



River District

Minutes

River District Board of Management

November 9, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Vice Chair Jacqueline Furtner
Member Ron Cole
Member Kathy Hannen
Councillor Marion Koepke
Deputy Mayor Brian O'Leary
Member Winnifred Walcott

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Dave Parsons

Member Waleed Aslam
Member Dianne Mattice
Member Lois Taylor

STAFF PRESENT:

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Paul McGrath, Manager of Community & Business Development
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Furtner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Director of Community Services Re: Board Appreciation

2.b Deputy Clerk Re: Donation to the Owen Sound Police Services' Citizens on Patrol

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on September 14, 2022

DIA-221109-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

"THAT the minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on September 14, 2022 be approved as printed."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no deputations or presentations.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

The Manager of Community and Business Development joined the meeting.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 8.a Report CR-22-092 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: River District 2022 Mid-Year Financial Update and Year End Forecast

The Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report. Overall, operating activities are forecasted to be approximately \$3,000 under budget at year end. The forecasted reserve balance at year end is estimated at \$121,831. The Director of Corporate Services clarified that when she forecasted the wage estimate through to year end for the Community Development Coordinator position, she utilized the wages to date and applied the same overhead (approximately 30%) that is applied to the wages of all full-time staff at the City. At year end, she will calculate the true overhead costs related to the Community Development Coordinator position (approximately 15%) so that general overheads, such as WSIB and health related premiums, are not included. This amount will be less than what was forecasted in the staff report.

DIA-221109-002

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-22-092 respecting River District 2022 Mid-Year Financial Update and Year End Forecast, the River District Board of Management directs City staff to issue an invoice for any year-end reserve funding requirement to be covered by the River District reserve funds."

Carried.

The Director of Corporate Services left the meeting.

- 8.b Report CS-22-148 from the Community Development Coordinator Re: River District Upcoming Events Update

The Community Development Coordinator provided an overview of the report.

DIA-221109-003

Moved by Member Hannen

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-22-148 respecting River District Upcoming Events Update, the River District Board of Management directs staff to utilize the majority of the remaining budget of \$2,311.90 for the 2022 Moonlight Madness event."

Carried.

- 8.c Verbal Report from the Police Inspector Re: Police Update

Inspector Fluney advised that the Owen Sound Police Service's (OSPS) Community Oriented Response and Enforcement (CORE) Unit has grown to three officers due to grant funding that they have received. These officers will be at an Information & Education Session on November 28, 2022 at the Bayshore Community Centre, organized by the Chamber of Commerce, and they will be providing information to business owners on some of the ongoing issues in the River District.

Inspector Fluney noted that the Community Services Officer participated in two community barbeques in the River District - a fundraiser for the United Way and a fundraiser for the REACH Centre.

During the month of September, the OSPS conducted 128 hours of foot patrol and 8 hours of bike patrol in the River District. During the month of October, the OSPS conducted 113 hours of foot patrol and 7 hours of bike patrol in the River District.

Inspector Fluney advised that the OSPS is coming to the end of their current business plan and will be starting to plan for the next business plan. Under the proposed new *Community Safety and Policing Act*, Police Services Boards are

required to provide a business plan every four years which will contain quantitative and qualitative performance objectives and indicators of outcomes related to the core areas of policing. The OSPS will be distributing a community survey on November 21st and will be looking for community input. In November and December, they will be reaching out to key community stakeholders and groups to better identify and understand their needs and concerns with policing in the City of Owen Sound. Inspector Fluney noted that the OSPS plans to have their new business plan finalized in early 2023.

DIA-221109-004

Moved by Member Cole

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided November 7, 2022, from Inspector Fluney respecting a Police Update, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.d Verbal Report from the Vice Chair and the Community Development Coordinator
Re: OBIAA Conference Update

Vice Chair Furtner advised that she and the Community Development Coordinator attended the OBIAA Conference in Niagara Falls in April 2022 to learn about best practices of BIAs and they provided information that they learned during their respective workshops that is relevant to the River District.

The Community Development Coordinator advised that in August 2022, the River District vacancy rate was 10.3% which is a reduction in vacancy from 12% in March of 2022. Ms. Gravel noted that the first workshop she attended focused on the activation of vacant storefronts. It was discussed that BIAs should activate these spaces with a focus on what makes your community great. Owen Sound is full of artists, musicians, and locally owned businesses, so these could be used as the forefront of these vacant spaces.

Ms. Gravel attended a workshop on placemaking which is a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, and management of public spaces, capitalizing on local community assets, inspiration, and potential. Some of the River District assets include the river, shops, community, lifestyle, artists, musicians, history, and trails. The River District has endless opportunity to create spaces for the community around these assets, from art installations, parkettes, interactive selfie opportunities, more communal seating, and lights that make spaces feel warm and safe even in the darkest of seasons. Ms. Gravel noted that if the River District can offer people reasons to spend time in the River District beyond the amazing shops, it will grow the overall foot traffic and every business will benefit.

Finally, Ms. Gravel discussed First Impression Community Exchange (FICE), a program that has a secret shopping type relationship with other municipalities

where staff or volunteers go to their BIA and in exchange, they come to ours, and first impressions and recommendations are traded.

