



River District

Minutes

River District Board of Management

September 11, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dave Parsons
Councillor Travis Dodd
Member Tim Dwyer
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Member Denis Langlois
Member Richard Thomas
Member Winnifred Walcott

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Matthew Quade
Member Kathy Hannen

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Dave Bishop, Owen Sound Police Service Police Inspector
Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator
Allison Penner, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Councillor Dodd Re: Status of the Former Legate's Building, Funding for Police Foot Patrols, Surveillance Cameras Update, and Property Standards Respecting Plywood Window Coverings

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 May 8, 2024

RD-240911-001

Moved by Member Walcott

"THAT the minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on May 8, 2024 be approved as printed."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no depositions or presentations.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

6.a Bob Nicol, former Owen Sound business owner, asked the following question regarding public safety in the River District:

What specifically is being done to prevent our downtown core from becoming a ghost town?

The Director of Community Services noted several initiatives undertaken through the River District Action Plan to enhance feelings of public safety in the River District, as well as programs offered through the Community Improvement Plan.

The Board discussed the importance of a vibrant, busy River District to increase perceptions of safety.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Verbal Report from the Owen Sound Police Service Re: Police Update

Inspector Bishop advised that foot patrol hours undertaken in the River District since the last update are as follows: 139 in May, 134 in June, 145 in July, and 207 in August. Bike patrol hours totalled between 10 and 30 hours each month. Inspector Bishop provided an update regarding police staffing.

In response to a question from the Board, Inspector Bishop advised that supports are available to businesses interested in crime prevention through environmental design, and that a presentation about this subject could be made at a future meeting of the River District Board.

RD-240911-002

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 11, 2024, from Inspector Bishop respecting a Police Update, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

The Board discussed Items 12.b and 12.c at this time.

12.b Funding for Police Foot Patrols

Councillor Dodd requested an update respecting City Council's allocation of \$250,000 in the 2024 Owen Sound Police Services budget to support special constables to increase foot patrols in the River District.

In response to question from the Board, Inspector Bishop advised that due to changes through the *Community Safety in Policing Act* that came into effect in April 2024, the special constable role will not be able to be used as Council and the Police Service had intended. The special constable program is on hold until more information about the impact of the legislation is available.

12.c Surveillance Cameras Update

Councillor Dodd requested an update respecting the River District surveillance camera project. Inspector Bishop advised that the surveillance camera project is on schedule, and noted that the installation of cameras is set to begin on September 23.

8.b Report CS-24-071 from the Director of Community Services and the Director of Corporate Services Re: Draft 2025 River District Budget Considerations

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

In response to a question from the Board, the Director of Community Services noted that money requested for the Downtown River Precinct Phase II Completion Celebration would be used to buy small capital items. These items would become property of the Board for use in future events.

In response to a question from the Board, the River District Coordinator advised that perceptions of safety are enhanced through marketing and events targeting various groups.

In response to a question from the Board, the Director of Community Services advised that lighting in Carney's Lane and Artist's Alley is proposed to be 100% funded by the River District Board budget.

RD-240911-003

Moved by Member Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-071 respecting the Draft 2025 River District Budget Considerations, the River District Board of Management directs staff to provide notice of a public meeting to be held on November 13, 2024."

Carried.

RD-240911-004d

Moved by Member Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-071 respecting the Draft 2025 River District Budget Considerations, the River District Board of Management directs staff to make an allocation of one-time funds of \$4,000 to purchase small capital items for use during and after the Downtown River Precinct Phase II Completion Celebration."

Defeated.

RD-240911-005

Moved by Member Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-071 respecting the Draft 2025 River District Budget Considerations, the River District Board of Management directs staff to make an allocation of one-time funds of up to \$30,000 for the River District Marketing Plan, including a scope of work respecting homelessness and safety."

Carried.

RD-240911-006

Moved by Member Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-071 respecting the Draft 2025 River District Budget Considerations, the River District Board of Management directs staff to make an allocation of one-time funds of up to \$15,000 as a contribution to lighting as outlined in the report."

Carried.

8.c Report CS-24-062 from the River District Coordinator Re: 2024 River District Metrics Update

The River District Coordinator provided an overview of the report.

In response to questions from the Board, the River District Coordinator noted the various methods employed to collect feedback following events.

In response to questions from the Board, the Director of Community Services noted that City staff have used QR codes to direct event attendees to complete

online post-event surveys, and that this could be replicated for future River District events.

RD-240911-007

Moved by Member Langlois

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-24-062 respecting, 2024 River District Metrics Update, the River District Board of Management receives the report for information purposes."

Carried.

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

In the Board Treasurer's absence the Deputy Clerk provided an update on the Board's finances on her behalf. The Deputy Clerk advised that the total current banking balance is \$160,287.80 and the account earned \$2,168.69 in interest since the last update in May 2024.

RD-240911-008

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 11, 2024, from the Deputy Clerk on behalf of the Board Treasurer respecting Board Finances, 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 Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- Nymph Nails Owen Sound, a nail salon located at 950 2nd Avenue East
- Café Gilou, a grab-and-go café located at 945 3rd Avenue East
- Grow Your Mind Hypnotherapy, a home occupation located at 366 7th Street East
- Northern Fight Club, a fitness studio located at 789 2nd Avenue East
- Panda Garden Chinese Restaurant, a restaurant located at 229 9th Street East
- The Gathering Table, a retail store located at 777 2nd Avenue East

- Fierce Deer Jewelry Inc., an online and wholesale costume jewelry retailer located at 748 2nd Avenue East

RD-240911-009

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the September 11, 2024 River District Board of Management (RDBM) agenda, the RDBM receives item 11.a for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Status of the Former Legate's Building

Councillor Dodd requested an updated on the former Legate's Building. The Director of Community Services advised that enforcement actions are ongoing, and that the building owner has agreed in court to take remedial action for the building façade.

12.b Funding for Police Foot Patrols

The Board discussed Item 12.a after Item 8.a.

12.c Surveillance Cameras Update

The Board discussed Item 12.a after Item 8.a.

12.d Property Standards Respecting Plywood Window Coverings

Councillor Dodd advised that he had requested an update from staff in advance of the meeting with respect to the position of the Property Standards By-law on plywood window coverings. Councillor Dodd noted that staff had advised that plywood is an approved window covering under the Property Standards By-law, and that [Report CR-24-010 Re: By-law Enforcement Overview and Property Standards By-law Review](#) provides more information.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Parsons adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.