

MINUTES

The Waterfront District BIA

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

INVITED: John Murray, Vice Chair Phil Walkden, Treasurer Thomas Trist, Director Jordan Calonego, Director Maelyn Hurley, Director Robyn Despins, Director Andrew Foulds, Councillor Vacant Vacant Kara Pratt, Recording Secretary

TENTATIVE:

REGRETS:

Lynn Gray, BIA Bookkeeper Peter White, Chair Jim Comuzzi, Past Chair

GUEST:

LOCATION/TIME: Goods & Co with outside BIA Business catering, 5:30 pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2781002430?pwd=K2RPSnFqWVdKNityRIB2bTIIdnpWZz09&omn=83177892 649

Meeting ID: 278 100 2430 Passcode: WDBIA

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Meeting Call to Order and Disclosures of Interest	
	Called to order @ 5:36 pm	
	High Tea Fundraiser event @ Goods & Co.	
2.0	Approval of Agenda	
		Carried
	Motion: 2025-01	
	Moved by: T. Trist Seconded by: R. Despins	
3.0	Presentations	
4.0	Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2024– sent electronically	
		Carried
	Motion: 2025-02	
	Moved by: M. Hurley Seconded by: T. Trist	

Item	Description	Action
5.0	 Business Arising from Past Minutes 1. Cyber Security for the BIA – Phil Westland requoted and presented current insurance as well as Cyber Insurance options. Approval of Insurance w/ Westland for Cyber Security. Review November notes and follow-up with the Board. Bookkeeper has provided proof of insurance. Followed up with CoTB for IT information and was provided link to policies. 	Deferred
	Motion: 2025-deferred Moved by: Seconded by:	Update
	 Strategic Planning – Meeting w/ Caroline Polgrabia from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport on October 21 to discuss further. Sending information about tourism numbers in Thunder Bay, Vacancies in the BIA and business mix. Inviting the local MTCS person to the next meeting. Discussion with the City Manager re: Ambassador/Outreach Program Follow up with members after the AGM – see the email from the ED and discuss edits. 	Awaiting Update
6.0	Reports	
6.1	 Chair's/ED Report – Budget Presentation to Council February 3, 2025, pre-consultation with city council and the public January 22, 2025 Audited Financials – The city has completed their portion of the Audit and the Auditor began their Audit on November 10, 2024 (awaiting response). Seagull Program/ Updates – connected with contractors for revised quotes – Attached Quote from Skyline Falconry & e-mail from NorWest Pest (attached emails). 	Update Update Action
	Motion to approve NorWest Pest with the maximum budget of \$10,000 for seagull management for the 2025 spring/summer. Motion: 2025-03 Moved by: M. Hurley Seconded by: P. Walkden	Carried
	Begin the transition process from BIA lead Seagull Management to Building owner lead management of seagulls going forward.	
	 4. Board Applications – Connor Remus Frank Marino Motion to submit the two applicants, who have been interviewed, to City Council for approval to sit on the Waterfront District BIA Board. 	

Item	Description	Action
	 Motion: 2025-04 Moved by: M. Hurley Seconded by: J. Calonego Additional applications - Michelle Scott Marcella Vallelunga Set up interviews with the BIA Executive and the two additional applicants. Discussion to add more retail representation. Create a list of actions for the ED based on discussions. Follow-up on progress at Board Meetings. 	Carried
6.2	Finance Committee –Phil	
	 2025 Budget – Budget Presentation to Council Feb 3, 2025 Financials – December Update on Audit? – Bookkeeper following up with BDO/MNP Sponsorship Requests – Cultural Services Community Programming & Events - CoTB \$4,000 Sponsorship – BIA Bucks/Advertising: \$3500 Description of Recognition: Social Media (Facebook & Instagram) Logo on event signage at all events Logo in our Summer Events Guide (online and some print) Company Website on City website Official Thank you ad in the Summer Events Guide Logo on the roadside scrim (fort william road) Recognition plaque from the City (2025) Recognition plaque from the City (2025) Recognition plaque from the City (2025) We are excited to begin planning our 2025 event season, kicking off with SnowDay on the Waterfront (Monday February 17th, 2025), a free, family-friendly event designed to encourage outdoor fun and community gathering in the beauty of winter. SnowDay invites families to experience snow sculptures (weather permitting) along with a variety of engaging activities such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, skating, and more. The requested BIA bucks would significantly support our snow sculpture competition, enhancing the event's appeal and community impact.	Information

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	Waterfront, Teddy Bears Picnic, Live on the Waterfront and Arts and Culture Under the Lights.	
	 We look forward to the 2025 event season and bringing our community together. Thank you for your continued support and considering this partnership! 	
	Motion to approve \$1,500 in BIA Bucks and LED Board in-kind Sponsorship for events (~3 Months).	Carried
	Motion: 2025-05 Moved by: J. Calonego Seconded by: P. Walkden	Cameu
	 African Boutique Request: \$1000 TO 2000 Bucks/Advertising: YES Description of Recognition: 	
	I AM A MEMBER OF WATERFRONT DISTRICT BIA	
	 Description of Event/project: THE AFRO VIBE FEST IS A 2 DAY STREET EVENT TO SHOWCASE THE AFRO CULTURE, THE EVENT WILL HAVE A PARADE 	
	Motion to approve \$500 in-kind sponsorship and assistance with a road closure, if needed.	
	Motion: 2025-06 Moved by: P. Walkden Seconded by: M. Hurley	Carried
	 Lucky Paranormal \$2900 Sponsorship – BIA Bucks: \$2250 Advertising: \$650 	
	 Description of Recognition: BIA logo on their website and social media as well as on printed materials. Logo on a sponsor reel playing at the event in between speakers. 	
	 Description of Event/project: Lake Superior Paranormal Convention will be held in downtown Port Arthur at the Delta Marriott Hotel on October 17th- 19th 2025. Leading up to the weekend activities we will be having a Sasquatch expedition. We are ordering a bus to pick up the participants at the Delta Marriott Waterfront hotel and drive us to an undisclosed location where we will learn about investigating Sasquatch. On Friday we will have a celebrity meet and greet at Fort William Historical Park, followed by two full days of captivating 	

