

Minutes
Downtown Woodstock Business Improvement Area
Board of Management

DATE: Tuesday July 28th, 2020

TIME: 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Zoom Call (Virtual Meeting)

PRESENT: Judith Fleming, Councillor Ron Fraser, Melanie Burns, Fadel Zabian, T.J. McNamara, Mark Ellis, Ryan Shelton, Dalton Beseau (Administrative Assistant)

REGRETS: Phillippe Lehner, Steve McGregor

ABSENT: Adam Shaw

RECORDING: Dalton Beseau, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting opened at 10:05AM.

2. INPUT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- **Judith Fleming (overview of proposed closures):**
 - We would be closing Dundas street to encourage people to come downtown and walk the street, go to restaurants, do some shopping (making more of a walking area rather than having vehicles parked)
 - This would be similar to a mini-sidewalk sale but no entertainment, music, buskers, etc. and stores/restaurants could make pop-up shops and extended patios on the street
 - If we go ahead with road closures, we need to promote it and give the road closures a name potentially
 - Some businesses located outside of the proposed zone would have to relocate and thus, they are not very happy about it

- **Mark Ellis**
 - We may need something to draw people downtown because you are losing the applicable parking
 - We already have our patio up and running (so we would not change anything if we participated I the closures)

- **T.J. McNamara**
 - It may not be beneficial and may look more embarrassing on the downtown, especially if the restaurants have their patios in the back
 - There would be way too much work for the restaurants – tables, chairs, tents, staff, etc. so maybe this is something to look to for 2021
 - We wouldn't change our set-up if we participated

- **Fadel Zabian**
 - The biggest issue indicated was the applicable parking (if we do go forward with the road closures, maybe we could change parking from 2 hours to three hours)
 - During the road closures, we shouldn't have time limits in order to encourage people to park and stay downtown
 - We should at the very least plan for it (once a month)

- **Melanie Burns**
 - Other communities have been successful in doing this – but it may be too much work for our staff
 - We maybe will see a maximum of 4 restaurants participating

- **Ryan Shelton**
 - **We could** always try the proposed plan and see what happens and whether it is successful
 - Not as many shops downtown and not too many service places will go out onto the street (who will be having things on the street)
 - No music, no entertainment which equates to no draw
 - Doesn't benefit him in anyway – not going to pay someone to sit out in a tent (but will support it if it helps the community)
 - Maybe 2020 is not the best year but consider this in the future

- **Councillor Ron Fraser**

- If majority of the stores were to participate, the City would likely close the block (at the east and west end as during StreetFest)
- Just not enough merchants do not want to participate and not enough adequate parking – not enough participation, why put in all of the money for no real gain

NOTE: Everyone in participation was against the proposed road closures for 2020 but we would like to re-evaluate for 2021.

MOTION

Moved: F. Zabian

Second: M. Ellis

AND RESOLVED THAT the BIA Board of Management will submit a formal letter to the City of Woodstock stating that we do not want to proceed with road closures at the time. The Board of Management will also submit a request to extend parking from the current 2-hour time limit to 3 hours for the remainder of this year.

“Carried”

Next Meeting: Crabby Joe’s Woodstock (Thursday August 6th at 9:15am) with zoom option available