Vice Chair Furtner advised that a common theme among the sessions was installing winter lights as opposed to just holiday lights and keeping the area bright and happy all winter long. It was even suggested that having string lights installed throughout the alleyways and around the patios helps to keep the area brighter and make the area look nicer and safer.

Ms. Furtner summarized the discussion from the keynote speaker, Gil Penalosa, who spoke about smart cities, healthy happy communities, streets as public spaces and tactical urbanism, and 8 80 Cities:

- Smart cities are 15-minute cities where people should be able to access all amenities within a 15-minute walk. As populations of cities grow, it is important to build up to avoid sprawl as much as possible. He suggests 4 to 6 story buildings in downtown cores as density makes the space more used, safer, and more supportive of businesses.
- Cities must be planned and managed by evaluating three elements - health, equity, and sustainability. By health, he refers to physical, mental, and social well-being. You also need to be mindful that whatever you do to achieve this should not exploit other people, the environment, or future generations.
- Tactical urbanism is about co-designing quick, low-cost, scalable improvements that help to create more vibrant people-friendly spaces in our neighbourhoods. This could be through pilots or pop-ups that can become permanent based on community feedback. He discussed a program implemented during COVID in New Zealand called Innovating Streets that changed the way they consulted with the community by encouraging them to engage early in a co-design, test and trial solutions in place, and at a life size scale.
- Mr. Penalosa is the founder of a not-for-profit organization called 8 80 Cities. This is the idea that in planning, you consider if the project will be fit for an 8-year-old, and an 80-year-old. Their vision is healthy, happy, and sustainable cities for people to grow up and grow old in, where all people have the right to safe and active mobility, welcoming and accessible public spaces, and inclusive city building processes. He suggests that all streets, except arterial streets, should have a speed limit of 30 km/h which reduces harm and encourages more people to walk because it feels more pedestrian friendly. Reducing the speed limit also makes it safer for cyclists. People who are walking and cycling are the people stopping and spending money in businesses.

DIA-221109-005

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided November 7, 2022, from Vice Chair Furtner and the Community Development Coordinator respecting an OBIAA Conference Update, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.e Verbal Report from the Board Treasurer Re: Board Finances

The Board Treasurer provided an update on Board finances, noting that the current operating account balance is \$151,395.00. The account has been receiving over \$300 each month in interest for the past six months.

Councillor Koepke suggested that with the funds currently in reserves, the Board could proceed with directing staff to investigate more lighting in the River District.

DIA-221109-006

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided November 7, 2022, from the Board Treasurer respecting Board Finances, the River District Board of Management directs staff to bring forward a report at budget time respecting additional street lighting enhancements in the River District."

Carried.

8.f Verbal Report from the River District Election Manager Re: 2022 River District Board of Management Election Wrap Up

The River District Election Manager advised that at the close of the nomination period for the 2022 River District Board of Management Election on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., she received nomination packages from seven candidates. All candidates were certified and subsequently acclaimed to the Board of Management as per the River District Constitution. Since there are seven Board Director offices, an election is not required. The certified candidates who have been acclaimed to Board Director are:

- Ron Cole
- Allegra Deen
- Kathy Hannen
- Denis Langlois
- David Parsons
- Matthew Quade

- Winnifred M Walcott

All appointments to the River District Board of Management are subject to City Council approval and will be reviewed by Council at its meeting on December 12, 2022. If the appointments are approved by Council, then the first meeting of the new Board will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., at which time orientation will be provided to the Board Directors.

DIA-221109-007

Moved by Member Walcott

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided November 7, 2022, from the River District Election Manager respecting the 2022 River District Board of Management Election Wrap Up, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

- 11.a Report CS-22-135 from the Director of Community Services Re: Request from Georgian College Respecting Winter Banners for 10th Street in the River District Area

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

- 11.b Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- Hometown Sports Excellence, a sporting goods store located at 1063 2nd Avenue East
- Mint Fairy Market, a local natural crafts, clothes and produce retailer located at 273 9th Street East
- Bob's Barber Shop, a barber shop located at 1041 2nd Avenue East

DIA-221109-008

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the November 9, 2022 River District Board of Management (RDBM) agenda, the RDBM receives Items 11.a and 11.b. for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Board Appreciation

The Director of Community Services thanked Board members on behalf of the City for their commitment to the Board of Management and providing their support and valuable insight to City staff.

12.b Donation to the Owen Sound Police Services' Citizens on Patrol

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Coordinator of the Owen Sound Police Services' Citizens on Patrol (COP) has requested a \$2,000 donation from the River District Board of Management to help cover the costs of their patrol shifts in the River District. The Board has provided this donation for several years. The COP used the last of their remaining funds in October 2022 and are requesting this amount to be donated by the end of the year. The Deputy Clerk confirmed with the Director of Corporate Services that this amount has already been included as part of the 2022 budget.

DIA-221109-009

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

"THAT the River District Board of Management waive the notice of motion requirement in the City's Procedural By-law in order to discuss the donation to the Owen Sound Police Services' Citizens on Patrol."

Carried.

DIA-221109-010

Moved by Deputy Mayor O'Leary

"THAT in consideration of the request dated November 7, 2022 from the Owen Sound Police Services' Citizens on Patrol, the River District Board of Management direct staff to donate \$2,000 in the 2022 budget to the Owen Sound Police Services' Citizens on Patrol."

Carried.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Vice Chair Furtner adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.