

Grimsby DIA Minutes
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
GBF Hub ~ 19 Elm St.

- Meeting called to order – 8:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL - Present: Roseanna La Porta, Simon Duong, Reg Freaque, Jeff Jordan, (9:15 a.m.)
Bryan Macaulay (8:25 a.m.), Mike Williscraft, Andy Daniels & Luca Vitali

Regrets: Mark Wood

- **Disclosure of Interest:** Mike declared a conflict should a discussion about advertising arise.

- **Approval of Minutes:**

No minutes to be approved as AGM was in January, those minutes are approved at next AGM

Delegations

- Nolan Davis - Grimsby Public Works - speaking to Main Street patio options

Nolan outlined four options for possible patio set-ups for 2022. The four restaurant owners noted they are in no position to invest in patios this summer, save for insurance required to operate one. It was generally considered that Option 4 - an island bump-out format was preferred. Nolan noted material for this format can be rented or purchased. He said he would look into getting a quote. A key feature all liked about the island format is it maximized parking for neighbouring retailers as the whole side of the street did not need to be blocked off. Nolan also noted there may be some grants available through COVID relief stimulus but he was not sure if those programs were still in play. It was agreed the DIA would contribute to beautification as needed, if something goes in this summer.

Finance

All is up to date, no report

Events

- **Downtown Reimagined** - It was noted the DIA has a Zoom meeting set for the following week for the Downtown Reimagined project. Mike was asked if there is an agenda for the night, nothing had arrived as yet. Several members noted the opportunity that is before all in the downtown core and hopes were high this program could reinvent the downtown to be a true destination with multi layers of offerings.
- **Comedy Night** - With Jan and Feb Comedy Nights cancelled due to COVID regulations, March will 30 at Station 1 Coffeehouse will be the first one since before Christmas.
- **Happening in Grimsby** - Simon gave an overview of some of the plans in the works for the centennial edition of Happening. A midway may return in Village Inn Plaza. A car show will be staged at PKC. As part of the event, he asked about approval for a road closure on Main Street from Ontario to Christie from 2 p.m. on Friday, June 17 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. Mike noted it is important for businesses have first right of refusal on outdoor space. A bus will be on the move to connect locations...and more.

The board considered Simon's request for an approval of the road closure, but thought it best to allow members to know about the possibility and provide comment as closing overnight is not common. It was agreed a special board meeting would be called for Feb. 16 to follow up and approve the Main St closure if no issues arise.

- **Spring Shop Local** - A spring version of the gift certificate campaign was considered. This was planned in 2021 but was held off for another campaign. The board agreed this would be a good idea, depending considerably on COVID guideline changes. Dates will be set at the March meeting.

- Harley Valentine spoke to the **Spring Fling** - May 14 - at the GBF Hub. He said community events and programming are a key ingredient to The Hub as a public space. The event, in support of Niagara West High School's theatre, will feature a live band, food and silent and live auctions.

New Business

- It was suggested a letter be sent to Grimsby Bylaw Dept. to ask for a definition of the criteria used to shut down Casa Toscana because of what they said were COVID guideline violations. The concern was, virtually all other municipalities in Niagara have one or more restaurants operating in a similar fashion.

Motion: A letter of inquiry be sent to the Town asking what made Casa Toscana in violation of COVID guidelines.

Moved By: Andy Seconded By: Bryan

Approved - Luca and Roseanna declared a conflict

With the regular part of the agenda complete, the board moved into closed session

Motion: To go into closed session for a personnel matter

Moved by: Reg Seconded By: Roseanna

Approved

Motion to rise from closed session.

Moved By: Roseanna Seconded By: Simon

Approved

Motion: to accept Mike's verbal update

Moved By: Roseanna Seconded By: Jeff

Approved

Next Meeting March 2, 2022

Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Jeff Seconded By: Andy

Approved