

Wingham BIA – Board of Management Meeting
Thursday, May 19th , 6:30pm – Hot Stove Lounge

Board Members Present: Dave Tiffin, Jim Snyder, Ashley Vander Velden, Doug Kuyvenhoven,
Trevor Seip, Carolyn Young,
Regrets: Annette Monsma

Absent: Aly Sieber-Peyton,
Others Present: Paul Heffer

1. Welcome – Called to order @ 6:31pm
2. Public Input: None Noted
3. Approval of Agenda: Moved by: Jim S. 2nd By: Doug K. – Carried
4. Introduction of new Economic Development Officer
 - a) Demetri Makrokos – Demetri started May 9th with as the new North Huron Economic Development Officer. He was previous in the same position with Strathroy Caradoc.
 - b) Demetri offered a brief history/background.
 - c) Intros around the table were done.
5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: None Noted
6. Approval of Previous Minutes:
 - a. Dave T. visited new businesses (Cannabis Xpresss, Riverview Local Eatery & Mortgage intelligence and welcomed them.
 - b. (April 21, 2022) Moved by: Ashley V. 2nd by: Doug K. – Carried
7. Delegations: None Noted:
8. Correspondence:
 - a. Tharon Riley – Tharon Riley offered her letter of resignation for the Cruikshank Park Christmas decoration. Tharon has been the driving force behind this, and the BIA will offer a letter of thanks.
 - b. Tharon indicated that she will be happy to train the next person in setting these up
 - c. Doug K offered assistance in finding people to take this on.

9. Financials: Treasurer

1. Financial statements: Doug K.
2. Cheques written: moved by Doug K 2nd by Jim S. - Carried
3. A/R review: Doug K went over financial statements and the A/R.

10. Chair Update: Dave T

1. Letter of support for Digital Main Street
 - a. Dave T. Advised the letter of support for Digital Main street has been written.
2. Roger Brooks Presentation discussion
 - a. Mr. Brooks will provide a summary of all his suggestions, which will be provided at a later date.
 - b. Dave T. encouraged those that have not watched the presentation to do so. Lots of great information and suggestions.
3. Ukrainian refugees to Huron County – Posters
 - a. Mark Nonkes is seeking volunteers to assist with accommodations for the Ukrainian refugees.
 - b. BIA offered assistance to put the posters up for this initiative
 - c. Ashley V. thinking of a sidewalk sale of some sort to raise money for the initiative.
4. Advance Times reporting on meetings
 - a. Kelsey B. from the Advance Times has requested to be able to attend the BIA meetings to do more reporting on the BIA activities. She is more than welcome to!
5. Airport Update
 - a. Events at the airport have been planned over the summer. This is great for the area. Airport is supporting local clubs with fundraisers (i.e. Wingham Soccer).
 - b. They have a vehicle they loan out to local flyers. Vehicle is covered with advertising for local businesses.

11. Council Update: Trevor S.

1. Site Plan for Trailer Park apartment complex has been finalized and is moving forward
2. FE Madill requested the Pride Flag be flown at the municipal building for the month of June.
3. North Huron is still looking for a Finance Director and a Human Resource Manager
4. North Huron Economic Development Officer (Demetri M) will be a huge asset to North Huron
5. Housing is still a focus of work and concern for the Council
6. Airport Lands – Expression of Interest was extended for an additional week due to an error noted in the workable acres in the original posting.
7. Blyth – Teardown of the old public works building (behind Blyth Inn). This will be turned into public parking to assist with the overflow from the Theatre.

12. BIA Committees & Liaisons:

1. Retail Committee: Ashley V. –

- a. April Showers Promo (April 27th to 30th). Was Advertised on LED Sign. Retailers advised it wasn't a smashing hit from their perspective, but it did bring in shoppers. However, they did appreciate the initiative.
- b. August Sidewalk Sale update – Lady Glaze Donuts (food truck) is booked. And Sweets N Treats will be doing walking tacos.
- c. November Christmas Event (Lighting of the Lights) – 2 Food trucks are booked (El Milagro Food and Born 2 Eat).

