



MEETING #01-14
Monday January 6, 2014
Victoriaville Centre ~Suite #72

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Jim Hupka, Frances Larizza, Kathy Skirving, Andrew Coffey, JP Fraser, Bill Scollie, Councillor Larry Hebert, Councillor Paul Pugh, Tom Petrie, Tina Huk – recording secretary

Regrets: Axel Rehfuhs,

Meeting was called to order at

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

That the agenda for meeting # 01-14 be accepted as presented

Moved by: Councillor Larry Hebert Seconded by: Tom Petrie
Carried

2. GUESTS: Mark Smith and Mayor Keith Hobbs
Questions/Comments of the Board

Safety of our neighbourhood

- An employee in the area had a window of her car broken – a passerby tried to call in the report but was not able to make the report as it wasn't their vehicle.
- Night shopping is non-existent because of the crime or perception of it
- In the most recent Thumbs up & thumbs down – a person had a family ring stolen and when it was reported was told that it was not a crime

Services

- What is the established level of service – re: re snow and the removal of accumulated snow - Sometime the middle of January the snow removal will be addressed (Mark Smith).

The BIA has sent a number of correspondences and Jim Hupka has spoken on the phone to Mark Smith about the planter on Brodie Street that was removed and still needs repair to the sidewalk and the railings at the east entrance

- One business left because their customers were not comfortable entering through the Brodie entrance.
- There are threats that other businesses are considering leaving – we do not want another business to leave our downtown area.
- Want to corral smokers and keep them from the doorways

A couple of Board members, Deputy Police Chief and Darrell Matson walked the area in 2011 and thought that it was an excellent idea to put up the railings.

Mark Smith said that he did not know that Darrell Matson was in support of these railings. The south entrance there is an opportunity to have the railings out of the beaten path...but on Brodie Street this is not doable they would serve as projectiles, make it difficult for snow plowing and would facilitate a gathering space.

- The East entrance is so bad and dangerous, there were 2 gangs fighting over this corner last month. Customers are scared to use this entrance to Victoriaville Centre.

Mark Smith– we understand the gravity of the situation, I don't disagree that this is a problem but the railings are not a solution.

Mayor Hobbs - A car break in is a low priority call...mischief is a low priority call and can sometimes take days to respond.

Please tell us what will work. Give us a solution. Bargain Shop has hired a full time security guard. The BIA hired a security guard before Christmas to keep people moving from the east entrance.

We have the largest and most expensive police force per capita. Why can we not get more policing?

The Mayor said you can have 24 hour policing but at a cost of an additional million dollars ~ where do we find that money?

A Board member suggested 2 low cost measures

1. Take a can of paint and paint a 9m radius around an area "no smoking" at all entrances (Mayor Hobbs likes this idea)
2. People that smoke need to go somewhere – look at putting out small mesh tables (similar to the ones by Roosters Bistro) – put these by the bar and let them sit & smoke. Let us dictate where they will smoke...if it doesn't work remove them

Loitering bylaw – the Board has asked Mr Bourret to look into it – City of Toronto has one that is good

Mayor Hobbs- He will be meeting with Tim Commisso and JP Lévesque to discuss the new policing model. He hopes that with the new 12 hr shifts that this will solve some of these issues

The police do not have the resources to move smokers. As long as you move 2 feet you are not loitering, so people just continue to move.

A few board members had attended the Neighbourhood to build meetings – they were informative...nice to see that people are all on the same page but the negative comments that goes into the paper, does not do us any justice. (Spoke about the article in the Northern Ontario business).

The Courthouse will be opening in the next few months ...Mayor Hobbs thinks that it will help clean up the area. He feels that people will be less likely to hang around and will move out with a stepped up police presence. Bad guys don't want to hang around the courthouse.

Future use of the Gardens....Mayor Hobbs mentioned the open house coming up – ideas proposed so far; car museum, a Farmer's market.

Mark Smith asked if the BIA— have given any thoughts to Asanual Habib's proposal? We will meet with Mr Habib to discuss hosting an evening for our members to see his presentation.

Some Board members said they do not want to have any street's closed. We will lose parking and impede traffic

The apartment on May Street was brought up. A board member said that solutions are rampant to this problem, the solutions are in Saskatoon.

Mayor Hobbs – can you give me examples?

In Saskatoon they offer a 10 year tax relief for condos.

Mark Smith said that we have Core Area Renewal Programs in place that applies to the business areas. One of the programs will grant back tax \$ for a period of 10 years.

The BIA coordinator will forward the Saskatoon information to the Mayor and Mark Smith.

Mayor asked how Interior Victoriaville is doing. Kathy Skirving said that this may have been one the better years.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST: Kathy Skirving, Frances Larizza, Andrew Coffey or the approval of the invoices to be paid

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
That minutes from Meeting # 11-2-13 held on November 27, 2013 be approved

Moved by: Frances Larizza Seconded by: Andrew Coffey
Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PAST MINUTES

6. TREASURER'S REPORT
6-1 Financial Analysis

6-2 Invoices to be approved – total \$2269
Jim Hupka asked if the Board could approve having a security guard every other week for the east entrance of Victoriaville.

Call for a quote from Security net – before proceeding
Moved by: Councillor Larry Hebert Seconded by: JP Fraser
Carried

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7-1 Beautification

(a) Banners: -

(b) Trees/Lights: McKellar lights - to be discussed at next meeting

(c) Flowers

(d) Furniture/Receptacles-

(e) Maintenance –

(f) Streetscape –

(g) Capital Projects –

7-2 Promotion – Newsletter will be prepared and send out by early February

7-3 Transportation

7-4 Lighting, Security & Safety

7-5 Communication

7-6 Crime & Security Issues

8. Victoriaville Centre update – Kathy Skirving
Elevator – still not working

9. Associate Memberships -

A motion to approve the following Associate members; Impact Promotions, Antiques on Victoria and Northwest Insurance

Moved by Councillor Larry Hebert Seconded by: Kathy Skirving

Carried

10. Correspondence for your interest

11. New Business

Motion by: JP Fraser Seconded by: Tom Petrie

That the BIA sends the BIA Coordinator and 1 other person to the OBIAA Conference – April 27-29, 2014

Carried

12. Next Meeting –February 5, 2014

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25am