**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DOWNTOWN SUDBURY BIA**

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Place des Arts

**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD AT 6:00 P.M.**

**K. MACISAAC & E. DANYLIW IN THE CHAIR.**

**PRESENT**

B. Deisinger, D. Zulich, D. Guillemette, F. Cormier

**REGRETS**

N. Labbee, T. Sutton, G. McAusland, W. Watson

**ALSO PRESENT**

J. MacIntyre Executive Director

E. Lapointe Project Manager & Communications

M. Luoma Advisor

Downtown Members

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

K. MacIsaac welcomed Members and guests and took the opportunity to introduce Directors of the Board and Staff, as well as outlining the itinerary for the evening (circulated). It was further noted that there would be a slight adjustment to the Agenda. As he had a time commitment, Mayor Lefebvre was moved up in the program.

**GUEST – MAYOR PAUL LEFEBVRE**

Mayor Lefebvre took this opportunity to update members on various programs and initiatives specific to the downtown – ‘Reimagining our Downtown Core’ - including (but not limited to):

***①Event Centre*** … Members were advised of the expected timeline beginning this spring, continuing with foundation work and beginning of the structure in 2026, with an expected spring opening in 2028.

②***Snow Removal*** … While this has been a challenging few weeks (between heavy snow, melting, etc), it was noted that this issue is being revisited with the BIA specific to the process to better meet the needs of the downtown (scheduling, adjustments, current vs when new major projects are completed, etc.)

③***Vulnerable population*** and associated challenges … a multi-organization work group has been established and continues to work to develop an ‘action plan’ to address concerns through the downtown as well as the entire community.

Questions were then invited, with further information specific to:

\*Art Gallery/Library project … It was noted that the ‘move in’ date is also expected to be 2028, although it is a bit more complicated as there are existing tenants

\*Parking meter issues … There continues to be some concerns specific to the ease/difficulty of using the meters. K. MacIsaac suggested that there may be a need for education/information sessions.

\*School of Architecture … It was noted that the School is experiencing a record number of applications – both very positive for the School and the downtown. It was also noted that there is a great deal of expertise in energy at the School which may be something to consider in the plans/design for the Arena project.

\*Plans for Memorial Park area … Discussions are not at this point yet.

**2024 HIGHLIGHTS**

E. Danyliw provided an overview of highlights and initiatives, including (but not limited to):

* Move of the Sudbury Market to Elm Place
* Win this Space initiative
* Numerous events – such as Up Here; Music in the Park; Downtown Yard Sale
* Welcomed 7 new businesses to the core
* Positive strides made in bridging the gap in service that had been brought up by our membership by helping introduce the Welcoming Streets program and the subsequent positive impact for both our businesses and the vulnerable populations who call downtown home
* Momentum building for the major projects including the Event Centre and the Art Gallery of Sudbury/Sudbury Public Library cultural hub
* Changes in BIA management and welcoming of J. MacIntyre as new Executive Director (from his past role for many years as Director and Chair/Co-Chair of the Board)

**2025 PROGRAM**

K. MacIsaac presented an overview of this year’s program, goals and initiatives, noting how these address/support various priorities as outlined in the recent Member Survey (conducted in the Fall by Oracle Poll), including (but not limited to):

* Welcoming Streets – improvement and development of the program
* Clean-Up program and partnership with the YMCA
* Strategic Partnership growth expanding to include various organizations that will bring a wider range of events downtown. It is the goal of the BIA to host at least one new major event and several smaller events downtown to increase foot traffic.
* Facilitating Event hosting … The BIA has invested in resources to simplify the process of hosting events downtown and have been proactively reaching out to community organizations to ensure downtown is Northern Ontario’s premier destination for events.
* BIA members have been instrumental in attracting tens of thousands of patrons to downtown in the past year alone (Refettorio, Knox Hall, Place des Arts, Yes Theatre, SWSE, The Grand, The Sudbury Arena), Downtown Holiday Market
* A ‘Space for Everyone’ … it is the core mission of the BIA to make downtown a vibrant and inclusive space for everyone in our community

**BUDGET 2025**

B. Deisinger was introduced as Board Treasurer and to outline the proposed budget attached to the various activities referred to. Copies of the budget were distributed as well as on the screen. It was noted that the budget breakdown not only indicates the various program elements but also shows the anticipated additional revenue through both sponsorships and grants that the Executive Director is pursuing and that will greatly enhance, expand upon and develop programs.

The following resolutions were then presented:

***2025 Budget/Program:***

**AGM-25-01**

**MOVED** B. Deisinger

**SECONDED** D. Guillemette

**THAT** the General Membership of Downtown Sudbury BIA supports the 2025 Program and Operating Budget in the amount of $653,000, as presented by the Board of Directors at the AGM, held Thursday, February 27, 2025;

**AND FURTHER THAT** this represents a 3.63% cost-of-living increase over 2024 (which saw no levy increase).

**CARRIED**

***Reserve Funds:***

**AGM-25-02**

**MOVED** B. Deisinger

**SECONDED:** D. Guillemette

**THAT** the General Membership of Downtown Sudbury BIA approves maintaining the following Reserve Funds:

1. Special Project Reserve Fund, established in preparation of specific Major Projects in the downtown;
2. Chargeback Reserve Fund, established for the purpose of covering any loss of revenue as a result of loss of assessment.

**CARRIED**

**GUESTS**

**E. Ali, Go-Give Project** was present to provide an update on the **‘Welcoming Streets’** initiative (one year since the ‘launch’ of the program), updating members on various statistics, including a review of the types of calls/issues addressed, etc. Members were also encouraged to continue to call when issues arise.

**E. Landry, Senior Planner, City of Greater Sudbury** was present to provide an update on the ***Downtown Master Plan Review*** (background, 30 year vision, current status, 10 year implementation plan); ***Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Review***, work with the Community Liaison Committee (of which the BIA is a participant).

**WORDS FROM THE ED**

J. MacIntyre reminded Members how various program elements reflect the priorities as outlined in the Member Survey and that, already, very positive discussions have been held with potential event partners/sponsors. He noted that more and final details will be forthcoming as they are confirmed (late spring). He further encouraged Members to reach out to either himself or E. Lapointe to participate in any of the numerous programs available.

**SUMMARY AND THANK YOU**

Members and Guests were thanked for attending and reminded to watch for details on upcoming events and programs and how they might participate.

There being no further matters to discuss at this time, this meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.