

MARKHAM VILLAGE B.I.A.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2022 9:00 AM
Via ZOOM Videoconference
Approved September 22 2022

Present:

Paul Cicchini (Chair)
Michelle McDermott
Councilor Karen Rea
Aly Daya

Brian Rowsell (Secretary)
Tony Paul
Danny Imbrogno

Staff: Heather Cook
Phil Howes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman Paul Cicchini.

2. DECLARATION OF TAX AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS

The board was advised by the Chair that to the best his knowledge and abilities the BIA is meeting all taxation and environmental obligations.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Chair requested that Board Members advise of any conflicts of interest as they arise throughout the meeting.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2022 MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes of April 28 by Michelle McDermott, seconded by Danny Imbrogno. Carried.

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2022 MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes of June 9 by Michelle McDermott, seconded by Danny Imbrogno. Carried.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS – 2022 INTERIM OPERATING RESULTS

The interim operating results for the period ended June 30 were presented.

We are still waiting for payment from Destination Markham for grants that were approved and accrued in 2021.

We also incurred expenses for the Music Festival in paying for the street closing .
This was not in our budget

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7. LEASE RENEWAL – 132 ROBINSON STREET

Brian reported that the lease has been renewed for 5 years ending November 30 2027

8. CENTRAL COUNTIES TOURISM GRANT.

Heather advised that she has obtained preliminary approval for a grant from Central Counties Tourism with a comprehensive proposal for a visitor experience center for the BIA with many aspects including office refurbishing, social media, multi-media and other components.

Motion:

Be it resolved that Old Markham Village BIA enter into an Ultimate Recipient Agreement with Central Counties Tourism, acting as administrators of the Tourism Relief Fund on behalf of the Government of Canada through FedDev Ontario.

Moved by: Tony Paul, seconded by: Aly Daya

All votes in favour. Motion Carried.

9. OPERATIONS UPDATE

Heather provided an update on the upcoming events. The second sidewalk sale is scheduled for this Saturday and a visual art show is scheduled for September 10. Councilor Rea advised that we needed approval from Markham Heritage for the sidewalk sale and we require occupancy permits for the use of the Gazebo area.

The Markham Village Music Festival was held on June 17 & 18. Reviews were mixed from very enthusiastic to very disappointed. Some property owners in the BIA expressed anger that the Music Festival Committee expropriated space on their property without asking first. Discussion was held on the failure of many BIA members to take best advantage of the festival, in fact some restaurants were not even open. It was generally agreed that there was a need for more vendors on the street, particularly food vendors, and that as many expected vendors did not show up.

Heather also advised that the City is hiring 4 people – one of who will be assigned to the BIA, until the end of 2023 to assist with creating content.

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was a lengthy discussion on the impact and success of the events – particularly the Music Festival. Danny suggested that the BIA should consider closing Robinson Street on a regular basis and hold many more events there.

Many members reported that the Stouffville Strawberry Festival was far superior to the Markham Music Festival. Heather pointed out that the city of Stouffville supplied

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a great deal of free assistance, use of city materials and staff, and use of public space for the festival, which does not happen in Markham.

Paul expressed continued disappointment over the lack of support for small business from the City of Markham, noting that his business license fee has doubled since 2019 at a time when business is still recovering from the pandemic lockdowns. Paul pointed out that most other municipalities in Ontario have reduced or even and waived many fees and have encouraged outdoor patios and events, whereas in Markham there are large fees and complicated permits required for everything,

Councilor Rea provided an update on the proposed development at 144 Main Street – which in its present form is not being recommended by the city staff and is opposed by most residents, so the developer has launched an appeal with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly Ontario Municipal Board).

Paul said he has seen on the internet ads promoting 46 On Main and making presales of condominiums on that site. Councilor Rea says approval is still a long way off.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

NEXT MEETING – September 22, 2022 9:00 am