



Minutes of April 21, 2010 Board Meeting

<u>Directors in attendance</u>	Chair Secretary/Treasurer Director	Cathy Coxhead Anna Visconti Jackie Simkin
<u>Advisors in attendance</u>	Darryl Sherman	Wilson Furniture
<u>City officials in attendance</u>	Louise Parkes David Tuley	Council Rep Downtown Development Officer
<u>Members in attendance</u>	Laura Vaillancourt Ian Tweedle	Doug Wilsons Men's Wear Strut Nouveau
<u>Regrets</u>	Giacomo Bruno Nikki Henderson Val Foster Tony Vander Baaren	Director (Isabella's) Director (Strut Nouveau) Advisor Vice-Chair
<u>Invited Guests</u>	Joe Neal Jana Nasrallah Professor Pierce	Solicitor for the Board UOIT UOIT

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:00pm, welcoming guests from UOIT, Communication student Jana Nasrallah and Assistant Professor of Communications, Therese Pierce.

Jana Nasrallah presented "Oshawa Blog-O-Sphere" to the Board, outlining the advantages of social media and the benefits of having a downtown blog focused on enlightening visitors and locals via a digital platform for making connections between businesses, education, government officials, arts and culture and members of the community.

After the presentation, the Board entered into a Q&A with Jana about social media and blogging. The Chair thanked both Jana and Professor Pierce for their time and they left the meeting.

The Chair called for declarations of pecuniary interests. None were noted.

Joe Neal, Solicitor for the Board arrived at the meeting.

Motion 4:01 to change the agenda to allow Joe Neal to report to the Board was made by Louise Parkes, seconded by Anna Visconti.

Carried

Mr. Neal advised the Board that they should consider formally appointing someone as an information officer for the Board to handle requests being made by the Membership and/or other people in the community. Under the Freedom of Information Act, the person delegated can determine how requests should be handled and whether or not requests are deemed reasonable, frivolous or vexatious in nature. Mr. Neal also advised that the appropriate government form be used by the person(s) making the request and the customary *fee be applied (*as per the City's fee schedule).

Motion 4:02 to appoint the Chair, Cathy Coxhead as the designated information officer for the Board was made by Louise Parkes, seconded by Anna Visconti.

Carried

Mr. Neal further reported that at the last Finance & Administration meeting held April 15, 2010, his request to speak to committee on behalf of the Board was denied.

Mr. Neal reported that the report from staff was to be presented to the Finance & Administration committee on May 6, 2010 by David Potts (legal department) re Jackie Simkin and Laura Vaillancourt's various complaints.

In addition, Mr. Neal advised the Board that Councillor April Cullen publicly stated she was disturbed by what she had read in the Board minutes. During a break in the meeting Mr. Neal advised Councillor Cullen that he was the Solicitor for the Board and provided her with his card requesting that she forward any minutes that concerned her for his review. Mr. Neal followed up with a letter to Councillor Cullen, to which she replied via email that she did not wish to continue further with the discussion.

Councillor Louise Parkes addressed the Board with her concerns about the conduct of Councillor Brian Nicholson, Chair of the Finance & Administration Committee, stating that she has been uncomfortable with his inability to remain impartial.

Councillor Parkes also commented that she did not feel that fairness was applied when Director Nikki Henderson's request to speak was denied at the March 4, 2010 Finance & Administration meeting, when Jackie Simkin and Laura Vaillancourt were given an hour

and a half to report even though they were not on the meeting agenda, and that Councillor Nicholson had been advised by the clerk prior to the meeting that the BIA issue was not within his committee's jurisdiction.

Mr. Neal advised the Board that during the meeting break he approached Councillor Brian Nicholson and Councillor John Henry to ask when the Board would be given a chance to respond to the allegations, to which Councillor Nicholson responded that the Board had already been given a chance.

Let the minutes reflect that Nikki Henderson's request to speak on March 4, 2010 was denied, Chair Cathy Coxhead's request to address the committee on March 25, 2010 was denied, and Solicitor Joe Neal's request on April 15, 2010 denied.

Councillor Parkes reported to the Board that at the March 25, 2010 Finance & Administration meeting, Jackie Simkin gave Councillor Nicholson a file which he passed to the clerk. Jackie Simkin denied that she had done this; however Chair Cathy Coxhead and Vivian Sled, Office Administrator for the Board both saw Ms Simkin give Councillor Nicholson the file when Councillor Parkes did. Councillor Parkes showed concern that Councillor April Cullen may have been referring to Jackie Simkin's own minutes and not the Board minutes re her comment to Solicitor Neal about what she had read in the minutes. There is also concern that if the file was passed to the clerk and subsequently passed along to the staff that were preparing a report, the information contained within said file would not necessarily be correct and/or factual.

Let the minutes reflect that the Board has not been asked to provide any minutes or any documents pertaining to the allegations made, nor have they submitted any approved minutes or any official documents to staff or committee.

Mr. Neal asked the Chair to call for a closed session to discuss further legalities that he did not want to share with Jackie Simkin or Laura Vaillancourt. Both Jackie Simkin and Laura Vaillancourt refused to leave the room, with Jackie Simkin threatening to file a complaint with the Ombudsman's office. *[Note: Jackie Simkin is a suspended Director, and Laura Vaillancourt is an Ex-Director. Neither woman will recognize the Board's by-law document or codification of policy and procedures, as stated many times.]*

Darryl Sherman, Past Chair and Advisor to the Board pointed out that Jackie Simkin was once again exhibiting disrespect for the Board and demonstrating a further example of her intent, along with Laura Vaillancourt to have the board disbanded.

