

Windsor BIA Advisory Committee
Meeting held August 20, 2019

A meeting of the Windsor BIA Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 9:30 o'clock a.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Chris Holt, Chair
Joan Charette, Walkerville BIA
Debbie Croucher, Downtown Windsor BIA
Mary Ann Cuderman, Sandwich Street BIA
Sami Mazloum, Wyandotte Street BIA
Lisa Milec, Walkerville BIA
Shane Potvin, Ford City BIA
Filip Rocca, Erie Street BIA
Bridget Scheuerman, Riverside and Pillette Village BIAs
Brian Yeomans, Downtown Windsor BIA

Regrets received from:

Councillor Rino Bortolin
Councillor Ed Sleiman

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Michael Cooke, Manager Planning Policy
Ian Day, Manager Traffic Operations
Wanda Letourneau, Manager of Horticulture
Milan Vujanovic, Senior Economic Development Officer
Jan Wilson, Corporate Leader Parks, Recreation, Culture & Facilities
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:32 o'clock a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declarations of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by F. Rocca, seconded by S. Mazloun,
That the minutes of the Windsor BIA Advisory Committee of its meeting held June 19, 2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.2 Hanging Baskets in the BIA's

Jan Wilson, Corporate Leader Parks, Recreation, Culture & Facilities and Wanda Letourneau, Manager of Horticulture are present to answer questions relating to the hanging baskets in the BIA's.

In response to a comment provided by D. Croucher at the June 19, 2019 meeting regarding the perception of fewer hanging baskets in the DWBIA, W. Letourneau responds the baskets have been placed in different areas within the BIA. She adds if additional baskets are requested, a site visit to determine which poles are available would be required.

S. Potvin expresses concern that Hiram Walkers placed flowers in whiskey barrels throughout the Ford City BIA and notes the BIA is responsible for watering the flowers. J. Wilson responds there are challenges as there is limited equipment and resources available. She adds this issue has been identified to City Council.

M. Cuderman suggests the BIA's partner with the city to hire part-time staff (share the salary) to work in the individual BIA's. J. Wilson adds she would have to ensure there is an available truck and a driver and notes Council may be interested in pursuing this initiative.

W. Letourneau requests the BIA's place their order for annuals prior to September 30, 2019.

The Chair suggests interested BIA's meet with W. Letourneau at the Parks Department to discuss such items as cost per hanging basket and purchasing annuals for 2020.

Moved by D. Croucher, seconded by S. Potvin,
That the update regarding hanging baskets in the BIA's provided by Jan Wilson, Corporate Leader Parks, Recreation, Culture & Facilities and Wanda Letourneau, Manager Horticulture **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

4.1 BIA Wayfinding Project

M. Vujanovic reports the traffic department is awaiting the design of the trailblazing signs from the BIA's.

The Chair explains trailblazing signs are "auto focused" while wayfinding signs are "pedestrian focused".

I. Day provides the trailblazing policy as follows:

- BIA's may have a maximum of 4 locations.
- The sign will be 12 inches by 36 inches (this is a standard size)
- The main reason a design would be turned down is if it looks too much in colour or feel to that of a standard traffic sign (i.e. if the sign is solid red with only some white writing, this would look too much like a stop sign and at first glance even with the shape difference, people may attempt to stop).
- In general, signs should be placed on the far side of an intersection. There are already too many traffic regulatory signs on the near side of most intersections, so there is often not room to put other signs up. If they are away from an intersection, we would look to make sure they are not blocking sightlines on a roadway.

M. Cuderman indicates the signs in the Sandwich Towne BIA will require a "heritage look". The Chair adds the signs will not be located within the BIA, but will direct one to the BIA.

In response to a question asked by D. Croucher regarding who will be paying for the signs, the Chair responds the City will be responsible for the signs.

I. Day suggests that the BIA logos and preferred locations be sent to the Senior Manager of Traffic Operations and Parking.

D. Croucher inquires if more than 4 locations for signage is requested, can the BIA pay for it. I. Day advises he will report back on this matter.

The Chair questions if the directional signs should be the same colour. I. Day states the signs will be white with colours.

Moved by S. Mazloum, seconded by J. Charette,
That the updates provided by Administration regarding the status of the trailblazing signage in the BIA's **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

4.3 Excessive Traffic Speed – Wyandotte Street East from Walker to Lauzon Road

B. Scheuerman provides the following comments relating to the excessive traffic speed at Wyandotte Street East from Walker to Lauzon Road:

- Motorists are using this corridor as a “speedway”.
- Suggestion to keep parking on the street with bike lanes as traffic calming to slow down the traffic speed.
- Motorists are running through red lights, turning improperly.

