

Thorold BIA General Membership Meeting

MINUTES

JULY 10, 2012

8AM

THOROLD COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

TYPE OF MEETING	General Meeting
FACILITATOR	George Cottage, Chairman
MINUTES TAKEN BY	Erica Villeneuve
ATTENDEES	Chair George Cottage, Treasurer Michael Skrtich , Councilor Tim Whalen, Vice Chair Serge Carpino, Erica Villeneuve, Marsha Coppola, Erik Olesen, Bill VanderKlippe, Cathy Mellor, Terry Ohm, Ricky Lakeit, Brian Stevens, Jacki Reid, Carolyn Goard, Terry Dow, Carrie Cottage-Bailey
ABSENT	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order at 8:05am

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MEETING JUNE 12, 2012

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
A motion was made by Terry Ohm to approve the minutes from the last General meeting held June 12, 2012. Second by Ricky Lakeit. There is a mistake with a number that will be remedied and the minutes will be brought back next month. MOTION FAILED.	n/a

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A) THOROLD SECONDARY BURSARY

DISCUSSION	On hold for now.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

B) HALLOWE'EN PLANNING

DISCUSSION	Planning is mostly complete. Flyers are left and being worked on. The Moose & Goose is booked from 12 to 1pm. Face painting will be there. A letter has been sent to High Schools for volunteers and 5 out of the needed 12 are already booked.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

C) NEW EMAIL FORMAT

DISCUSSION	Erica has put together a new email for everyone with links to the upcoming agenda, past meeting's minutes and a link to the website.
CONCLUSIONS	It looks better and it works.
ACTION ITEMS	

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) DOWNTOWN SOUND

DISCUSSION	The BIA got an initial price for an 8 speaker sound system (with amp, mic. & radio) for roughly \$7000. The board is willing to proceed with this and get the system if it is what the membership wants. They are looking to the members for feedback. It would create a unique shopping experience for downtown Thorold and could be used to play Christmas music in December, regular music (radio or elevator music) year round and even be used to announce raffle prizes during the car show or advertisements for BIA merchants. Anyone could be used as a disc jockey or the BIA could use the radio or get cogeco music. The amplifier could go in a any merchant's establishment or basement. The basement of the new Ricky's Big Scoop was suggested (it is rather central). A budget of \$10K could be looked at and see what can be done with that.
ACTION ITEMS	
A motion was made by Ricky Lakeit for the BIA to go ahead with investigating prices for a downtown sound system. Seconded by Bill VanderKlippe. CARRIED.	n/a

B) GARBAGE REMOVAL

DISCUSSION	The new Bylaw Enforcement Officer for the Region is Mariano Singzon. He is going around and speaking with merchants and/or sending them letters regarding infractions to the garbage bylaw. He is willing to fine merchants but hopes it doesn't come to that. The cat problem is already gone but there is still a lingering dog problem and seagull problem. The sidewalks need to be hosed down again. Michael Skrtich is willing to let the BIA use his power washer and find someone to do the job. Specific areas to focus on include the corner at Donnelly's/Moose & Goose, Harry's New York Bar and the corner by the Summit Tavern.
ACTION ITEMS	

C) BIKE RACKS

DISCUSSION	The Thorold Community Credit Union held a BBQ fundraiser to raise money for downtown bike racks. They raised approx. \$530.
ACTION ITEMS	
Michael Skrtich made a motion to strike a Bike Rack Committee and he will be the executive representative on the committee. Seconded by Ricky Lakeit. CARRIED. Other members on the committee include: John Kazmer, Erik Olesen, Ricky Lakeit, Marsha Coppola and Tim Whalen.	n/a

D) STREET SIGNS FOR BIKE PATH

DISCUSSION	Signs are being put up guiding riders between Lock 7 and downtown. The sign design is up to the transportation committee but will feature a map with the possibility of having merchants advertise on or around it. Perhaps we could also get the types of signs that tell highway drivers which direction gas, food or lodging are in but feature more specific merchants.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

