

Locke Street South BIA Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2017 – 7:15 pm
(After 2016 Annual General Meeting 7:00 pm)

Meeting Location: Melrose United Church, 86 Homewood Avenue

In Attendance:

Margo Foreman, Diana McClure, Frank Torelli, Susan Gregor, Tony Greco, Ian Ross, Brandon Stanicak, Kevin Turbitt, Kirsten McNamee (mcnamee@judymarsales.com), Paul Furlong, Jamie Krakowski, Sean McKaig, Tamara McKaig, Angelo Mitropoulos, Georgina Mitropoulos (georginamitropoulos@gmail.com), Carlo Gorni (carlo.gorni@hamilton.ca), Meredith Plant (meredith.plant@hamilton.ca), Kerry Davren – parking – (kerry.davren@hamilton.ca), Matthew Madigan, Doug Kerlie, Al Gianatasio (algia@rogers.com). Gus S., Peter Wobschall, Anita Vidovic - strategic planning – Public Works, Jason Thorne – planning and economic development,

1.0 Guest Presentations

- 1.1 Councillor Aidan Johnson** Aidan attended the beginning of the meeting and encouraged members with any questions or concerns to email him directly so he could follow up.
- 1.2 Kerry Davren, Manager of Parking Operations and Initiatives** to discuss absence of a Municipal Parking Lot on Locke Street
Karrey stated that she replaced Ted Arnold and started in September 2016 and the BIAs concerns about parking is new to her. She reported that there had been an understanding with the BIA that when the street accepted paid parking the city would try to attempt to buy municipal parking spaces for the street. She stated there was an area for development behind the Starbucks and this was investigated, but dropped.
She stated that the planning policies of the City of Hamilton at present do not envision parking LOTS, but are encouraging the live/work concept with more/encouraged use of LRT and transit with some parking lots already available becoming redundant and re-purposed.
 - 1. A question was asked about the use of credit cards for the meters** and she stated that this might be possible on Locke because we have the newer machines, but the expenditure on areas that are still meters would be prohibitive. The City is working towards a parking APP to simplify parking. She stated this will take some time. At present, the officers have to load tickets into the system at the end of the day.
 - 2. A question was asked about the parking rates** – Kerry stated that the rates at \$ 1/hr are the lowest in Canada and there will be an increase requested to \$1.25/hr. – agreed we need an alternative to coin.
 - 3. A question was asked about the number of parking spaces on Locke Street** and money accepted by the CITY –‘in lieu of’– Kerry stated that there was money taken and she stated to Brandon that he would not ‘get the money back’ but she would look into this money going to make their parking easier on Locke Street. But the bottom line is that the CITY is determined to have the ‘live/work concept’ as a key decision factor.
 - 4. A question was asked about the free parking on Saturday in Dundas** and why can’t Locke be free on Saturday. – Kerry stated that

this is possible, but would have to be a separate bylaw like they do at Christmas for no \$ for the month of December. She stated that other BIAs have requested this in the past, but then wanted to change their minds because it was noted that:

- Staff use the parking spots
- People do not leave all day
- The spots cannot be stipulated for 2 hours by bylaw. – if free – no restriction on the time used. So, BIAs chose to have NO FREE PARKING.

5. **A question was asked about parking allocation of condo development area.** Kerry stated that this is not her area, but the zoning policies would be around the key concept of work/live/transit
6. **A question was asked about being creative and using church parking lots and other areas around.** Kerry stated that they LEASE land for parking in other areas of the CITY, but this may be discouraged due to the work/live/transit concept. It was suggested that the CITY could have bought a home and deconstructed it to make a parking lot when the time was right, but this was not done. She stated that at present, with the pay of \$1/hr, the cost was prohibitive and unlikely. Kerry Davren left meeting following her presentation.

1.3 Meredith Plant, Senior Landscape Architect to discuss the Locke Street Gateway - Meredith stated that she has been in her role since September 2016. She stated she first looked at the Gateway proposal by Julia and she showed the concepts around the room. She stated that a digital copy is available from Tony Greco as wanted.

She stated that she, Tony, and Margo walked the street and looked at the possible locations for the Gateway. She stated that the CITY is going to do resurfacing in 2018/19, so that the Gateway will be on hold until then. She suggested the members look at some of the Public Works street scaping on King St and Concession and Rousseau/Wilson Street in Ancaster. She stated that she will coordinate with Susan Jacob's team when scheduled are more concrete. She stated that she will be coordinating with the Library team that is working on the site for a new entrance and patio.

She oversees the **Pedestrian Kiosk** of which there are 6 downtown. It is a place to put:

- Points of Interest
- City of Hamilton Publications
- Visitor map

It will be placed at Chatham, but the bus stop and the hope is that there will be some beautification also.

1. **A question was asked if this could be put up before the Gateway etc.** She stated that this had nothing to do with the Gateway and was removable for roadworks etc.
2. **A question was asked if the points of interest could be chosen.** She stated to look at the ones in the Downtown and they were CITY interests.
3. **A question was asked what details might be included in the city scaping.** Meredith suggested we look at urban braille, bumpouts etc. She stated that Locke has a lot of above ground wires and these are too expensive to bury.

Meredith stated that the functional assessment would be done in 2017, the tendering in 2018 and construction 2019, so this is a multi-year project and the CITY has been known to work very closely with the BIAs. Susan Jacobs is the manager of design.

1. A question was asked if there should be a committee started to 'start the conversation' but Meredith stated it was better to have a plan first to be reviewed. Meredith left the meeting following her presentation.

