

Heritage Kenora Meeting Minutes

17 March 2021

9:30am

Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Tim Davidson - Chair

Randy Jackson

Jeff Port

David Nelson

Chirag Patney

Rory McMillan - council rep

Braden Murray - ex officio

Melissa Shaw - ex officio

Keely-Shaye Shumka - ex officio

REGRETS: N/A

1. Call to Order by Chair Tim Davidson

Meeting was called to order at 9:30

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Conflicts

None

New Business - CIP Applications

3. - 305 Matheson St S - The Kenora Veterinary Clinic

- The Kenora Vet Clinic application is being made by owner Celine Ward

- The plans were circulated prior to the meeting and everyone had a chance to look at them.

3.1 Discussion - Re: 305 Matheson St S - The Kenora Veterinary Clinic

- There was discussion about how public the upper section of the building would be— would people be allowed to go up there?

- Several members expressed happiness that the property/building would be getting a face lift.

The ask was reviewed with members:

\$1350 matching funds for signage,
\$1000 matching funds for planning and design
\$15000 matching funds for building facade improvement
for a total application of \$17,350

Motion to accept this application for 305 Matheson St S - The Kenora Veterinary Clinic as submitted:

Moved by Jeff Port
Seconded by David Nelson

All in favour? **Unanimous approval**

4. CIP Application - Flowers by the Lake

- There was a brief presentation about the proposal by city staff
- it was made clear that this was an application by the owner of Flowers by the Lake, Kyla Jorgenson, not by the owners of the building who received CIP funding last year.
- The application is seeking funding for:
\$1725 for signage

4.1 Discussion - Re: Flowers by the Lake

- There was a question about the lights. The goose neck style seems to be quite prevalent in the downtown. Everything feels very same-same.
- City staff noted that the sign bylaw was due for a robust review, and that members of Heritage Kenora could be involved in the process.
- One member reminded the committee that everything looking similar was the point of the sign bylaw 10 years ago ("Be careful what you wish for because you just might get it"), and further it was meant to make the downtown look like "Main St Ontario" and not like cluttered highway signage.
- The members agreed that the current bylaw is better than the previous alternative
- It was also mentioned that the sign bylaw was partially driven by fear of legal liability. Over hanging signs were largely done away with because of the dangers of falling ice.
- The example of Market Square was brought up as a successful use of lights in signage that was neither traditional back lighting nor

The ask was reviewed for the members:

\$1725 matching funds for signage
For a total application of \$1725

Motion to accept this application for Re: Flowers by the Lake:

Moved by Randy Jackson

Seconded by Jeff Port

All in favour? **Unanimous consent**

5. Other Business

5.1 Welcoming of a new Member

- Chirag Patney was welcomed by the committee
- Chirag recently moved to Kenora from southern Ontario and has experience in heritage planning in Halton Hills.
- Chirag was brought up to speed on what Heritage Kenora does, the CIP programme, and local heritage concerns

5.2 - CIP Funding

- There was a review of how much funding was left in the CIP pot after this most recent meeting
- Per city staff:

January, 2021 Approvals:

Black Oven - \$35,500

45 Matheson Street - \$23,375

Total approved: \$58,875

To be approved - applications in house for residential conversion:

45 Matheson Street - housing conversion - \$12,000

March, 2021 Approvals:

Kenora Vet Clinic - façade, signage, planning - \$17,350

Flowers by the Lake- \$1725

Total approved + in house = \$89,950--> \$100,000 - \$89950 =
\$10,050 remaining 2021 budget

- It was acknowledged by the committee that the number of applications has nearly used up the entire budget line, and there is still nine months left in the year
- City staff confirmed there were more applications in the pipeline, including some large projects

- The committee questioned if we should be looking at limiting what people can apply for
- The committee agreed that first we should explore asking for more resources for the programme before we start limiting people
- One member commented that property owners were spending \$3-5 private dollars for every public dollar invested. This programme is a force multiplier, and if we can encourage people to spend on improvements in covid times then we should aggressively pursue that.
- There was a thought that the Committee could send a letter to council asking for more money for the programme.

5.3 - Black Oven CIP Application Clarification

- A committee member asked if there had been clarification on the subject of whether Heritage Kenora should support back lane improvements under “secondary facades”
- there was some consensus that the limited monies available should go to public facing areas, and that secondary facade issues can be decided on a case by case bases. For example some applications have secondary facades because they are on corners.
- This is something that will be part of an ongoing discussion with the committee

6. Question about the Municipal Heritage Register

- A member was reviewing the Municipal Heritage Register, and asked what the term “consent received” meant on the register
- It wasn’t immediately known, but city staff surmised it was based on the ideal that the City of Kenora and Heritage Kenora do not perform hostile heritage designations like some other municipalities. It has been the policy of Heritage Kenora to get the property owners consent and permission before moving forward with a designation.
- It was left with city staff to investigate. An email has since been sent with clarification that the consent was for the property to be added to the heritage registry, not that consent was obtained for historical designation.
- A member suggested that we look at some heritage designations for the April meeting. There was general consensus that was a good idea, and some members expressed that they would like to get back into the heritage designation business.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22am