DOWNTOWN ORILLIA BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the DOBIA Board, Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Present:	Doug Cooper, In the Chair Jennie May Banks, Vice Chair Megan Murray, Secretary Michael Fredson, Treasurer Darcy MacDonell, Director Jenna French, Director Councillor David Campbell	Absent:	Ruth Howorth, Director Jeff Gilbert, Director

Also Present: Tarah Harper, DOBIA Membership Coordinator
Dawn Nita, DWN Chocolate

Open Session

Chair- Doug Cooper

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Jennie May Banks

"THAT, the Downtown Orillia Business Improvement Area approve the agenda as amended for the May 19, 2026, to include the deputation from KRG Insurance."
Carried.

Disclosure of Interest

None declared.

Deputations

1. Alison Jones, Office Manager KRG Insurance re – DOBIA Insurance Plan

Minutes

1. Moved by Darcy MacDonald, seconded by Michael Fredson.

"THAT, the minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, be approved as distributed."
Carried.

Reports

1. Tarah Harper, Membership Coordinator, re – Partnership Organizations
   Moved by Jennie May Banks, seconded by Michael Fredson.

   No organizations present.

   "THAT, the Partnership Organizations report be received."
   Carried.

2. Michael Fredson, Treasurer, re – Financial Report
   Moved by Darcy MacDonell, seconded by Jennie May Banks.

   Some submitted items have not been posted, it is challenging to ensure our reporting is accurate.

   "THAT, the financial report be received and approved as presented."
   Carried.

3. Megan Murray, Secretary, re – Financial Independence
   Moved by Jennie May Banks, seconded by Michael Fredson.

   It was decided that the DOBIA should formally pursue financial independence from the municipality. The executive will undertake the creation of a plan of transition to present to the board.

   "THAT, the financial independence report be received.

   AND THAT, the board will move forward with financial independence from the municipality.

   AND THAT, work toward financial independence will be pursued in Executive Committee."
   Carried.

4. Tarah Harper, DOBIA Membership Coordinator, re – Office Report
   Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Jennie May Fredson.

   "THAT, the Office Report be received as information."
   Carried.

5. Standing Committee Reports
   a. Megan Murray, Secretary re – Beautification, Maintenance & Streetscape
      Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Jennie May Banks.

      The DOBIA light strands require thorough inspection for repair and replacement. Summer beautification initiatives include purchasing 30 planters and plant inserts for $2500 to create an improved experience and reduce asset movement. Members are encouraged to decorate for pride and especially for the Pride on the Patio event. Streets Alive has a a budget request for $2500 to cover the Peter St. corner fences in reusable greenery. Due to unforeseen events the mural portion of the project is postponed.

"THAT, the Beautification, Maintenance & Streetscaping report be received.

AND THAT, 30 planters, plants and sandbags be purchased for no more than $2500.

AND THAT, privacy greenery be purchased to cover the fences at the corner of Peter St. S and Mississaga St. E."
Carried.

a. Jennie May Banks, Director re – Marketing, Promotions & Sponsorship
Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Darcy MacDonell.

Mariposa Folk Fest budget is $500 more than projected budget. Requests have come in from the Starry Night event and from the Pirate Party event as well. The event planning budget is now projected to be over-budget. Reviews for the Starry Night request budget will also be made as there are items the BIA can provide at no cost.

"THAT, the report on Marketing, Promotions and Sponsorship be received."
Carried.

6. David Campbell, Council Representative re – City of Orillia Council Report
Moved by Darcy MacDonell, seconded by Michael Fredson.

"THAT, the City of Orillia Council report be received."
Carried.

7. Michael Fredson and Doug Cooper, re –Transportation and Parking Working Group Report
Moved by David Campbell, seconded by Darcy MacDonell.

"THAT, the City of Orillia Council report be received."
Carried.

8. Doug Cooper, Chair re – Downtown Revitalization Working Group Report
Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Jennie May Banks.

The board was presented with the proposed directions from the DRWG for comment. While the board prefers option 'A' for design, they still have concerns regarding the lifespan of the infrastructure below ground level and request an up-to-date engineering report for underground infrastructure in order the support the project as it has been presented.

"THAT, the Downtown Revitalization Working Group report be received.

AND THAT, a letter stating that Option A would be preferred by the board contingent upon receiving an up-to-date engineering report for underground infrastructure."
Carried.

9. Doug Cooper, Chair, re – Budget
   Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Jennie May Banks.

   In consideration of the 2027 budget, we may need to shift the amounts designated to events as more events are being held with the DOBIA boundaries.

   "THAT, the Budget report be received."
   Carried.

10. Megan Murray, Secretary, re – Community Safety and Trespassing
    Moved by Jennie May Banks, seconded by Darcy MacDonell

    In discussions with the Belleville BIA regarding their opt-in program, it was determined that a successful program would require significant support from the police. Belleville has a municipal police force, whereas Orillia uses the Ontario Provincial Police which may have a less direct mandate around community policing programs. Staff, the chair and secretary would like to meet with Sgt. Stoner to potentially create a Downtown Orillia Trespass Program. The board would also like to send a letter from council to explore bylaws to prevent housing people in public facing shop alcoves or providing shelter without adequate access to washrooms.

    "THAT, the Community Safety and Trespassing report be received.

    AND THAT, a letter be sent to council to explore bylaw options to restrict overnight sheltering in the public facing spaces in the downtown or providing shelter without adequate access to washrooms."
    Carried.

11. Megan Murray, Secretary, re – Governance Working Group Report
    Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Darcy MacDonell

    The board has approved the back to work policy and forms as modified from the City of Orillia staff benefits procedures. It has also approved the Maintenance Worker job description amended to include financial responsibilities around purchasing.

    "THAT, the Governance Working Group report be received

    AND THAT, the Return-to-Work policy be approved.

    AND THAT, the Job Description for Maintenance Worker be approved as amended to include financial responsibilities."
    Carried.

Closed Session

Entering Closed Session at: 9:03 PM
Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Jennie May Banks

"THAT, pursuant to Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, notice is hereby given that this Committee intends to hold a closed session meeting today in the Downtown Orillia Business Improvement Area Office, to deal with matters pursuant to Section 239(2)(b) of the said Act (personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees)."
Carried

Rising to Open Session at: 9:12PM
Moved by Michael Fredson, seconded by Jennie May Banks.

"That the Board rise to Open Session"
Carried.

Open Session

Closed Session Motions
Moved by Jennie May Banks, seconded by Michael Fredson.

"THAT, the confidential direction discussed during closed session be approved."
Carried.

Deputation Motions

Moved by Jennie May Banks, seconded by Michael Fredson.

Description of the programs and services that KRG Insurance can provide to the DOBIA. It was also recommended that the truck ownership be changed to reflect the name change from DOMB to DOBIA. The board will also be looking into Abuse coverage to be included in our insurance policy.

"THAT, the deputation regarding insurance for the DOBIA be received."
Carried.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, at 5:30PM in the DOBIA Office.

Adjournment

Moved by Darcy MacDonell, seconded by Jennie May Banks.

"THAT the meeting be adjourned."
Carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:15 PM

Doug Cooper,
Chair