



# River District

## Minutes

### River District Board of Management

March 12, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Dave Parsons  
Vice Chair Richard Thomas  
Councillor Travis Dodd  
Member Tim Dwyer  
Member Kathy Hannen  
Member Denis Langlois (via video)  
Member Olivia Legate  
Member Jen Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Member Winnifred Walcott

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tim Simmonds, City Manager  
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services  
Aidan Ware, Director - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism  
Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator  
Allison Penner, Deputy Clerk

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed new Members Olivia Legate and Jen Smith.

Chair Parsons provided a land acknowledgement.

#### 2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Member Smith Re: Pedestrianization Presentation and Homelessness Toolkit

#### 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 January 8, 2025

RD-250312-001

Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

**"THAT the minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on January 8, 2025 be approved as printed."**

Carried.

#### 5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Item 8.a was discussed at this time.

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

Constable Beaney advised that during the month of January, Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS) conducted 138 hours of foot patrol in the River District. During the month of February, the OSPS conducted 151 hours of foot patrol in the River District.

Constable Beaney advised of a recent success in collaboration with a local business that was experiencing problems with individuals loitering and leaving refused within the building which was quickly resolved with the addition of a target police patrol in the area of the business.

RD-250312-002

Moved by Councillor Dodd

**"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided March 12, 2025, from Constable Beaney respecting a Police Update, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."**

Carried.

Item 5.b was discussed at this time.

- 5.b Presentation from Constable Beaney and Special Constable Cranny, Owen Sound Police Service Re: CamSafe Program

Special Constable Cranny provided an introduction to CamSafe, a voluntary self-registration program for security camera owners to log the locations of their security camera(s) in a police database. Special Constable Cranny advised that the benefit of the CamSafe program is that it reduces the time and effort required of police to canvas for video footage, instead enabling officers to see the locations of cameras and request access to video footage.

Special Constable Cranny advised that participation in CamSafe is voluntary and that security camera owners registered in the program are not obliged to share footage with police. Anyone interested in registering can do so at [www.CamSafe.com](http://www.CamSafe.com).

In response to a question from the Board, Special Constable Cranny noted that he believed the database of cameras would only be accessible to police.

In response to a question from the Board, Special Constable Cranny advised that police do not make recommendations as to the type of camera used and that even doorbell cameras can be registered in the program.

5.a Presentation from the Director & Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism Re: 2025 Art Gallery, Tourism and Events Highlights

The Director & Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism provided a presentation including 2025 highlights of upcoming activities in the areas of art gallery, tourism and events.

Ms. Ware noted new acquisitions of works by Tom Thomson, programming offered through the gallery, outreach activities and fundraising events. With respect to Tourism, Ms. Ware provided an overview of product development, marketing and promotion and visitor services, advised of 2024 successes, and key focus areas for 2025. Ms. Ware provided an overview of events planned by staff in 2025.

5.b Presentation from Constable Beaney and Special Constable Cranny, Owen Sound Police Service Re: CamSafe Program

Item 5.b was discussed before Item 5.a.

**6. PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**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

Item 8.a was discussed after Item 4.a.

8.b Report CS-25-024 and Presentation from the Director of Community Services Re: 2025 Board Training and Work Plan

The Deputy Clerk, the Director of Community Services and the River District Coordinator provided an overview of the format and function of the River District Board of Management, the relationship between the River District and City Hall, as well as work planned by staff in 2025.

In response to questions from the Board, the Director of Community Services advised that planning for River District boundary expansion had been on staff workplans in past years but was put on holding pending the completion of Downtown River Precinct phases 3 and 4. Ms. Coulter advised that staff would bring forward a report to the Board outlining the process through which boundary expansion could be considered.

RD-250312-003

Moved by Member Hannen

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-024 respecting 2025 Board Training and Staff Work Plan, the River District Board of Management receives the report and presentation for information purposes."**

Carried.

- 8.c Report CR-25-031 from the Deputy Clerk Re: 2025 River District Block Captains Update

The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of the report.

Member Smith volunteered to assume the role of Block Captain to fill the vacant position.

RD-250312-004

Moved by Member Legate

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-031 respecting 2025 River District Block Captains Update, the River District Board of Management directs staff to:**

- 1. Update the River District Block Captain map as discussed in the meeting; and**
- 2. Add the River District Block Captain map to the River District website including each Block Captain's contact information."**

Carried.

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

The Board Treasurer provided a verbal report respecting board finances. The Board Treasurer advised that funds had been received from the City for year-end and that the total current banking balance is \$168,859.50.

RD-250312-005  
Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

**"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided March 12, 2025, from the Board Treasurer respecting Board Finances, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."**

Carried.

**9. MATTERS POSTPONED**

- 9.a Report CS-25-003 from the River District Coordinator Re: 2025 Events, Activations and Promotions Plan

The River District Coordinator provided an overview of the postponed matter and requested three volunteers from the Board to sit on the Membership Event working group for 2025.

RD-250312-006  
Moved by Member Legate

**"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-003 respecting 2025 Events, Activations & Promotions Plan, the River District Board of Management appoints Tim Dwyer, Olivia Legate, and Jennifer Smith to the Membership Event working group for 2025."**

Carried.

**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 Correspondence from the River District Coordinator Re: March 2025 River District Newsletter

- 11.b Correspondence from Clark Finlay Re: Presentation Provided to the Community Services Committee at the meeting held on February 19, 2025

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

- Little Treasures, a retail store located at 908 2nd Avenue East
- Ultimate Drivers Owen Sound, a driving school located at 902 2nd Avenue East

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the March 12, 2025 River District Board of Management (RDBM) agenda, the RDBM receives items 11.a to 11.c for information purposes."**

Carried.

## **12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

### **12.a Pedestrianization Presentation**

Member Smith inquired about inviting Clark Finlay, author of the presentation at Item 11.b in the agenda package, could be invited to make a presentation to the River District about pedestrianization of 2nd Avenue East.

The Director of Community Services noted that the principles underlying Mr. Finlay's are generally aligned with the City's guiding documents, including the Official Plan, Zoning By-law and Urban Design Guidelines. Ms. Coulter noted that while the River District Action Plan is due for an update, the existing plan includes an action item to consider strategic street closures as a mechanism for experience development. Ms. Coulter advised that it is important that street closures be aligned with activation and animation encouraging people to be in the area of the street closure.

Ms. Coulter advised that staff would invite Mr. Finlay to provide a presentation to the Board.

### **12.b Homeless Resource Toolkit**

Member Smith advised that in reading the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA) Homelessness Response Toolkit and in participating in engagement sessions as part of the City's strategic planning exercise she got the feeling that safety is a concern to business owners. Ms. Smith noted that a resource list for use by business owners when engaging with vulnerable members of the community would be helpful and suggested that it could include phone numbers for various service providers.

The River District Coordinator noted that a similar resource list was developed within the last few years and advised that staff will work toward updating and distributing the document.

## **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 6:49 p.m.