

## **Durham BIA AGM Minutes**

### **17 March 2021, 7pm: held via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Jenny Parsons and Steve Morel (Jest Arts), Doug Hutchinson (Council representative), Sarah Hiltz (KC's), Candy Swanson and Mehak (IDA drug Mart), Geoffrey Shea (councillor), Ashton Nixon (Mini and Me), Kathy Chiu (Northern Credit Union), Connie MacEwan (Cooperators), Nereda Manion (Mortgage Center), April Barker and Lindon Stone (Studio A), Tim and Barb Dyck (chair, and The Colour Jar)

**Welcome** and introduction by Tim Dyck (chair)

**Agenda: Motion** to approve the agenda by Candy Swanson, seconded by Kathy Chiu; carried.

**Review** of last year (and before)

Some new businesses opened, and some closed. Exec supported WG drive-through Halloween, December window painting, blue streetlights, development of website: [townofdurham.ca](http://townofdurham.ca).

**Approve** last year's minutes: no minutes from last year, due to lack of attendance.

**Guest** speaker West Grey Police Chief Robert Martin: spoke about need for updated business contact lists; ongoing foot patrols and continuation of business nighttime door checks; increased calls for police service this year; the challenges of Covid-19 protocols; increasing population and also summer campers (SVCA is full all summer). Chief Martin was asked about their new building being planned for later this year, and he replied that they remain committed to building community through supporting their large service area (especially downtowns), and will be able to host events in their new multi-purpose space.

**Guest** speaker Cheryl Lindsay (West Grey accessibility committee) spoke about a project they are promoting: [StopGap.ca](http://StopGap.ca) — businesses are provided with portable ramps to make up for small steps in front of their doors—to allow the entry of wheeled-mobility devices. Exec will explore the possibility / applicability within their budget, and with a possible grant with the municipality. More detailed information to help us visualize what might be workable will be forthcoming. (Possible future topic for exec is downtown public accessible washrooms.)

**West Grey** Councillor Doug Hutchinson congratulated business for working hard to survive during the lockdowns, and the exec for the good work they are doing; promoted West Grey's Community Improvement Program (grants); and an upcoming Grey County business mix analysis.

**Motion** to spend up to \$300 on hiring someone to scrape painted windows, by Lindon Stone, seconded by Jenny Parsons; carried.

**Budget:** prepared by Kathy Chiu (treasurer)

Exec has approved: Lions park improvements will get \$2000, new garbage receptacles will get \$1500, set aside \$2000 for Homecoming 2022, website additions, small promotions. (Document attached)

**Motion** to approve the budget: by Connie, seconded by Candy; carried.

**New** ideas: business workshops, signage? Steve Morel suggested ArtsFest could be modified to be a pop-up style list of smaller outdoor downtown events with BIA's tents, to be promoted online and at campsites, streamed and modified all summer. Could include socially-distanced: live music, interactive art installations, kids activities. Will be initiated by individual businesses with focus being downtown, moderated and promoted by BIA, with approval by executive. Contact exec for details or to submit an idea.

**Confirm/elect officials:** Current executive continuing: Tim D, Candy Swanson, Connie MacEwan, Kathy Chiu. **Motion** to elect Nereda Manion and Steve Morel to the executive, by Candy S, seconded by Lindon S; carried.

Other business: Jest Arts Gallery will be having an opening this coming weekend.

Adjournment at 8:30pm.

Tim Dyck, chair

Durham BIA

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