



Minutes

Municipality of Thames Centre

Thames Centre Special Events Committee

February 14, 2024, 12:00 P.M.

**Municipal Office - Council Chambers
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON**

Members Present: C. Crockett, Chair/Council Representative
M. Murray, Vice-Chair/Community Representative
P. Wearne, Community Representative
A. Marr, Community Representative
K. Carter, Community Representative
S. Baker, Community Representative
N. Abra, Community Representative
J. Kraft, Community Representative
M. Mundy, Community Representative

Members Absent: D. Lockie, Council Representative

Staff Present: J. Nethercott, Staff Resource
S. Henshaw, Recording Secretary

1. Call To Order

Chair Crockett called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. Previous Minutes

Resolution # TCSEC-001-2024

Moved by: P. Wearne

Seconded by: A. Marr

THAT the minutes of the Thames Centre Special Events Committee meeting held on December 6, 2023, be received.

Carried.

4. Presentations/Delegations

No items.

5. Reports of Staff

5.1 C-TCSEC-001-24 - 2023 Budget Recap

J. Nethercott presented Report No. C-TCSEC-001-24 regarding 2023 Budget Recap.

There was some discussion regarding previous budgets for the committee.

5.2 C-TCSEC-002-24 - 2024 Events

There was discussion on the following events:

Canada Day

- Overview of previous activities -
 - fireworks, pancake breakfast, bike decorating contest, opening ceremonies, BBQ, beer tent, bands, inflatables
- Fireworks - possibility of food trucks

BridgeFest

- Relocation - moving from bridge/Hamilton Road to Dorchester Community Park
 - Large effort to close the road -
 - minimal set up time for staff
 - 401 overpass construction - road closure is not guaranteed
 - Large effort moving required assets to location -
 - power, stage, lighting, etc.
 - amenities already exist at the park
 - Dorchester Community Park -
 - lots of seating and shade
 - accessible pathway
 - lots of parking
- Renaming to "CornFest"
 - Committee can discuss other types of events on bridge in future

Movie Nights

Reducing the number of Movie Nights in the summer to 2 (1 in Dorchester & 1 in Thorndale)

- Low attendance
- Possibility for Dippin Dotz, ice cream trucks, etc.

There was some discussion regarding the following:

- Social media and the Municipality's role in promoting events
- Potential committee sponsorship of the Youth Back 40 Event in Thorndale

It was advised that a proposed community funding program will be coming to a future meeting of Council for consideration, where organizations will be able to apply to receive funds from the Municipality directly.

There was some discussion regarding potentially earmarking any remaining funds for a family-friendly event in Thorndale.

Festival of Lights

- Coordination with local school schedules (PA Days)
- Potential for lighting in Thorndale and locations

New Year's Eve

- Good turnout last year
- Need more time to plan
- Potential for New Year's Eve Events in both Dorchester and Thorndale this year

Staff advised that should the committee wish, a subcommittee could be created to focus on sponsorship for events.

There was some discussion on potentially scheduling an additional date for Cornfest (Sunday, September 8th, 2024).

Resolution # TCSEC-002-2024

Moved by: J. Kraft

Seconded by: M. Murray

THAT Canada Day Events be scheduled for Sunday, June 30th, 2024 and Monday, July 1st, 2024:

AND THAT Bridgefest be renamed to “Cornfest”, be relocated to the Dorchester Community Park, and be scheduled for Saturday, September 7th, 2024;

AND THAT two Movie Nights be scheduled in 2024, one in Dorchester and one in Thorndale.

Carried.

6. Committee Business

No items.

7. Correspondence

No items.

8. Unfinished Business

No items.

9. New Business

9.1 Thames Centre - Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)

Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day

S. Henshaw advised that the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) passed a resolution to consult with the Thames Centre Special Events Committee (TCSEC) with respect to an Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day and provided background on EAC's discussions regarding this event.

There was some discussion on the following:

- Earth Day event ideas (picking up garbage, etc.)
- Potential for Scouts wanting to volunteer

The committee provided direction to staff to obtain information from the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) on more detailed plans and budgeting for the Tree Planting Day.

9.2 Thames Centre - Accessibility & Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC)

Pride Celebration

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Diwali

J. Nethercott advised that the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC) wanted to reach out to the Thames Centre Special Events Committee (TCSEC) with respect to assisting with their Pride Celebration, and possibly taking over hosting commemorations for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Diwali.

There was some discussion on the following:

- 2024 scheduled dates of these events
- Background on previous Pride Celebrations - dates & locations
- Thames Centre's recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The committee provided direction to staff to advise that the Thames Centre Special Events Committee (TCSEC) feels that the Pride Celebration and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation are best situated under scope of the Accessibility and Accessibility Advisory Committee (AIAC), and that Diwali (being a religious holiday) does not fit within the TCSEC Terms of Reference. TCSEC is happy to support any requests for volunteers and to also share existing assets and event resources for any event that AIAC wishes to host.

10. Scheduling of Meetings

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss it was:

Resolution # TCSEC-003-2024

Moved by: P. Wearne

Seconded by: N. Abra

RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn at 1:14 p.m.

Carried.