

**MEETING MINUTES  
ST THOMAS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 4, 2021 8:00AM VIA ZOOM**

Attendance:

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

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:01am 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 Tara, "To confirm the August 4, 2021 Agenda as distributed." Carried

- 4. Confirmation of Minutes**

Note: there was no regular monthly meeting held in July. Downtown Chat 2 was held in lieu of the monthly meeting.

Motion by Duane, Seconded by Susan, "To confirm the minutes of the June 2, 2021 meeting as distributed" Carried

Note: Meeting Minutes can be found at [www.downtownstthomas.ca/monthly-minutes](http://www.downtownstthomas.ca/monthly-minutes)

- 5. Chair Report**

Social Media

Earl reported that our Twitter account @stthomasddb now has 533 Followers (was 528 last month), our DDB Facebook page [www.FB/downtownstthomas](http://www.FB/downtownstthomas) has 2042 Likes (was 1902 last month) and our Instagram/stthomasDDB page has 1123 Followers (Was 1117 last month).

### Crime Prevention / CCTV Cameras

Earl reported that the 5 remaining cameras have been installed and are now in operation. Cameras are now installed at the following Talbot Street intersection - St George, Elgin, Hiawatha, Moore, Ross, Manitoba, CASO and Woodworth.

### Downtown Summer Students

Earl reported that two Summer Student have been hired for our DDB Clean Team to pickup garbage and sweep the sidewalks. Travis Holt and Blake Lickman started work on June 28th and will work through to August 27th.

A third employee, Joseph Schuit, has been hired to work as a liaison between merchants and our DDB. The main focus at this time is to educate our businesses about the Downtown Dollar program and to get more businesses to sign up to accept them.

### Downtown Issues

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

Earl reported that he met with Julie Rice and Jessica Mostert-Thiessen of Indwell on July 27th to get an understanding of their plans to develop Downtown housing units.

### COVID-19 Update

Earl reported that Ontario entered into Phase 3 on July 16th and things are beginning to return to normal in our Downtown.

See <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions> for more info.

### Downtown Business Street Signs

Earl reported that a new sign was installed at Taste Makers and Amy Thompson Photography as well as Lockwood Books. New signs for Bob's Bud and The Broke Vaper are on order.

### Downtown Dollars

Earl reported that, thanks to Annette's data collection, \$740.00 DDB Dollars were redeemed in June and \$185.00 were redeemed in July. \$0.00 from the August VIBE and \$0.00 Christmas Care DDB Dollars were redeemed in June and July. 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 a new banner for Emma Reinke - Paralympic participant was installed on Wednesday July 28th using the Talbot and New Street poles.

Earl also reported that our new poles have been installed further east from the original L&PS Station location to a new location at Talbot and Horton. The Love Where You Shop banner is currently installed.

### Parks Dept Funding

Earl reported that Adrienne has submitted a request for the 2021 fall Mums program. When the petunias are removed we have typically plant fall Mums.

Motion by Susan, Seconded by Duane, "To confirm our budgeted allotment of \$1,000.00 to allow Parks Dept to purchase 162 Fall Mums for an early September planting and a mid October removal, in our 27 planter urns" Carried

#### Downtown Chat 2

Earl reported that 2nd Downtown Chat was attended by 17 people who listened to Mayor Preston, Chief Herridge and Andrew Gunn provide updates on Downtown issues.

#### STEAM Centre

Earl reported that a June 28 - July 2, 2021 Instagram Virtual Marketplace program initiated by the STEAM Centre was a success. The \$250 prize basket of Downtown was awarded to Helen St Jacques and the Virtual Tour was awarded to Alines Fine Lingerie.

#### L&PS Clock Vandalism

Earl reported that the new clock mechanism has been installed and the clock is now functioning fine. Thanks to Dan Vernackt from McKinnon Electric.

#### Crosswalks

Earl reported that he received a call in regards to the unsafe conditions of Courtesy Crosswalks. A letter has been submitted to City Council asking that the existing, non pedestrian friendly Courtesy Crosswalks be eliminated in our Downtown and replaced with normal pedestrian friendly crosswalks.

### **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 June and July.

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

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

Earl reported that the Special Events Committee approved the Nostalgia Nights Car Show on July 28th. South West Public Health has provided an approval however this event is still subject to cancellation should the province issue further Covid restrictions. A Nostalgia Nights Car Show Meeting was held to cover the items on the attached Schedule of Event chart.

### **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 Grayden, Seconded by Susan, "To adjourn the meeting at 9:09am." Carried

**Next Meeting: Wednesday September 1, 2021 at 8:00AM via ZOOM Meeting**