

OTTAWA VISITORS CENTER

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2020

5:03 p.m.

Present: Chair: Matt Skelly, Vice Chair: Hank Wolf, Secretary: Caitlin Parker, Kevin Bressendorf, Michael Cage, Sean Hodge, Mary Beth LeSeure, Scott Strutchen, Executive Director: Curt Bedei, City Representative: Dave Noble, and Chamber Director: Jeff Hettrick. **Absent:** Heather Johnson

Guests: N/A

Subject	Discussion	Decision	Next Steps - Motion
Public Comments	N/A	N/A	N/A

City Report - Noble	<p>Business Stabilization Grants - 4 were awarded. Another 16 awaiting response. The mayor has considered making adjustments to the downtown street closures. LaSalle Co. COVID warning could impact that. Ongoing projects: Herman's Liquors & Wine - new build behind exiting facility, existing facility will be demolished and become parking Anothny's place Auto Workers moving First Financial Credit Union - new build, demo old bought houses next door New sandwich shop on Chestnut street Build out inside Walmart super center will become a Claire's store Taco Bell remodel DMV in Ottawa construction proceeding - Progress Dr. culdesac off Dayton Rd. LaSalle & Main - Sister In-Law Jeremiah Joe's second location with drive-thru 205/207 W. Main construction for retail and/or restaurant on the first floor, personal residence on second Cora Pope home new electrical with sprinklers, and paint Heritage Harbor - pinnacle point clubhouse, 13 single family houses and 1 duplex permits permitted Jim Downey will develop the old Ferracuti residence into a park River Rescue Squad damaged by flooding will be demolished City put in a request with FEMA for elevation of Green Street - tentatively awarded a 3.4 million dollar grant, pending further review Responded to 56 industrial site searches, 24 active site searches where we are still in the running Undergoing rail blockage study for the Illinois Railway on Columbus and Champaign streets Covia - Farmount Minerals merged with Unimin, Covia announced bankruptcy - employees here in Ottawa will see little to no difference. Research lab on progress dr. has been vacated Formal Crystal Metals for sale Old Walmart aggressively for sale - price below 1 mil Peter Linberger still wants to proceed on building plans.</p>	N/A	N/A
Chamber Report - Hettrick	<p>There are 10 vendors participating in the farmer's market on Jackson Street. Ottawa Downtown Merchants provided print resources to promote the rest of downtown. Provided update on new members and new businesses coming to Ottawa. Videos to promote Ottawa are still in the works. Will do business retention meetings with large businesses in conjunction with the City of Ottawa.</p>	N/A	N/A

Next Board Meeting	Monday, August 24, 2020	N/A	N/A
Next Committee Meetings	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 - Operations 1 p.m., Marketing 2 p.m., Finance emailed	N/A	N/A
Review of Minutes	N/A	Moved by Scott Strutchen 2nd by Caitlin Parker.	Motion to accept the meeting minutes from June 22, 2020. Motion carried.
Old Business	Jefferson School mural - Thomas Melvin is the artist who will be touching up the mural. Contract has been approved by the Executive Committee to ensure timeline could proceed. The lift is donated and the artist is staying with a committee member.	N/A	N/A
	Mural Accounts - Matt Skelly met with Mayor Aussem to discuss the existing account and the City's request for the OVC to remit funds. We need to have an approved funding agreement with the City of Ottawa prior to further discussing the mural account.	N/A	N/A
New Business	OVC Board / Officers - Tom Justice has offered his resignation from the OVC Board of Directors.	Moved by Kevin Bressendorf, 2nd Scott Strutchen	Motion to accept the resignation of Tom Justice from the OVC Board of Directors.
	Nominations for Treasurer - The Executive Committee to meet and prepare nominations.	N/A	N/A
	Funding agreement - Working off of an extension of 1-year agreement that expired in May of 2019. No official agreement was presented to the OVC. Curt has reached out to the City of Ottawa to request a funding agreement with no luck thus far. In addition, legal council may need to be reconsidered as the same firm represents the City of Ottawa and it could be a conflict of interest.	N/A	N/A

Director's Report	General advertisements are running promoting activities in Ottawa that you can do while social distancing. Buffalo Rock video tied with the advertisements. Receiving requests for information but not as much as last month. Facebook advertisements running. Looking for Lincoln visitor's guides are distributed with special section on Ottawa. Virtual Looking for Lincoln on August 12, at 7 p.m. Video to come. Curt has requested information on an NCICG EDA grant marketing grant with 70-80% match. Restaurant week - local farmers and 3-4 restaurants have agreed to participate, another 3-4 restaurants are considering. Renters are in and conducting business. The extension to the reservation of the parking space in the front of the facility for the renter next door has been extended through September. Music in the park, art in the park, sidewalk sales, and a car show should still be taking place.	N/A	N/A
Committee Report	Operations - Marketing - Finance emailed -	Moved by Hank Wolf 2nd by Mike Hodge	Motion to place the July 2020 Finance report on file. Motion carried.
Adjournment	6:06 p.m.	Moved by Caitlin Parker, 2nd Mary Beth LeSeure	Motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes typed and submitted by Caitlin Parker, Meeting, July 27, 2020 - Quorum was established