

**MEETING MINUTES
ST THOMAS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 8:00AM VIA ZOOM**

Attendance:

Chair - Earl Taylor	Y	Advisors:	
Vice Chair - Dave Thomson	N	Sean Dyke	N
Treasurer - Sarah Van Pelt	N	Tara McCaulley	Y
Beautification Chair - Grayden Laing	N	Adrienne Jefferson	N
Promotions Chair - Susan Boldt	Y	Megan Pickersgill	N
Reza Alavie	Y	Paul Jenkins	Y
Russell Schnurr	Y		
Ian Gillespie	Y	Annette S'barra	Y
Duane Orth	Y	Guests - Tina Swaenepoel	N
Mayor Joe Preston	Y	Rob Burns	Y
		Bob Ward	N

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:05am meeting Quorum.

Mission: To cultivate a community of all Downtown property and business owners and residents, while advocating, beautifying and actively promoting our businesses and authentic heritage in Downtown St Thomas

Vision: To engage, inspire and welcome our community and visitors to experience Downtown St Thomas as a unique destination.

- 2. Declaration of Conflict:**

No new Declarations presented

- 3. Confirmation of Agenda**

Motion by Duane, Seconded by Paul, "To confirm the September 8, 2021 Agenda as distributed." Carried

- 4. Confirmation of Minutes**

Motion by Joe, Seconded by Ian, "To confirm the minutes of the August 4, 2021 meeting as distributed" Carried

Note: Meeting Minutes can be found at www.downtownstthomas.ca/monthly-minutes

- 5. Chair Report**

Social Media

Earl reported that our Twitter account @stthomasddb now has 533 Followers (was 533 last month), our DDB Facebook page www.FB/downtownstthomas has 2068 Likes (was 2042 last month) and our Instagram/stthomasDDB page has 1125 Followers (Was 1123 last month).

Crime Prevention / CCTV Cameras

Earl reported that all 8 cameras are working now and assisting STPS in solving issues in our Downtown.

Downtown Summer Students

Earl reported that our two Summer Student have completed their June 28th to August 27th summer employment. Once they complete assisting at the Nostalgia Nights Car Show we will file for reimbursement with Canada Summer Jobs

Our third employee, Joseph Schuit, continues to work until October 1st, as a liaison between merchants and our DDB.

The students spent a day applying a coat of darkened double boiled linseed oil. This will protect them for another 2-3 years.

Downtown Issues

Earl reported that Mental health, homeless and garbage issues continue. Thanks to STPS for their continuing Downtown patrol support.

COVID-19 Update

Earl reported that the province has decided to implement a Vaccine passport effective September 22nd. In discussions with a few Downtown restaurant owners, mixed reviews were received. Merchants will now have to police their customers to validate their passport however if it means avoiding a 4th shutdown, they agreed that they will make it happen.

Downtown Business Street Signs

Earl reported that a new sign for Bobs Bud is on order.

Downtown Dollars

Earl reported that, thanks to Annette's data collection, \$415.00 DDB Dollars were redeemed in August. \$10.00 from the August 2020 VIBE and \$0.00 Christmas Care DDB Dollars were redeemed in August. The full report has been filed. Thanks to Susan and Annette for their dedication to responding to the many calls and picking up redeemed DDB Dollars and issuing cheques.

Cross Street Banner

Earl reported that the Nostalgia Nights banner was installed on the Talbot and Horton Street poles on September 1st. The Love Where You Shop banner will replace the Nostalgia Nights banner on September 20th. The Emma Reinke banner will be removed at that time as well.

Banners

Earl reported that he worked with Moonlight Painters on August 29th to replace 20 Canada Flag banners and to repair 7 Historic banners.

South Western Public Health

Earl reported that Peter Heywood connected to discuss the proliferation of discarded needles. Mayor Preston is taking the lead with this project. However, Mr Heywood presented a plan to offer a small sharps container to every Downtown business.

Bridges Downtown Award

Earl presented the topic of the Downtown business award for the September 29th 5 -7pm Bridges to Better Business. Each year, the DDB awards a Business owner this award for their work and dedication to making our Downtown a better place. A brief discussion took place.

Motion by Paul, Seconded by Russell, "That the DDB present the 2021 Downtown Business Award to Sandy Vasquez of CTP Computers for his commitment, dedication and promotion of Downtown St Thomas" Carried

Planters

Adrienne reported that the 2021 fall Mums (Yellow / Purple) will be installed on September 13th and 14th program. Earl reported that Moonlight Painters has been contracted to begin the watering process on September 15th and will continue through to late October when the Mums are removed.

Crosswalks

Earl reported that he submitted a letter to City Council asking that the existing, non pedestrian friendly Courtesy Crosswalks be eliminated in our Downtown and replaced with normal pedestrian friendly crosswalks. The issue was written up in the Ian McCallum CityScope blog as was part of the September 7th City Council agenda.

Downtown Dollars Promotion

Earl presented a proposal to sell Downtown Dollars at a discounted price for the 2021 Christmas holiday season. The thought presented was to sell our DDB Dollars at a 25% reduction beginning October 1st through to December 24th.

Motion by Reza, Seconded by Duane, "To initiate a Christmas / Holiday DDB Dollars promotion to sell a maximum of \$100,000 Downtown Dollars at a 25% reduced value beginning October 1st and ending December 24th, 2021. Carried.

6. Finance Report

Earl reported that the 2020 audit has been completed however no auditors report has been made available at this time.

Earl provided an update on the accounts that were paid in August.

Motion by Russell, Seconded by Joe, "To accept the financial report and to pay the outstanding bills" Carried

7. Nostalgia Nights Car Show - Saturday September 18, 2021

Earl chaired the Nostalgia Nights Car Show committee meeting as per the attached report.

South West Public Health has provided an approval however this event is still subject to cancellation should the province issue further Covid restrictions.

- 9. Coming Events** - dependant on COVID restrictions status.
Nostalgia Nights Car Show - Saturday September 18, 2021
Pumpkin Prowl - Friday October 29, 2021
Tree Lighting Celebration - Friday November 19, 2021

10. Adjournment

Motion by Russell, Seconded by Reza, "To adjourn the meeting at 9:04am." Carried

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 6, 2021 at 8:00AM via ZOOM Meeting