



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (THE “BOARD”)
OF THE WELLAND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (THE
“CORPORATION”) OF THE CITY OF WELLAND (THE “CITY”)**

Held on Monday April 3, 7:00pm

Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present: K. Jones, H. Treddenick, J. D’Hulster, A. Chistoff, B. Herchmer, J. Takeo, Councillor G. Speck, , L. Robichaud, Councillor S. Setaram, A. Adams, D. Alexander,

Board Member Regrets: A. Chistoff, C. Dutcher

Executive Director: A. Higginbotham

WELCOME- CALL TO ORDER

1. WELCOME- CALL TO ORDER

The chair K. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Land Acknowledgment Statement

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion: J. Takeo

Second: J. D’hulster

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: D. Alexander

Second: B. Herchmer

Carried

- Correction for clarity- add Concerts On The Canal

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR- K. Jones

- Presentation to council by Chair and Amanda
 - The agenda was accepted and presented the audited financial statements, and presented the 2023 budget
 - This budget was approved
- Concerts On Canal under production, getting organized.
- G. Speck asked why the Executive Director was not in the presentation. Jones responded that the Treasurer provided good support for answering budget questions.
- Governance- no updates

6. FINANCE- K. Jones

- After the last meeting there was discussion around the holding fund to have the credit card and discussed with the bank. Conclusion was that we cannot move that fund into other accounts.
- A. Higginbotham reported that the audit is progressing well with no concerns and a deadline of April 30th

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Community Watch
 - No direction on the Mobile Crisis Response Team
 - We are waiting on the report after the provincial budget announcements.
- 211 -No updates on if the service will change or remain
- Shelter Project
 - Was a success
 - Has come to a close
 - Updates will come in the coming weeks
- Upcoming construction projects

- Grove St, Mill St projects has not yet started
- It has been reported that the notification letters are not always disseminated. This may be due to landlords not delivering notices to tenants. It has been resolved that tenants will be given direct notice, not just property owners. Businesses and residents are encouraged to sign up to Engage Welland for current newsletters and up to date information.
 - J. Takeo reported these initiatives are good support to businesses
 - To avoid disruption street repairs are generally being done one side of the street at a time. Updates will be encouraged on social media.
 - It was asked whether or not parking on Hellems could be less restricted during the construction.
 - WDBIA is trying to bridge the gap between some landlords and tenants with information dissemination. Tenants are encouraged to follow social media updates and the WDBIA and Engage Welland newsletter.

8. BEAUTIFICATION L. Robichaud

- Christmas decorations have been removed. Recommended that the lights not be included next year as many of them have been stolen.
 - J. Takeo supported that he observed many lights being stolen
- Summer planters will be installed after May long weekend
- Street Crew
 - This is run through the Oak Centre, one of their members is employed.
 - They will work Monday-Friday 9am-11am on a designated route.
 - This person stays on the sidewalk, not on streets or private property.
 - They begin on April 11th. Special attention will be given to East Main.
 - The city will be starting to clean up the streets where garbage accumulates at the curb. This is outside the scope of the Street Crew

9. MARKETING AND EVENTS K. Jones

- Concerts On Canal
 - Completing the musicians, vendors and sponsors
 - May 11th- kick off event at Tavis. Ideally it will take place on the patio.
- Networking events
 - In a previous Winter meeting, Dolores, former chair, proposed wanting to see more engagement among members.
 - H. Treddenick mentioned that these are already taking place downtown, hosted by the Welland Creatives Network at The Bank Art House
 - B. Herchmer mentioned that some networking events focus on learning events. That may also be a possibility.

- Rose Festival
 - In discussion for details around supporting an event this year. Last year we supported a children's concert
 - This year K. Jones was approached by Pride about an event and when the Rose Festival was discussed as a possibility he acted as a liaison to connect them with the Rose Festival.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- There have been questions regarding upcoming accessibility laws. A workshop on this topic is being proposed.
 - B. Herchmer commented on the challenge and high costs of upgrading older buildings to be accessible and suggested that perhaps OBIA could take the lead on this
 - This would be open to businesses across Welland, not just downtown

11. WHITE SPACE

- D. Alexander asked about the "Mayor's Breakfast"
 - A. Higginbotham and K. Jones attended
 - D. Alexander's concerns included his speech, the article and the headline
 - Concern around what actions are taking place?
 - A. Higginbotham reported there were not any solid plans replayed

A letter to the editor should be drafted in response to the Mayor's article in the newspaper asking for more details

Motion: J. Takeo

Second: D. Alexander

- J. Takeo asked if the business listings on the website are up to date
- J. Takeo asked if there is consideration for an office space for the WDBIA.
 - K. Jones responded that this is in discussion
- J. Takeo said there are a few businesses in communication about that there is not an official easter egg hunt in Welland and are planning a small hunt at the market on Saturday at 9:00 AM.
- L. Robichaud
 - Asked if in-person meetings will be restored? This has not been considered. A. Higginbotham replied that online has a larger attendance.
 - Asked what the state of the board will be when current members leave due to the bylaw of restricting the term to 8 years being completed. K. Jones mentioned that legacy planning is underway and will be addressed in the next governance report.
- D. Alexander

- Asked about having Regional councillors on a meeting to respond to regional concerns.
- “Welcome to Welland” sign on Woodlawn was vandalized. Has the North Welland BIA been in communication about this? A. Higginbotham has been in communication with them about it. It is now down.

Next meeting May 1, 2023

Members were asked to be sure they RSVP for each Board meeting.

Adjourned 8:59 pm

Motion to adjourn: J. Takeo

Second: I. Robichaud