

GRAND BEND & AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Executive Meeting
Wednesday August 19, 2009
Chamber Office

- 1) President, George MacDermid, called the meeting to order at 9:25am.
Present: George MacDermid, Phil Gaudreault, George Appel, Stephanie Weber, Brianne Haist, and Christine Bregman.

- 2) **Motion: moved by Phil and seconded by Stephanie to approve the agenda with the additions of 5 d) Built accessibility; 5 e) Jack Powell's resignation; 6 c) Fax machine purchase; 6 d) Office hours August 31st to September 5th; 8 b) OTMP Summit; c) Visitors' Guide tender and contract; and 9 d) First Impressions Exchange. Carried.**

- 3) Previous Minutes
 - a) No error or omissions.
 - b) **Motion: moved by Phil and seconded by Stephanie to approve the minutes from July 22, 2009. Carried.**
 - c) Business Arising
 - i) The Municipality of Lambton Shores held a public information center (PIC) for the proposed Grand Bend Main St. improvement plan. It was noted that there were no comment cards at the PIC. The project is expected to be completed by June 2010 with hopes of being finished in the fall of 2009. Chamber members have raised an issue about emergency vehicle access given that the vehicle portion of the street will be narrowed.
Motion: moved by Phil and seconded by Stephanie to send a letter to the Municipality requesting assurance that emergency vehicles will be able to pass on Main Street during periods of high traffic volume. Carried.
 - ii) Four possibly five executive positions will be vacant at the end of this chamber year. George M. and Christine will begin a search for 2010 executive members.

- 4) Financial Report
 - a) The current bank balance is \$2,828.68. Membership invoices will be sent out October 1st.
Motion: moved by Phil and seconded by Brianne to accept the Financial Report. Carried.
 - b) Budget
 - **Motion: moved by George A. and seconded by Stephanie to increase the membership dues to \$150 per year. Carried.**
 - Advertising rates in the 2010 Visitors' Guide will be increase by 10 percent.
 - **Motion: moved by Phil and seconded by Stephanie to raise the manager's rate of pay by \$1.25 per hour retroactive to August 1, 2009. Carried.**
 - George A. will present a revised budget at the next executive meeting.

- 5) Correspondence
 - a) Complaints
 - i) Traffic flow on Highway 21 – tabled.
 - ii) Beach Huts – tabled.
 - iii) Village Inn Motel and Diner – tabled.
 - b) Lambton Shores will hold a public open house for their new Official Plan on August 25, 2009 from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm.
 - c) Stephanie and Christine will review the Canadian Chamber of Commerce resolutions to determine whether to give the Ontario Chamber of Commerce a proxy.
 - d) Built accessibility – tabled.
 - e) President MacDermid accepted Jack Powell’s resignation.

- 6) Manager’s Report
 - a) Monthly statistics and activities are included with the minutes.
 - b) Reports
 - i) Christine will prepare a letter to Lambton Shores council requesting support for a funding increase to Tourism Sarnia Lambton.
 - c) Christine will investigate using the office computers for faxing purposes.
 - d) Office hours for the August 31st to September 5th will be 10 am to 5 pm.

- 7) EDC Report

The EDC report is included with the minutes.

Motion: moved by George A. and seconded by Stephanie to obtain the assistance of Fanshawe College students to study parking and traffic flow; to determine the feasibility of a Grand Bend Community and Conference Centre; to determine the feasibility of a not-for-profit parking and shuttle corporation; and to draft a marketing plan. Carried.

Discussion:

 - The EDC was instructed to develop their initiatives into full resolutions for the AGM.
 - A not-for-profit parking corporation could operate from the chamber office to offset chamber overhead costs.

Motion: moved by Brianne and seconded by Phil to accept the EDC report. Carried.

Discussion:

 - A chamber resolution should be written to request that the Municipality replace parking spaces lost through renovations.
 - Christine will confirm the land ownership of the walkway from the north harbour wall to Eilber St.

- 8) Marketing
 - a) Christine will prepare the Marketing Survey questions.
 - b) **Motion: moved by Stephanie and seconded by Phil to send Christine to the 2009 OTMP Summit. Carried.**

c) Visitors' Guide tender and contract – tabled.

9) New Business

a) Thanksgiving market

i) Location – tabled.

ii) Chamber involvement – tabled.

b) The next General Meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2009.

c) Christine will inquire with Hessianland about holding the AGM at their facility.

d) First Impressions Exchange – tabled.

10) The next Executive Meeting will be held Thursday September 17, 2009 at the Chamber Office at 9:00 am.

11) The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.