright and control the advertising so they can make it available to the members.</p> <p>The budget should also account for an increase in the street cleaner budget. The street cleaner needs more hours and more capability. We should entertain the possibility of a replacement. Marsha can secure a blower for leaves and garbage.</p> <p>The budget should allow more funds for tree trimming. A letter has been sent to the City regarding allowing the BIA to trim the trees and to the extent that they were trimmed before.</p> <p>The budget should allow for events that possibly close down the street and entertain food truck fairs and other events. There would be a liability issue about eating someone else's food in a restaurant setting. Alternately, food trucks can bring their own seating. Restaurants are popping up in the BIA and they may not like this idea, though the ones that come to the BIA meetings are fine with the idea as long as the event wraps up at 4pm.</p> <p>The budget should maintain the \$500 allowance for BIA events.</p> | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
| Marsha Coppola made a motion for the BIA to facilitate the installation and wrapping of the trees in lights. Seconded by Michael Skrtich. MOTION CARRIED. | | n/a |
| Tim Whalen made a motion for the BIA to write a letter to the City in support of Thorold Tourism remaining in the control of a Thorold entity. Seconded by Ken Atmekjian. CARRIED. | | n/a |
| Write a letter to the City requesting that Thorold Tourism remain under the control of a Thorold entity. | | Erica |

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| Serge Carpino made a motion to give Marsha Coppola a \$500 budget for the Hallowe'en Parade this year. Seconded by Eric Olesen. MOTION CARRIED. | n/a |
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5. NEW BUSINESS

A) BIA BYLAW CHANGES

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| DISCUSSION | |
| CONCLUSIONS | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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B) LETTERS TO THE CITY

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| DISCUSSION | The letters were sent to the City regarding Sunday Food Fairs, tree trimming and the noise bylaw. The City will be changing the bylaw for temporary food trucks. |
| CONCLUSIONS | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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C) OTHER

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| DISCUSSION | TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Lots of positive feedback! Thank you to the BIA. |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE |
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5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 9:09am.