

MARKHAM VILLAGE B.I.A.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2010 7:00 AM

Present: Diane Kobelansky, Paul Cicchini, Roger Clements, Les Olson, Avery Rhijnsburger, Joe Giuffre, Gary Bomshakian, Councillor Webster

Regrets: Brian Price, Councillor Moretti

Members: Vic Hartman

Staff: Phil Howes, Christine Matthews

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 a.m. by Chairman Diane Korbelsky.

The Chair welcomed the new members to the board: Gary Bomshakian, Joe Giuffre and Les Olson.

2. DECLARATION OF TAX AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS

The board was advised by the manager that to the best his knowledge and abilities the BIA is meeting all taxation and environmental obligations.

Councilor Webster explained the reason for the request from the manager regarding the statutory taxation and environmental obligations, and requirement of Directors to exercise due diligence in carrying out their obligations to the Board in order to ensure that the Directors and Officers insurance is kept in good standing.

Phil then pointed out that since his position as a director will be changing that he was unsure of his personal status regarding coverage from the Town's insurance policy. Action: Councilor Webster to investigate at the Town re: the insurance coverage status for a contractor who is not an employee or director.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Chair requested that Board Members advise of any conflicts of interest as they arise throughout the meeting.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Avery requested that the minutes be changed to show that he would assist on the events committee but would not be available to Chair it. Motion by Paul Cicchini, seconded by Roger Clements to approve the minutes of the Board meeting January 10, 2010 as amended. Carried.

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5. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board was advised that we had received a copy of correspondence sent to Councillors Webster and Moretti from Mr. Adam Garland. Mr. Garland feels that the Canada Goose decoys on Main Street are attracting geese to his property, and wants them removed. Avery pointed out that there are numerous Canada Geese all over Markham as we are on a migratory path, including the Civic Center and at his office building at Enbridge, in spite of the fact that there are no decoys located there, and that he feels there is no real correlation. Other members pointed out that the nearest decoys are a long way away from Mr. Garland's property. Christine advised that she had spoken to Mr. Garland and informed him that his letter had been forwarded to us and that it would be introduced at today's meeting, and that she had extended an invitation to Mr. Garland to attend today's meeting as well.

Motion to receive the correspondence from Mr. Garland by Avery Rhijnsburger, seconded by Paul Cicchini. Carried.

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

There was no business arising out of the January 10, 2010 minutes.

7. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

8. REPORTS

▪ **Finance**

○ 2010 Interim Operating Results (Appendix A)

The interim Operating Statement for the period January through February 28, 2010 was presented and discussed. It was pointed out to the Board that we have had a charge of \$6,636 for tax write-offs recorded by the town. The board asked for clarification and more details on this item. Action: Phil to obtain more information on the tax write-off.

Motion by Paul Chicchini, seconded by Councillor Webster to approve the financial report. Carried.

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▪ **Sponsorship & Event Funding**

Discussion was held on the need to revise the sponsorship package which was prepared for 2009 for our 2010 events. Phil felt that we were more successful with a two page letter for each event than we were with the full package. Councillor Webster offered to speak to the developer of the new project at 62 Main Street about being an overall event sponsor for 2010.

Phil also reported that he had made a delegation to the Celebrate Markham Grants Sub-committee on March 8 seeking funding support for our 2010 events. The committee passed a motion requesting \$25,000 in additional funds from the Town of Markham to be allocated to both BIAs. Phil will advise Board members when the Grant Subcommittee minutes will be presented for approval at the Town's General Committee meeting.

▪ **Streetscaping**

Summer Pole Banners:

Proposed designs were distributed for our summer pole banners.

Motion to approve summer banner designs by Roger Clements, seconded by Gary Bomshakian. Carried

Street Banners:

Phil reported that he had a meeting with the Town regarding the Main Street Markham street banner schedule, and that agreements have been reached on a number of points, and that the Markham BIA should have a generic street banner which can be installed during periods when no other banner is booked.

Proposed designs for a Main Street Markham generic banner were presented and discussed. Motion by Councillor Webster, seconded by Paul Cicchini, to delegate Diane Kobelansky and Phil Howes to approve the final banner design. Carried.

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▪ **Board of Management Meeting Schedule**

A question was raised regarding the possibility of moving the meeting times to 6:15 pm instead of 7:00 am. Many members pointed out that evening meetings were not possible due to previous business and/or other Town or Event committee meetings.

It was suggested that when board members receive their copies of minutes to the board meetings it would be helpful if they could review the minutes and respond with their requests for items to be included on the next meeting agenda.

▪ **Events.**

Jazz Festival: Paul Cicchini asked for confirmation of our involvement with the Markham Jazz Festival. He was advised that we would not be making any arrangement with the Jazz Festival committee this year. Paul advised that he was glad of this outcome as he felt the Jazz Festival has not resulted in any favourable return for Main Street Markham after many years of trying. Paul advised the Board that the Duchess will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on August 22, 2010.

Festival of Lights: Members raised the possibility of revisiting the time for the Festival of Lights. Some members wanted it moved back to Friday night, and spoke against the Saturday event. Members noted that Friday night used to be far more successful for them from a business perspective.

Considerable discussion followed. Other members pointed out the serious negative and dangerous consequences that occur when Main Street Markham is closed during rush hour on a Friday night – inconveniencing the same people that we are trying to attract to the street and causing serious safety concerns at the barricades.

Phil reported that the feedback received from members at the last Friday night Festival of Lights in 2007 was also very negative, and that we had enormous positive feedback in 2009 from some merchants, from Santa Claus and from the Chip vendor, who expressed surprise that more BIA members did not get involved in the whole day.

Director Avery Rhijnsburger left the meeting at 9:09 am

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After considerable discussion the following options were identified:

1. Move the Festival of Lights back to Friday Night
2. Turn it into a 2 day event
3. Move the Santa Claus Parade to the afternoon, allowing Main Street to be open for business in the morning
4. Cancel the Festival of Lights and reopen Main Street after the parade
5. Hold the Festival of Lights on another weekend, either before or after the Santa Claus Parade

Motion by Joe Giuffre, seconded by Gary Bomshakian that there should be no street closing on Main Street Markham for the entire day of the 2010 Santa Claus Parade, resulting in the Festival of Lights being moved to either after 6:00 pm on Saturday or cancelled altogether.

Recorded vote:

Joe Giuffre – Yes

Gary Bomshakian – Yes

Les Olson – No

Roger Clements – No

Paul Cicchini – No

Councillor Webster – No

Diane Kobelansky – No

Motion defeated.

Motion by Councillor Webster, seconded by Roger Clements to have a discussion on the 2011 Festival of Lights on the next Board of Management meeting agenda. Carried.

At this point members had to leave and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

The remaining items on the Agenda did not get discussed:

9. OTHER MATTERS

- **NEXT MEETING – Wednesday April 21, 2010 BIA Office, 7:00 am.**