

St. Catharines Downtown Association
Board of Management *Zoom Meeting*
Thursday May 28, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Present: John Blanchard, Tracey Findlay, Sal Sorrento, Mike Mazzolino, Robin McPherson, Joe Viola, Jennifer Wallace, Scott Wark, Tisha Polocko

Regrets: David Cooperman, Brian Gasbarini, Joe Critelli

Call to order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Zoom conference call.

Downtown Street Closure

The city of St. Catharines has asked that we comment on the consideration of the closure of a section of St. Paul Street on the weekends during the summer months. Various other Cities in Ontario and around the world are looking at street closures to help people navigate social distancing during this time. The closure would help the restaurants (once they are able to open to allow for patrons to dine out) and retailers. The city has agreed to forgo fees associated with sidewalk and pop up patios for the 2020 season.

The City would have to make sure that measures would be put in place to ensure that this street closure would not impede waste collection, deliveries or emergency access in any way.

The City would also have to give the Association a breakdown of the cost involved and what they are asking of the Association in regards to this financially.

The Board discussed this in length and agreed that a survey should go out as soon as possible to the members polling them regarding weekend street closures to vehicular traffic.

Tisha will follow up with the survey results to the Board so that a formal response can be sent to the City as soon as possible.

Seasonal Banners

The Association had budgeted for seasonal banners for this year.

Tisha Polocko asked that given the current situation going on with reference to the Covid 19 pandemic should the Association be considering spending funds on this type of capital expense at this time.

Board members were all in agreement that this is not the correct time to be spending funds in this way and that budget allocation should be considered elsewhere to help with relief efforts for our members

Termination of meeting

The meeting was terminated a 10:41 a.m.