

DOWNTOWN HALL – BIA

January 17, 2024

Location: Theatre Woodstock
Time: 6:00 PM

Notes:

- Q: What's going on with Streetscape?
- A: (Kerry Jarvi) Shared draft layout plan for lighting, planting, furnishing zone, typical street section, paving materiality, wayfinding and signage, lighting,
- Many elements help improve accessibility.

- Q: Is StreetFest going to be in July again this year? What was reasoning for moving the dates from August?
- A: (Kerry Jarvi) wanted to space it out (evenly) between big events such as Canada Day, StreetFest, and Cowapalooza

- As a Woodstonian, it was always in August and with so many companies being on shut down and vacation it makes it difficult to attend.

- Lost a couple weeks of revenue because of pre-planned vacation and the moved dates for StreetFest.

- Shopping bags will be purchased for 2024

- Q: will streetscape just be along Dundas Street or on side streets too?
- A: (Kerry Jarvi) focus area is Dundas

- Garbage is number one concern, and recently garbage bins have gone missing.

- Does Streetscape provide better trash cans?
- A: (Kerry Jarvi) Yes.

- Q: is there a job description of the security / by-law people walking around?
- A: They have a contract, and we will investigate.
-
- Per question dates for Streetscape also moved ahead to help accommodate the start of construction (StreetScape).

- Getting tired of cleaning up feces
- Folks from the Inn migrate west into downtown.
- Over last 7 years did not buy a business and join the downtown community for this (did not sign up for this).
- Homeless are not being supported who suffer from mental health issues.
- Has to clean up needles behind the shop.
- Don't care about lights, sidewalks. We need parking.
- Need actual help, not excuses.

DOWNTOWN HALL – BIA

January 17, 2024

- (Mayor Acchione) This past year we've done more for homelessness than ever before...Mayor's Task Force, we are trying to help, now allocated \$150,000 (first time ever as the "City") to help toward the problem, no one has the answers.
- It's not illegal to be homeless, but it is illegal to defecate in public.
- Please ensure new trees (StreetScape) will not block store signs.
- Open drug use is an issue.
- Police did not engage, just stood by until they left.
- Witness someone OD / die behind Rexall.
- Owns three properties here.
- Did not come back to Woodstock to see nothing happen.
- Dangerous for me to walk downtown.
- Q: Regarding the Downtown Maps: One street outside of BIA Area, so cannot be a member. Can the By-Law be amended to expand the area and to offer other types of memberships?
A: Duane – Associate Memberships are being looked at, as well as boundary expansion
- Q: Can we please do something about trucks to divert them from coming down Dundas Street?
- A: (Mayor Acchione) – have been speaking about it County Council to see if it can be changed.
-
- Q: To Kerry: you were going to approach all empty / vacant properties...where are you at with that?
- A: Kerry – have reached out to 18 of them, five have since been leased. Some did not repond.
- Please keep in mind other businesses not on Dundas need beautification / BIA zone, small businesses could use some nurturing.
- Good things come to fruition when people act on their ideas
- Can downtown business fundraise to equip people to support clean up, etc.?
- Noticed over the last month or so, and wondering what marketing plans are in place to bring more people downtown?
- A: Duane: we have started a Marketing Committee, members can join, will set a marketing scheme/plan for 2024. Print, Radio, Website, Social Media, etc.
- Q: Can we also use a Radio Station that has a broader reach than Heart FM to draw people in from outside areas? Make Woodstock a "destination".
- A: we will consider that, and our Marketing committee will also explore other ways such as boosted posts on Social Media to reach further.
- Look into branding certain blocks of the BIA. Themed bike racks. Etc.

Concluded 7:46 PM