I. Day reports the latest traffic studies clocked the average speed at 65 km/hour. He notes that traffic calming is not feasible as Wyandotte Street is a main arterial road. He advises there has been discussion regarding the installation of radar detectors and adds this is generally an enforcement issue by Windsor Police Services.

Moved by B. Scheuerman, seconded by S. Mazloum,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back on the feasibility of lane reduction on Wyandotte Street East from St. Luke to Lauzon Road in light of the passing of the Active Transportation Master Plan by City Council.
Carried.

I. Day remarks that although a road may have parking and bike lanes, it appears the wider the road, the faster motorists drive particularly on collector arterial roads.

F. Rocca suggests the use of speed bumps or traffic cameras as a means of traffic calming.

Moved by D Croucher, seconded by J. Charette,
That Administration from Windsor Police Services **BE REQUESTED** to report back on the feasibility of increasing enforcement on Wyandotte Street East from Devonshire to Lauzon due to excessive speeding along this corridor.
Carried.

I. Day reports there are currently 25 locations in the queue requesting the use of digital radar speed signs.

In response to a question asked by D. Croucher regarding if the BIA's can be considered “Community Safety Zones”, I. Day responds he will report back on this matter.

It is suggested that a representative from Windsor Police Services be invited to attend the next meeting of WBIAAC to discuss traffic issues and safety.

Moved by S. Potvin, seconded by B. Scheuerman,
That the update provided by Ian Day, Manager of Traffic Operations regarding excessive traffic speed on Wyandotte Street East from Walker to Lauzon Road **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

5. New Business

M. Cuderman indicates she is unaware of who is paying the levy and the amount being paid in the Sandwich Towne BIA. M. Cooke suggests she contact the Deputy Treasurer, Taxation and Financial Projects for the list. The Chair proposes she contact the Deputy Treasurer on an annual basis prior to the meeting of their AGM.

D. Croucher expresses concern regarding the increase of persons experiencing homelessness, drug abuse and mental illness in the Downtown BIA. B. Yeomans adds there is also a lack of Windsor Police bike patrol presence during the day time in the BIA.

D. Croucher advises there is a joint committee with the DWBIA and the DWCC which includes representatives from the City of Windsor Social Services Department, Windsor Police Services, Canadian Mental Health, Hotel Dieu-Grace Hospital, Windsor Regional Hospital Family Services, Teen Health Centre, the AIDS Committee and Councillor Bortolin. The Chair suggests extending an invitation to all of the BIA's to attend upcoming meetings of the joint committee to allow for an opportunity to voice their concerns within their respective BIA's.

F. Rocca states there is a vacancy rate in the BIA's (18-22%) due to the big box developments. D. Croucher inquires if the City could undertake a moratorium that would force developers to use brownfields over new developments.

M. Cooke indicates there is a CIP incentive for brownfields, however, there must be a developer willing to clean the site. Council has endorsed a number of incentives, i.e. brownfields, economic development and also development charges. The core area includes the river down to Walker Road, to Sandwich Street and to Tecumseh Road. The city is starting to see an infill on lots and there is a CIP program, however, the right developer, the right site and the will to take the risk is required by a developer.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding incentives for the other 8 BIA's, M. Cooke responds Sandwich Towne was first to receive the incentives. Ford City and the Downtown are the BIA's that have a CIP in place.

The Chair reports the residential incentives in the downtown area have been extremely successful and by bringing in more residents, there are more customers to frequent the businesses.

M. Cooke refers back to the question asked by D. Croucher relating to a moratorium, and he indicates Council many years ago decided to not designate new commercial lands for big box developments.

D. Croucher questions if the city could undertake that same moratorium on residential as an effort to force residents into the BIA neighbourhoods as all of the BIA's have excess land. M. Cooke responds this is difficult as the population is growing and there is a shortage of housing in all areas of the City, including areas that are already designated in the Official plan for residential development.

F. Rocca leaves the meeting at 11:05 o'clock a.m.

Discussion ensues regarding if a BIA can ask a purchaser of a property what their intended redevelopment plans are for a specific property. The Chair advises he will follow-up with the Senior Economic Development Officer.

In terms of raising awareness of the BIA's through Social Media, J. Charette indicates she will contact the Senior Economic Development Officer and will report back at the next meeting.

M. Vujanovic reports memberships to the Destination Development Initiative Association are free until December 3, 2019.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 204, 350 City Hall Square West.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:25 o'clock a.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR