

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF 'DOWNTOWN SUDBURY'

Thursday, October 1, 2020, via ZOOM

AN ELECTRONIC MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD AT 8:30 A.M.

K. MACISAAC IN THE CHAIR. (dep 10:05 a.m.)

PRESENT

B. Deisinger, W. Watson, R. Jones (dep 10:00 a.m.), B. McCullagh, J. Seguin, G. McCausland

REGRETS

J. MacIntyre, J. Arnold, A. Vardy

ALSO PRESENT

M. Luoma – Executive Director
Sgt. B. Ornella – GSPS
M. Poynton – GSPS, Student Placement
B. Adair – By-Law/Parking
L. Franklin – Economic Development

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

K. MacIsaac declared a conflict in the discussion on the Board resolution of support to the YMCA Youth Drop-In Centre and, as such, will not take place in any discussion or vote.

PART ONE – CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C-1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

20-102 Deisinger-McCausland

THAT Item C-1, contained in the Consent Agenda, as duplicated and circulated, be hereby accepted.

CARRIED

20-103 Deisinger-McCausland

THAT the Board minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Board (September 3, 2020) as duplicated and circulated, be hereby accepted.

CARRIED

GUESTS

Sgt. Barry Ornella and Brendan Adair (By-Law/Parking) were present to discuss with Directors the many concerns and challenges impacting downtown and member businesses. Sgt. Ornella also introduced Marguerite Poynton, 4th year Social Work Student at Laurentian University, who will be doing her fall placement in his unit with her focus on the downtown and researching potential solutions that might address some of the issues.

Discussion highlights:

- Sgt. Ornella provided an overview/update of activities, including 'Bike Patrol', 'Beat Officers', following up with various businesses that have had issues/incidents
- Directors were also advised that it is practice that all new recruits, as part of their training, participate in 'foot patrol' of the downtown
- In addition, plans are underway to consider including the Auxiliary Service into the downtown foot patrol when possible.
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- Councillor McCausland advised of Federal funding for housing opportunities
- B. McCullagh suggested the use of empty facilities/buildings ie Cecil Facer (although would have a stigma attached)

- The vulnerable and marginalized need a place to go – currently limited due to COVID-19
- Information on recent changes to be sent to Members – CMHA shelter opening, Homelessness Network Day Centre opening (19 Froot Rd)
- It was noted that the issues and concerns are a result of many things – COVID-19, reduced ‘feet on the street’ as large offices continue to be closed/reduced staff, services & drop-ins have been closed, etc. – but – that all (GSPS, By-Law, various agencies/groups) are working together.
- K. MacIsaac advised of an upcoming meeting with the Mayor (that will include BIA, GSPS)
- Schedule a ‘**Coffee with a Cop**’ – via zoom – to include representatives from SACY, Réseau Access Network, Homelessness Network, CMHA, NISA, etc., as well as CPTED information. (The ED to work with Const. Hagen on this.)
- B. Adair updated on the **Security Pilot Project**, advising that this was ready to begin the week prior to COVID shut-down and has been delayed as a result. It is the goal to hold the approved budget and now carry it over to 2021 for the pilot project implementation. Staff directed to forward a letter of support to this program and that the contributory funds contributed to this project by the BIA will be carried forward.
- By-law continues to work closely with the GSPS, BIA and many groups on the various issues/concerns being discussed here.
- There was discussion on **CPTED**, noting some businesses that have undertaken changes (ie STC) that have resulted in positive change. Staff was directed to **develop a downtown CPTED program** that will support businesses and the BIA link to public spaces. This is further to the Board’s interest in assisting with increased lighting (laneways, public areas). This would also enable the BIA to assist/facilitate in the co-ordination of partners that have previously discussed this type of program (GSPS, City). Included in this will be a revisit of earlier discussions specific to the concrete planters and how might they be adapted (railings) or removed.
- G. McCausland advised of meeting with the School of Architecture (4th Year Masters Students) who will be undertaking a design project specific to shelters for the homeless.

PART TWO – REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 CO-CHAIR’S REPORT

TABLED – Due to time limitations, the ED will provide a more detailed updated to attached to this meeting’s minutes and the balance of the meeting will highlight more timely items.

R-2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Report for September was previously circulated. Questions were invited and the following resolution presented:

20-104 Jones-Watson

THAT the Executive Director’s Report for September 2020, as duplicated and circulated, be hereby accepted.

CARRIED

R-3 UPDATES (limited highlights only)

YMCA Youth Drop-in Centre

No discussion required and K. MacIsaac declared a conflict at the beginning of this meeting. The following resolution was undertaken via email September 23rd, with unanimous support:

20-105 McCausland-Watson

WHEREAS the YMCA continues to develop new and innovative programs to offer to the community;

AND WHEREAS there have been numerous discussions on a partnership with the BIA to develop a ‘Youth Drop-in Centre’;

AND WHEREAS this project fits well within the Strategic Goals of the BIA, most specifically ‘community’ and the improvement of the downtown environment;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Directors support a sponsorship contribution in the amount of \$25,000 for this project;

AND FURTHER THAT, as part of the YMCA fundraising campaign, this includes attached ‘naming rights’.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

World Trade Centre

An information updated was previously circulated. Directors discussed the next step in the process for this project – a Market Study to assess the market for Class A commercial and residential real estate in the downtown core, under the lens of COVID-19. The ED also advised of recent discussion with M. Matichuk. Following a lengthy discussion, Directors agreed to include an open-ended question on the concept of the WTC in the upcoming Member Survey to garner feedback specific to support, concerns, etc. Directors will then discuss further steps/action, based on that member input.

R. Jones and K. MacIsaac departed at 10:05 a.m. As there was no longer a quorum, the following was information discussion/updates.

Downtown Passport

The ED provided an overview of this initiative, noting that it evolved specifically from a member and recent discussions through Facebook. While the goal/attempt was to launch in November and run through December, B. Deisinger noted that there has also been discussion (with the member) specific to timing and that it may be better to launch following Christmas, with more time to prepare. It was further noted that previous successful Christmas programs could continue – within COVID-19 protocols in place. More details to follow once finalized.

Downtown Jazzed Up!

The ED advised that this four week 'pilot' street activation project winds up on Saturday, October 3rd. This has been a collaboration between the BIA, Sudbury Arts Council and Jazz Sudbury and has been very well received with numbers increasing each weekend. At this point, it is the intent of the program partners to develop this into a full-on program for the summer 2021, noting that each partner may have their own opportunities to access funding. A further report will follow in the fall.

R-4 NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

COVID-19

Directors discussed the importance of monitoring this, particularly as the numbers are expected to increase over the next month/into November, and what that might mean to our members and further adaptations that might be required.

The ED advised that the regular meetings of the 'Business Continuity' group (City, BIA, Chamber, local staff of all levels of government) continue and also provide some opportunity to not only stay connected on this but also any funding opportunities that are announced.

Directors also discussed if there is an opportunity to assist members with their digital presence. The ED advised that members continue to receive weekly reminders of how they might access the Digital Mainstreet Program (which the BIA received funding for 2019/2020, as well as some members), as well as offering the assistance through our own BIA Staff (M. Leblanc). In addition, discussions have been held with (and continue) NORCAT, with a similar program.

NEXT MEETING(S)

COFFEE WITH A COP

to be confirmed

REGULAR BOARD

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH – 8:30 AM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters to discuss at this time, this meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Chair

Executive Director