

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY DOWNTOWN BOARD
& ST. ALBANS FOR THE FUTURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012
5:30 PM
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL
100 NORTH MAIN STREET
APPROVED: October 16, 2012

Board Members Present:

Elizabeth Gamache (Chair), Jeff Bean, Mike Blouin, Katy Collin, Tim Hawkins, Sandy Mayotte, Mike McCarthy, Laz Scangas, Jim Walsh, and Jeff Young.

Board Members Absent:

Dominic Cloud (non-voting), Peter Ford, John Holzscheiter.

Public Present: Sharon Holcomb.

Staff Present: Chip Sawyer.

1. Call to Order

Chair Liz Gamache called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

2. Downtown Program Update

Acting Downtown Manager Chip Sawyer gave the program update. There was a discussion about what will occur for the City/Town's 250th birthday in 2013. Possibly link to Bay Day and existing events. Interest in purchasing special banners for the occasion.

3. Update on financial status of St. Albans for the Future

Financial update given by Sandy Mayotte later in the meeting. No change to SAFF bank account.

4. VT Downtown Program Assessment Process

The VT Downtown Program Assessment procedure was discussed, as well as committee meeting times with the Chairs.

5. Discuss Downtown Implementation Table and Strategic Planning

Chip Sawyer reported that there had been a discussion among Board Officers and Cmte Chairs about formalizing said group into an "Executive Cmte" to discuss overall strategy and direction for SAFF/Downtown Program. The Implementation Table would be used as a way to track progress of initiatives toward agreed-upon goals.

There was general support on the Downtown Board for moving in this direction. Staff will work on a concept for the roles of this Cmte in relation to the Downtown Board and existing committees.

6. Update on Façade Program

Chip Sawyer gave an update on the City Council's decision to approve a second round of the Façade Program. The Downtown Board then discussed the merits of paying for "paint-only" improvements – concern on one end and support on the other. Staff was advised to limit the number of paint-only projects proposed to the Board.

7. Committee Updates

- a. Design - Committee needs to meet.
- b. Promotions - Reviewed last committee meeting.
- c. Economic Restructuring – No meeting since last Board meeting, but went other ongoing initiatives.
- d. Organization – Will be meeting to discuss appropriations policies, once more work is done on overall program strategy.

8. Project Updates

- a. Streetscape – Update given by Chip Sawyer
- b. Downtown Website – Update given by Chip Sawyer
- c. Taylor Park Fountain – A special fund has been designated by the City Council to house donations and other funding for refurbishing the Fountain. Liz Gamache said that community members would be invited to join a campaign.

9. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mike Blouin to approve the minutes of 8/21/12 as presented. Seconded by Jeff Young and approved by all, except for Tim Hawkins, Sandy Mayotte and Laz Scangas, abstaining.

10. Other Business\

There was some discussion about the City's new sidewalk along Lake St. in front of Mylan.

Jeff Bean spoke about the need to keep U.S. and Canadian border crossings open with ample hours to facilitate business/tourism travel.

Jeff Bean asked about possibility that buildings under construction be required to post "coming soon" banners or similar.

Tim Hawkins stated his displeasure with campaign signs in the Park and planter areas. Such signs are removed by the City when discovered.

Discussion on reinstating bus service between St. Albans and Montreal. Liz Gamache has spoken with Federal Delegation and Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and public meetings may be on the way.

Liz Gamache stated the need for outreach to the public on the City's 11/6 ballot article on the TIF "debt ceiling." P.R. is being developed. Liz asked if Board members could be ambassadors of TIF, which will do much to revitalize the Downtown. Examples were discussed.

11. Public Comment

No public comment.

12. Adjourn

Motion by Jim Walsh to adjourn. Seconded by Mike McCarthy and approved unanimously.