Solicitor Neal left the meeting without the Board going into a closed session.

Motion 4:03 to approve the April 2010 meeting agenda was made by Anna Visconti, seconded by Louise Parkes.

Carried

Motion 4:04 to approve the March 2010 minutes was made by Anna Visconti, seconded by Louise Parkes.

Carried

Motion 4:05 to approve the March 2010 financials was made by Anna Visconti, seconded by Louise Parkes.

Carried

Vivian Sled advised the Board that the 2009 Audit had been scheduled with Deloitte & Touche for April 27th. and 28th ., 2010.

Downtown Development Officers Report (David Tuley)

David reported to the Board that the City of Oshawa Economic Development in conjunction with TD Canada Trust hosted the annual economic outlook business breakfast, with a total of 264 attendees.

David provided copies of the new brochure “Development Insider” launched by the City’s Economic Development department as sponsored by TD Canada Trust. The brochure may be circulated into the Globe & Mail and will be on hand at the upcoming Durham Real Estate Board conference and the Land Development conference scheduled for this summer.

David reported that UOIT are interested in partnering with the City and with the Downtown Board on a banner program in an effort to brand the downtown central business district.

Discussion about the Centre St. mural continued from last month’s meeting, with Anna Visconti offering her building as a new site for the relocation of the mural. Vivian to measure the mural and collect details about the cost of having it removed/installed.

Discussion about more tattoo parlours, more cheque cashing places and pawn shops popping up took place around the table, with concerns about the fact that the City did not have a process of checks and balances in place, re business permits, board of health issues, excessive duplication of those types of businesses, etc. It was suggested that the BIA send a letter to the planning department to bring the issue to their attention.

Councillor Louise Parkes Report

Councillor Parkes reported that the hotel deal for the downtown core had been terminated between the City and the hotelier.

Councillor Parkes suggested to the Chair that the Board consider bringing in a facilitator skilled in dealing with BIA's in an effort to end the dissention within the Board. She further stated that if Jackie and Laura were up for it, she would like to have a discussion to try and iron out the issues after the meeting.

Office Manager's Report (Vivian Sled)

Advised the Board that \$920.00 of the \$1000.00 Shop & Win Downtown Dollars had been redeemed.

Updated the Board on the Autofest entertainment selections and the cost of the sound for this year's event.

Advised the Board that the Court House promotion was slowly coming together with good participation from the membership, but not as much interest from the court house contact as hoped. An attempt to contact the court house manager would be made again.

The 2010 Membership Survey results had been tabulated but had not been reviewed yet. They would be circulated to the Board for their review and then posted on line for the membership.

Downtown solicitation by outside organizations discussed, with the Board being advised that an email had been sent to DRPS and to City by-law. Further follow up from the Board to take place.

Accessibility information on-going to the membership as received. More information will be available at the September 2010 AGM regarding customer service standards.

The 2010 OBIAA conference material is to be downloaded and provided to the Board within the next month.

Gen's Fanfest scheduled for Saturday, May 15/10.

Downtown Buskerfest scheduled for Saturday, June 26/10.

Motion 4:06 made by Anna Visconti for Vivian to be given a budget of \$100.00 to provide a coffee and muffin for the buskers at Coffee Culture, seconded by Louise Parkes.

Carried

As per the BIA downtown beautification mandate, a variety of areas were outlined that require floral enhancements. Partners such as the City and the Oshawa Garden Club have been contacted, including the downtown members that are in the vicinity of the areas outlined in an effort to put a program in place.

Other Business

An Oshawa Gen's partnership meeting took place with Joe Kantor, Cathy Coxhead, David Tuley and Vivian Sled regarding ideas for game day promotions in downtown.

Pricing for box suites at Global Spectrum available to the membership as a result of a meeting with Jeanette Humphries.

Request for Cathy Coxhead to speak at the Finance & Administration Committee meeting March 25/10 denied.

The Board was advised that Cathy Coxhead had a new sponsor due to Jackie Simkin and Laura Vaillancourt lodging a complaint about her with the CEO of TD Canada Trust. Cathy reported that Lovell Drugs had stepped up to sponsor her on the Board, indicating that TD Canada Trust still supported her efforts wholeheartedly but could not remain a sponsor as the word "sponsor" denotes a financial accountability. Cathy further reported that TD Canada Trust would be unable to sponsor this year's Autofest because of the complaints submitted by Jackie Simkin and Laura Vaillancourt, thus robbing the Board of much needed donations to the event.

Motion 4:07 was made by Councillor Parkes as an indication of confidence for the Chair's reputation and professionalism both as a Board member and a long-term volunteer and resident in the downtown, seconded by Anna Visconti.

Carried

Board advised of the dates and prices for the Chamber's golf tournament in May and of the Mayor's golf tournament in August.

Correspondence Received

March 15/10 Letter from City re Council appointments for 2011.

March 18/10 Copy of letter from City re Laura Vaillancourt

March 23/10 Email received from Jackie Simkin, referred to Solicitor Neal

March 24/10 Letter from Lovell Drugs re sponsorship of Cathy Coxhead

Motion 4:08 to receive as correspondence made by Louise Parkes, seconded by Anna Visconti.

Carried

Motion 4:09 to adjourn the meeting made by Louise Parkes, seconded by Anna Visconti.

Carried

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for Wednesday May 12, 2010