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	paranormal, supplemented by local individuals sharing their eerie encounters. Saturday evening promises an exhilarating celebrity-led paranormal investigation at the Thunder Bay Museum. Additionally, there will be vendors at the Delta Marriott Waterfront Hotel showcasing Thunder Bay's diversity, offering a platform for enthusiasts to come together and explore the realm of the paranormal.	
	Motion to approve \$1,000 in BIA Bucks, Social Media Posts, LED Board Ad (in line with 2024).	
	Motion: 2025-07	Carried
	Moved by: M. Hurley Seconded by: P. Walkden	
	 Evoke Salon Request - \$2000 Bucks/Advertising: \$500 BIA Bucks, \$1,500 Trip Sponsor - Round Trip to Montreal Via Porter OR \$1,500 Event Alcohol Sponsor. Description of Recognition: WD BIA logo would appear: on social media graphics, and on ticket sale website. Waterfront BIA would also be verbally acknowledged and thanked at event. ***Logo would appear on all printed items (posters, tent cards i.e) but only if you able to commit to sponsorship by January 15th, as Rainbow needs to know before everything goes to printers.*** Description of Event/project: Hold Her Hand, First Annual Gala in support of Faye Peterson House. FPH is looking to expand by building more apartments for women and children is crisis and we want to help fund this ongoing project. With any luck this gala will get bigger and bigger every year, drawing people from all over Thunder Bay to come downtown to attend the fundraiser everyone is talking about!Theme: Evening Parisian Cafe. Food/Wine pairings. Entertainment. Art installations and more. 	
	Motion to approve \$500 in BIA Bucks, LED Board Ad, in BIA Newsletter to membership.	Carried
	Motion: 2025-08 Moved by: M. Hurley Seconded by: P. Walkden	
	 High Tea Fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research Request: \$200 Bucks/Advertising: BIA Bucks & Advertising 	

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	 Description of Recognition: High Tea Fundraiser in Support of Breast Cancer Research being held on February 2, 2025 from 1-3pm at Goods & Co. Description of Event/project: Display of Logo on signage, handouts & social media. 	
	Motion to approve \$200 in BIA Bucks Motion: 2025-09 Moved by: J. Murray Seconded by: T. Trist	Carried
	 4. Community Board Looking into an LED screen on a building Pricing 	Action
6.3	RFP for location once price is understood Infrastructure/Beautification Committee – John & Tom	
	 CoTB Red River & Court Revitalization Update Reminder to CoTB the bus stops on Cumberland need to be plowed. Reminder to Nadin about Accessible parking spaces on RRR. Public art jurying complete – contracts are being written and sent and a public announcement will go out once everything is signed. 	Update/Acti on
6.4	 Marketing, Events & Promotion Committee – Maelyn, Tom 1. Cruise Ships –<i>market to the crew in 2025.</i> 2. Marketing Plan to go with the attached budget. <i>a.</i> Marketing to the U.S. with the low dollar – Northern Wilds Ad 	Action
6.5	 Membership Services Committee – Phil & T. Trist 1. CRM – Creating an online form for uploads (ongoing) 2. New Members – Following up when time permits (ongoing) 3. Associate Memberships 2025/2026 boundary expansion Follow up with assessed value assumptions and determine the minimum and maximum amount for associate memberships to hopefully increase the boundaries. Action – High, mid and low amounts. Action on the attachments. Marketing to justify the value - a one pager. Decision to go ahead with Associate Memberships? 	Follow-up
6.6	 Safety & Security – Peter, John & Tom Connect with Chief Fleury & EMS - will work to develop the relationship further and come up with solutions to keep the area safe and walkable. Ambassador Program – on the agenda until this, or another program similar, is implemented. 	Follow-up/ Set reg meeting dates

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	3. Coffee with Council – scheduling with the various members of the committee.	
6.7	Municipal Parking Services Update – Kara	
	 Concerns about a lack of parking/loading area on Red River Road Parking Hours revised to 9am to 6pm 	Update
6.8	Administration 5. Board Meeting Schedule – First Tuesday of the Month potential adjustments for long weekends and holidays.	
7.0	Correspondence – 1. Email from Richard Togman Re: Connaught Square (attached)	Follow-up
8.0	 New Business – Board Nomination Committee – Board Executive Strategic Plan/ Budget to Council – A. Foulds (previously deferred) Website Updates – section for DRAFT Agendas & Meeting Dates Board Code of Conduct Training Anything I am forgetting??? 	
9.0	Next Meeting – January 2025 Adjournment – 7:27 pm Motion: 2025-10 Moved by: J. Calonego Seconded by: T. Trist	Carried