2. Curb Appeal – Doug K.

- a. Flower Baskets will be ready shortly to be installed
- b. Waste Free Wednesday Update – This was a huge hit. There were lots of volunteers. Approx. 50 bags of garbage collected throughout town. Pete Mulvey is the driving force behind this initiative, huge thanks to him. Pete plans on doing a repeat in the fall.
- c. Flower Baskets – to be installed After May long weekend

3. Communications – Dave T.

- a. Waste Free Wednesday – event was posted to the BIA webpage and a mail chimp went out.

4. Economic Development -Dave T.

- a. Huron Entrepreneur Program facilitated by Jim Lynn is looking for donations to assist with Start Ups
- b. G2G – Chris Lee spoke on the benefits of the trail
- c. Denise Lockie indicated the Red Grant has been approved. These funds will help with the community Guide and two tours by the end of the year.
- d. The Rural Tourism Ontario Grant has been submitted. If approved, this will go towards improving the trail head area for the G2G trail.
- e. **Denise Lockie has asked for a letter of support from the BIA for the Sled Grant for Cruikshank Park Improvements –**
 - i. **Moved by Dave T. ; 2nd by Trevor S – Carried**
- f. Jordan Nairn, Relationship Manager, Libro Credit Union – has joined the Huron County Ec. Dev committee.
- g. It has been brought to the Ec. Dev's attention that several houses in Wingham are empty. With the current housing shortage this is not ideal.
 - i. Demetri advised that he is attempting an inventory of the empty properties and looking for solutions.

5. Community Connectors – Dave/Trevor:

- i. Distribution of welcome packages - lots of good feedback on what should and should be distributed within the packages.
- ii. Community Connectors will not be taking a summer hiatus due to the Volunteer Fair moving forward in partnership with the United Way.
- iii. Volunteer Fair will likely be held at the Columbus Centre. With a tentative date of September 11. More to come on this.
- iv. Connectors Centre will be opened sometime in the fall.
- v. Some Britespan workers (labourers and welders) are being housed at the Davidson House. Noted that more housing is needed to ensure they are comfortable and feel welcome.

6. BIA Sign –

- a. Lots of great feedback and compliments.
- b. One note is to try and focus on a single screen for an ad or event. Condense the info. Ashley and Doug to work on this.
- c. Ashley has been doing a fantastic job in getting things posted.
- d. BIA board recognized Ashley for all her hard work with the sign. A thank you letter and BIA bucks were passed along to Ashley.
- e. 2nd sign at Fogals – Doug brought forward the opportunity to place a 2nd sign at Fogals to focus on residents. Sign would be a 4 x 8, 2 sided sign. This is pick up on the local traffic. Both signs would be programmed in sync.
 - i. Quote from Cox Signs was Approx. \$30,000 plus hydro at approx. \$5000. This would include the BIA header on top of the sign.
- f. **Doug has requested permission to start the investigation and apply for permission from the town to place the 2nd sign. Noting that a proposal would be presented at the next AGM of the BIA prior to moving ahead. Motion moved by Jim S.; 2nd by Ashley V. – Carried.**
- g. Theatre – Promoter booking shows at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Doug is going to reach out to the promoter to see if can start utilizing the theatre given its acoustics are much better. Perhaps it would be better to have the shows at the theatre and the dinner after at the hall?

13: Project Updates:

1. Tourism Map – Doug K.
 - a. Still a work in progress.
2. Banners – Doug K.
 - a. Currently in progress. Hoping they are done soon. Doug to meet with Public Works to get a plan in place on the placement of the Banners and the Canada Flags layout.

3. Bike Racks / Picnic Tables – Dave T.

- a. Denise Lockie is currently applying for a grant for improvements to Cruikshank park. Hoping the picnic tables will fall into that. The ask is to ensure these are accessibility friendly and perhaps aluminum for longevity.
- b. Bike Racks – could fall under one of these grants?

14. Next BIA Board Meeting – Thursday, June 16th @ 6:30 pm – Hot Stove Lounge.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10pm. - Moved by Doug K., 2nd by Ashley V. – Carried.

Chair: Dave Tiffin

Secretary: Carolyn Young