

Grimsby DIA Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
In-Person at GBF Hub

• **Meeting called to order – 8:06 a.m.**

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

Regrets: Mark Wood.

• **Disclosure of Interest:** - Mike, on any advertising/revenue issue related to NewsNow advertising

MINUTES:

• Minutes from March 2 meeting were presented – no errors of omissions noted.

Motion: To approve March 2 minutes

Moved: Jeff Seconded: Andy – Approved

Delegations:

• **Rob Hattin** – Provided an update for Sessanta Miglia – a classic car touring event planned for Aug. 26-28 based at PKC. The charity of choice this year is GBF. He noted several promotional opportunities will be part of the event. Rob will provide details to Mike who can network with anyone interested as items arise.

Finance Report: Roseanna

• **Invoices to be paid** –

• SkyComp – web hosting - \$98.31

• OBIAA – provincial BIA membership - \$234.34 + \$30.46 HST = \$264.80

• Garden City Comedy Festival (David Green) – Comedy Night in Grimsby invoice for comedians - \$400

Business Arising:

• **Downtown Reimagined** –

There was unanimous disappointment in the content of the second Zoom meeting for Downtown Reimagined. Among the sentiments voiced by attendees:

• The DIA and downtown businesses are just background noise to town hall

• Any comments made, including efforts included in the the DIA's “visioning exercise” have had little to no impact of the DR process

• By not contacting Grimsby Fire or Niagara Region before completing an updated draft – which meeting attendees were told was supposed to go to council for a decision in less than 3 weeks – the process followed by DR in contrary to how any proper study of this nature should be conducted

• The plan appears hell-bent on putting bike paths down Main Street with wider sidewalks on both sides at the expense of all other aspects of needs for downtown businesses and normal traffic patterns.

Generally, parking removal on both sides of Main Street was seen by all to have a devastating impact for the downtown business community.

After a suggestion that a formal letter of protest needs to be submitted to Town Hall, Mike noted he would reach out to all Main Street businesses along Main in the immediate affected area to gain consensus on their views. Receipt of all received would be forwarded with a letter to Town Hall. Reg. Coun. Wayne Fertich was in attendance to speak to the issue. Members had many questions about the impact which designs would have on regional roads. Wayne said he called Region and was told they had not seen the concept plan at that point. Wayne said he believed downtown was getting “ramrodded” in this process, which all agreed with. He said there were too many inconsistencies, no regard for input, major parking flaws and plans for regional roads which would never be approved at Region.

Jeff Jordan summed it up by saying the concepts look pretty, but have no function for the business community.

Kevin Luttjehuizen – noted the Town has a parking study in the works. He said downtown needs more parking, not less. He said a parking plan should be in place before or in concert with DR. Mike noted the DIA visioning plan included bumpouts to provide programmable space along Main and could be done with an eye to maintaining the vast majority of on-street parking, but all that gets scrapped as soon as bike lanes are put through. It was noted time and time again by many, the bike lanes are best suited to shifted over to Elm, so a continuous route through the heart of town could work – and is desired by all speakers – but still allow for the convenience of on-street parking.

**Motion : Mike will send a formal letter of disapproval to Town Hall re Downtown Reimagined along with opinion garnered from nearby businesses
Moved By Luca, Seconded By Andy - Approved**

• Happening in Grimsby – Simon

Simon did not have much to update, said he was still waiting for information on a grant, so no final budget set. Generally, 2 budgets have been planned, one with a grant, one without.

• Grimsby Arts Walk – Mike

The event is planned for third week of September. Grant information is also key to this event. This will be a juried art show, which connects multiple venues from Nelles Manor Museum to Grimsby Museum to Woolverton Hall and Coronation Park, through downtown and over to Grimsby Public Art Gallery. Food and music will also be part of the mix as will heritage.

• Comedy Night in Grimsby

First event was March 30 and went very well. Full house, great show. April 27 is next show.

• Please Take Your Seat

Marilyn McRae spoke to this, noting \$20K had been raised for the new high school's theatre. She added, May 14 will be the Spring Fling at Woolverton Hall in support of Grimsby Historical Society.

• Spring Shop Local Campaign – At the March meeting rebooting the popular shop local campaign was suggested. It was agreed to restart the program in early May running into mid-June.

Motion : To run the same, six-week Shop Local campaign based on the pre-Christmas format

Mike noted his conflict and did not vote

Moved By Simon, Seconded By Roseanna - Approved

- **Main Street patios -**

Mike noted there has been many exchanges with Public Works and restaurant owners along Main Street. All but Teddy's will participate in a new patio format which will allow for maximizing parking in between restaurants on the north side. The new format will also be much more esthetically pleasing.

New Business:

- Mark Wood tendered his resignation from the board. Mike noted that Mark has served on the board nearly 8 years and was the past president. Mike thanked Mark for all his efforts in serving the board of directors and the downtown business community.

Motion to accept the resignation of Mark Wood

Moved By Bryan, Seconded By Roseanna - Approved

Next Meeting:

Mike noted board meetings are the first Wednesday of each month.

All will be welcome to dress as their favourite Star Wars character for the next meeting on May 4.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn

Moved By Simon, Seconded By Jeff – Approved