
Memorandum

To: Budget Committee

Cc: Shelley Chemnitz, Commissioner Corporate Services
Kristine Douglas, Director of
Margaret Kreuk

From: Oakes, David

Date: February 9, 2016

Subject: Hanging Basket Follow-Up

For your reference PRCS contacted the Downtown Association, Port Dalhousie BIA and Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce. A summary of excerpted responses are below.

- **Downtown Association**

Received February 2nd:

"We have a special Board Meeting scheduled on Monday February 8th to discuss this issue. I will not have any further information until after that meeting and the Board has reviewed the request. Our budget had been approved by the Board back in December and was already sent out to the membership prior to the request from the City. I have to seek Board approval to change our Budget at this point as it then still has to go to the AGM to be approved by the membership on February 23rd."

On February 9th PRCS has been informed that the DTA has opted not to support the hanging basket partnership request.

- **Port BIA**

Received February 2nd:

"On behalf of the Port Dalhousie Business Association I'd like to indicate that we do not support such a funding partnership at this time. As residents paying personal municipal tax, business owners paying commercial municipal tax, and as members of a BIA paying into the BIA tax levy, we find it challenging to extend ourselves further to pay for what we feel are primary elements of living in the "Garden City". Our Board voted to contribute to buying additional sidewalk planters as a joint partnership with the City and we are funding other initiatives to help beautify the commercial core of Port Dalhousie."

- **GNCC**

Received January 27th:

"Thank you for sending the letter. As I mentioned, this is not an initiative that the GNCC can take on, however I can suggest some connections....."

Regards,

Dave Oakes

From: Tisha Polocko [<mailto:tisha@mydowntown.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:51 AM

To: Mayor, Councillors, Dan Carnegie, David Oakes

Subject: Funding request for hanging baskets

Dear Mayor Sendzik, City Councillors and Budget Committee:

The Board of Management for the St. Catharines Downtown Association held a special board meeting yesterday to discuss the request from the City to cover the cost of the Downtown Hanging Baskets. After much discussion the board unanimously felt that this request could not be fulfilled in the 2016 budget year.

The annual budget for the Association was drafted by October of last year and carefully vetted by the Executive Committee and voted on by the Board of Directors in November. The Budget was then sent out to our membership prior to our Annual General meeting as stipulated in our organizational By-laws and is then ratified at our Annual General Meeting by our membership prior to being sent to the City of St. Catharines by March 1 of each year.

The Association can certainly review a request by the City for inclusion in our 2017 budget if received in advance of the budget process. The request for the 2016 hanging baskets was sent to the Association by email on January 22, 2016 with an answer requested by January 28, 2016. Prior knowledge of this request was informally known of due to an article in the local newspaper.

The St. Catharines Downtown Association has always maintained the objective of its Business Improvement Area (BIA) Mandate; to improve, beautify and maintain space within the BIA; as well as to promote the area as a business and shopping destination.

Over the last 43 years the St. Catharines BIA has secured and maintained a variety of beautification efforts in the downtown core such as banners, tree lights, holiday décor, garbage receptacles, cigarette butt receptacles, graffiti and gum removal, installation and maintenance of 4 information kiosks, planter box programs as well as a number other initiatives.

The Association continues to be receptive to working with the City and we have worked on many joint projects with a number of City departments.

The Board of Management looks forward to continuing working in partnership with the City of St. Catharines as we maintain our own balance and adhere to our mandate and the priorities of our property owners and members who pay into the BIA Levy.

We acknowledge that many elements towards revitalization efforts have taken place in our Downtown Core and we are very pleased that the heart of the City is starting to see

improvement. It has been and continues to be a very hard struggle for commercial property owners and business tenants in the Downtown who have been impacted by the years of construction and the economy. We would like to see the overall climate continue to progress forward so we do not lose any further businesses and see our vacancies fill up. The new facilities are now open and in place and our members look forward to seeing positive impacts as we move forward.

We trust that the City and Budget Committee can understand that this request, at a date well beyond our budget being set, is not feasible. We respectfully ask that in the future communication of any requests come forward prior to our budget deliberations for consideration.

Yours truly,

Tisha Polocko

Executive Director

St. Catharines Downtown Association

80 King Street, main floor

St. Catharines, ON

905 685 8424 ext. 23 cell: 905 329 8427

tisha@mydowntown.ca

www.mydowntown.ca

DOWNTOWN
St. Catharines