

Mitchell BIA Minutes
July 13, 2016
West Perth Municipal Building

Attendance: Cathy Bieman, Meredith Forget, Lisa Tubb, Doug Eidt, Heather Bennewies, Viola Tyler, Gus Eyers, Jeff Brick, Burt Vorstenbosch, Jamie Huenemoerder

Call to order: 6:20PM

Bert Vorstenbosch serving as Interim Chair

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Approval of Minutes from June 2016:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 2016 meeting.

Moved by Gus Eyers, seconded by Viola Tyler.

An email was sent prior to the meeting asking everyone in attendance to show up with an answer to the question

What do you think is missing in the Mitchell BIA area?

The answers people came with included the fact that there was nothing for younger people to do, Mitchell doesn't have very many amenities, there are no places to eat after 6:00pm, and that we needed more retail.

As the conversation became more in-depth we decided that The BIA needs some more direction and unity within the downtown business owners. We talked about an internal assessment into what is working and what is not working within the BIA. We need to determine benefits for associate members as well as downtown merchant benefits. Jeff Brick was assigned to organize the BIA and revisit "who" the BIA is supposed to be.

Financial:

We discussed as a group the Actual Budget. Brent informed us that over the long July weekend, someone hacked into our Website and when you would try to access the website it would take you to a pornographic website.

Brent had to go ahead and hire a company called Site Lock to clean out the site. This company requested that we purchase a six (6) month contract at sixty five dollars (\$65.00) per month. An invoice was submitted for Three Hundred Ninety Dollar (\$390.00) plus HST.

BIA Secretary:

Cathy informed us that Alisha will no longer be working with the BIA. There was discussion for Jeff to look into perusing options for hiring someone, including recruiting someone that already works for the municipality or hiring someone that was a BIA member. Jamie announced that she would be interested in taking on the position but declared that it may cause a conflict of interest.

A motion was made to temporarily hire Jamie as secretary through the Perth County Visitors Association (PCVA). Moved by Viola Tyler, seconded by Brent Schneider.

Executive Interim Chair:

An agreement was made stating that we should have a temporary Board of Executives. We decided that this group would need to be established until the by-law has been re-written, or further discussed. The Board will consist of five (5) members including:

Bert Vorstenbosch

Brent Schneider

Heather Bennewies

Viola Tyler

Gus Evers.

Motion was made to assign a temporary Board of Executives.

Moved by Doug Eidt, seconded by Jamie Huenemoerder.

Holiday Decorations:

Discussion from the previous year had sparked an interest in decorating the Downtown and Associate members store fronts with Cedar Rope over the Christmas Holiday Season. Steve Walkolm had sent out an e-mail prior to the meeting stating that if the BIA was interested in this, the order date was quickly approaching. Although we missed the order date, this did engage in further discussion of decoration. Jamie will draw up a letter asking the participating store fronts for the length of their storefront. In the case we do end up making the decision to order, we will at that point have all of the appropriate information to go ahead with ordering.

Canada 150:

The Weekend Committee is planning the events for the weekend of July 1st 2017. The current plan is to have a Family Themed event Friday night at the Cooper Fields with carnival themed games and Fireworks to follow. A parade on Saturday ending at Lions Park. There will also be entertainment to follow that evening at Keterson Park. Sunday morning there is plans of a Church service along with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Band Shell or Pavilion that is in the plans for the Legacy Project. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday July 18, 2016.

Passports:

Jamie updated us and told us that there have already been 250 passports printed. The drop boxes for the passports have not been dropped off to the appropriate stores. A decision was made to print another 200 passports. Brent volunteered to make up signs, and posters and to phone the Cable TV to help get the information out to the public. Jamie will write up a Press Release and send it off to Andy Bader at The Mitchell Advocate.

A motion was made to print another 200 passports. Moved by Gus Evers, seconded by Viola Tyler.

Street Scape Project:

The Street Scape Committee met on June 15th to discuss the completion of the project, as well as any feedback from the public about the completed project. The committee decided that the only two main concerns were the concrete planters as well as the four (4) concrete crossings. The committee decided that the project went smooth and is completed and nothing will be changed.

The committee also discussed the possibility of placing pedestrian crossing signs at the crossings, but decided against it, as the downtown seems to be pretty busy as it is.

Ted Schinbein wrote a letter of correspondence to the BIA speaking about how much of a disruption the concrete crossings have been, and that the municipality is ignoring his complaints. He asked the BIA to help him in making some noise to get the municipality to respond to him. The BIA made a motion to receive and file the letter.

Motion to receive and file letter from Ted Schinbein.

Moved by Viola Tyler, seconded by Heather Bennewies.

Perth County Cultivating Opportunities:

Meredith reported to us that they already had two of the Community Roundtable events with John Nater, she reported that they both went very well. Meredith also reminded us that the Mitchell Networking Breakfast is Monday July 18 from 7:30am- 9:30am at the Mitchell Networking Breakfast.

Jamie will post this on Facebook to remind everyone. They are asking that everyone register prior to the Breakfast, and there is a cost of ten dollars (\$10.00) per person. The Perth South Networking Breakfast is being held on September 28, and is free for anyone wanting to attend.

Lisa was working on interviews to profile some local business' to showcase in Meredith's Newsletter. The Hicks Café and Goettler's Fine Furniture were the two business' that were chosen.

Meredith also gave us a poster to hang up in a vacant building to promote business growth within our downtown. Bert volunteered to find out if we can hang the sign in the old Wine It Up store front.

Bert asked Jamie if there could be a write up of the Opportunity Lives Here programs and website to help showcase what services and programs they offer.

Meredith also informed us that Brianne is the new Investment Officer for the Perth Community Future Development, she will be coming in to speak to the BIA and help us with some creative and innovative ideas, as well as let us know what kind of assistance is available from the County.

Additions:

Jeff informed us that he has hired Lisa Tubb as his Economic Development Student. She will be helping the BIA as well as Jeff. She will be conducting interviews with various businesses for their profiles, she will be keeping up-to-date with the business directory for the municipality and will also make this available from the Opportunity Lives Here Website, as well as the BIA Website.

Shawn Schneider enquired how he was supposed to bill everyone for their sign for the Tim Hortons Drive-Thru. The BIA decided that it would be appropriate for Shawn to send out all of the invoices directly to the businesses.

Cathy and Doug informed us that there is a Canadian Classic Motorcycle Rally and Men's Fastball Tournament on Saturday July 30. They were asking for volunteers to help with a food booth for the Rally. After discussion, it was decided that it would be easier for Doug to just ask the Food Vendors from town to see if they would set up a booth. Doug will be putting together a letter to ask the Food Vendors if they would be interested which will be sent out to the BIA members.

Adjourn by Gus Eyers