1.4 **Anita Vidovic & Peter Wobschall, Policy and Programs Section Corporate Assets and Strategic Planning Division, Public Works Department**

Peter stated that we are lucky to have Carlo as the BIA coordinator because he liaises with Public Works around urban renewal issues for the BIAs. Peter reported that he fields dozens of issues per year and that the communication should come from Tony as the BIA chairman then they know that the due diligence has been completed and it is a 'street issue' rather than an individual one.

Peter is responsible for:

- Working on the Kiosks
 - Locations of stores – CITY does the final approvals
 - Surface level – since amalgamations – if approved there will be an increase in the \$ spent for plant material and beautification on the street – depends on the length of street and BIA \$.
 - Mapping inventory – litter and responsibility – alley inventory – look up Hamilton maps on the internet.
 - Ward 1 – Participatory Budget – Kirkendall was quite free to do most requests before amalgamation - but now need to look at the complexity of issues (eg. Waste removal – Westdale vs parking spaces)
 - Locke street survey completed - got a few suggestions from Kirkendall – clean up the alleys and make them walkable by filling in potholes. Peter stated there is a very limited road budget, so this is their focus.
1. **A question was asked if the LRT has put road reconstruction on hold.** Peter stated that this is true and a member suggested that every member of the BIA (through email) be asked about the shut down for 8 months one year or 2 years for 4 months (top and bottom of street). Peter stated there is a process and they will work with the BIA. Peter and Anita left the meeting following their presentation.

6.0 **Other Business**

6.1 Bread Bar – Letter of Support Request – Parking exemption – Bettina Schormann

Bettina and her husband stated that they have been a business on Locke Street for 7 years and they are not wanting to change anything, but 'become legal.' They are presently at the 'gathering status with 30 tables, but they have 50 tables, so need to change to the 'assembly status. As a result, this requires legalizing their parking area and this requires changes to their parking area. Bread Bar is requesting a parking exemption. There will be no change, but the 12 cars parkable in a 'mish/mash way' will be changed to 7-9 parking spots lined out.

MOTION: to write a letter of support for the Bread Bar in their request for a parking variance.

Moved by: Susan Gregor

Seconded by: Tony Greco

APPROVED

2.0 Approval of the Minutes from November 22, 2016

MOTION: to approve the minutes as sent to all BIA members

Moved by: Diana McClure Seconded by: Susan Gregor

APPROVED

3.0 Business Arising from Minutes

None

4.0 Financial Statement Report

Financial Statement

Diana spoke of the approved budget for 2016 will be sent for auditing and will take 6-9 months. She stated there was a small deficit for the Christmas celebration, but there are still net assets of \$53,000.

4.1 Approval of the Operating Statement – December 31, 2016

MOTION: to approve the December 31, 2016 operating statement as read and distributed to members

Moved by: Kevin Turbitt Seconded by: Tony Greco

APPROVED

4.2 **MOTION;** to approve the 2017 budget as reviewed at the AGM of January 24, 2017.

Moved by: Diana McClure Seconded by: Margo Foreman **APPROVED**

5.0 New Business

5.1 Chair Report – Tony Greco

Tony received a cheque for \$500 from The Good Witch filming in 2016.

Tony received a cheque for \$1,325.81 from the CITY toward the Lights of Locke Christmas Celebration.

5.2 Special Events Committee Update – Margo Foreman

Margo Foreman stated that Toni Iduciano is retiring as of February 28th so there is no Events Committee at present other than herself. She stated she had Marie Powell send a Survey Monkey regarding the Lights of Locke Celebration and requests for events for 2017 and got the following suggestions:

1. stamps should be every \$20
2. should be credit card size – rejected due to experience in 2015
3. ballot given no matter the purchase – no passport needed
4. different process for restaurants
5. 2 weeks before the December 3rd tree lighting – rejected due to customer habits of not shopping in November if weather warm
6. 2 weeks rather than 4 – right after tree lighting
7. Tree lighting on the Friday night
8. Get back the horse and carriage
9. 'designated stamp locations' for those too busy'
10. No programs from BIA
11. Christmas and Locke Street Festival enough for a year
12. SPRING FLING not a re-branding event.
13. No LSF – have a SPRING event instead
14. No sidewalk sale because 'cheapens' the street
15. Let stores do their own events – no BIA needed
16. No BIA events needed – just SOCIAL MEDIA

Margo concluded that there will be no social events on the street unless initiated by a store then she will work with them to complete.

5.3 Festival Committee Update – Margo Foreman

No further updates. John invites all to the next meeting on February 6, 2017 in the boardroom of the West Town.

5.4 Advertising Update – Frank Torelli

Frank stated that the advertising budget for 2016 was spent. He says the budget for this year will include print, and the use of a social media provider.

5.5 Social Media Update – Frank Torelli

Frank stated that the Generator was a great help for the last 2 months of the year and increased the hits on all platforms exponentially. He reported that the biggest hit was the tree lighting at 9,000 hits. The Generator added video clips of business, and posted weekly deals.

Frank stated that they paid \$500/month for Sarah and they paid \$1300/6 weeks to the Generator and he wanted to get a contract for \$650/\$700 a month from them. Jamie Krakowski, who had worked to get an introductory rate for our ‘time of need’ stated that their normal was about \$1200-1400/month and this could be negotiated somewhat, but that the BIA should ask for proposals from various providers.

A question was raised as to whether the allocation for the \$ in the advertising/social media budget had to be changed and it was decided the Jamie and Frank would work together to come up with a budget number and proposal from a number of social media companies.

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the January 24, 2017 meeting of the Locke Street South BIA at 9:02 PM.

Moved by: Paul Furlong **Seconded by:** Susan Gregor **APPROVED**