E) CAR SHOW

DISCUSSION	<p>First – Boxing Report Boxing raised just over \$10K. It did not cost the BIA anything and it benefitted the TCAG and the Seniors' Association.</p> <p>Car Show The 9th Annual Car Show is coming up on July 21. It will run from 8-3pm. Everyone is invited to provide door prizes or coupons that, if brought to Serge by the 14th, will be at the registration table. Every person bringing a car must register at the table.</p> <p>Exhibitors will be there: a car cleaning place, license plate vendor, santa claus committee (for food) across from RBC.</p>
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

F) OTHER

DISCUSSION	<p>Thorold COC – Terry Dow There is a Thorold Committee of Concern who are rallying to get Thorold's Charter back to have a Thorold Chamber of Commerce. The Thorold Business Club had a meeting to share information and gain awareness and support. The membership of the business club was handed over to the Thorold COC and there was overwhelming support. People signed up and even more took the sign up form back to their employer. The strength to get the charter back will be in numbers. The idea is to get people to sign up with their membership money (\$99/6mo.) to show commitment to the cause. This will then be presented to the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce (GNCC) as proof that there is support in Thorold for those that want their charter back. Cheques will not be cashed until the charter is returned and the individuals have been contacted.</p> <p>The GNCC met with Fort Erie where the Fort Erie Chamber signed a memorandum of understanding that they will retain their own charter but work with the GNCC. No one in Niagara seems to be joining the GNCC in the form of giving up their charter. Thorold has made a mistake in doing this and is determined to get it back but the GNCC must give it back willingly.</p> <p>The mandate of the Thorold Committee of Concern is to get Thorold's charter returned. Once this happens, each member of the Thorold Committee of Concern will be contacted to confirm their interest in becoming a member of what then would become the Thorold Chamber of Commerce and if interested, their cheques are cashed.</p> <p>Terry Dow left the former Thorold Chamber between 2000 and 2006 in which time Phil Ritchie was in charge and handed over the Thorold charter. Lock 7 Viewing Complex was built with money from the City, Trillium and the Thorold Chamber of Commerce. Thorold has lost their LCBO, license bureau, is not getting help with the Rolling Meadows sewer system and almost lost their High School. Serge Carpino doesn't want to point fingers at the GNCC and believes that the Mayor and Aldermen were the ones who did not step up for those issues. For him to support the Thorold COC, the Mayor and Councilors need to take active rolls in the ongoings of the COC if it comes to life.</p>
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Culture Capital Event – Terry Dow

Niagara is named the Culture Capital of Canada (title shared with Calgary). On October 13 there will be an event featuring historical and cultural content. It costs \$10K to run this event and money has come from the government. There will be a timeline type format beginning with the neutral Indians of this area and continuing forward through to 1812. There will be a type of ghost walk format of character studies featuring local famous people such as Godiiva & Donnelly. Jordan Setacci will attend. Mini reenactments will take place titled “Episodes of History” and all will wrap up with a masquerade party at the Keefer Mansion.

Mattel Party – Marsha Coppola

On September 30, there will be a Mattel party at NeVaeh Kids Spa. It will be a Barbie event and approx. 500 people are expected. Tickets will be sold and Marsha is working on tieing in with other merchants (Ricky's Big Scoop will be participating). There will be no street closing but Marsha requests permission for the sidewalk to be occupied by a vehicle and that falls to the BIA to contact the City.

Street Closures – Terry Ohm

Street closures should have a set of criteria that indicate benefit to the BIA before they are approved.

The Art of Peace festival did not bring the estimated number of people to the downtown but we learned from the experience and next year, concerts can go on in the laneways. Road closures were first brought up to the membership and the motion passed. Some of the same people there then were here today. We did it, we learned and we can move forward with more understanding about how to handle street closures. What 1 person finds “beneficial” is not necessarily the same for others and the board makes the ultimate decision. This motion should be a recommendation rather than a rule.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Tim Whalen made a motion that the BIA support the Thorold Committee of Concern in getting the Thorold charter returned. Seconded by Terry Ohm. 1 abstention. CARRIED.	n/a
Contact the City about using the sidewalk in front of NeVaeh Kids Spa for Barbie event Sep. 30.	George
Terry Ohm made a motion that all future event requests for street closures have a sound business plan and show the financial or exposure benefit to the BIA before being granted. Seconded by Bill VanderKlippe. MOTION FAILED.	n/a

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08am.