Tom Scott
The Chocolate Affair
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June 12, 2007

His Worship Mayor Katz, Chairperson
Deputy Mayor Leipsic
Councillor Clement
Councillor O'Shaughnessy
Councillor Steeves
Councillor Swandel
Councillor Wyatt

Item No. 12 on the agenda for Executive Policy Committee - June 13, 2007 is the proposed name change for the French Quarter BIZ. I would hope that you give this some consideration and before allowing a change in name that will have an impact on the Business community that the membrs of EPC ask the board of the French Quarter Biz to inform their members and allow members to have a say and a vote as to whether a name change is wanted and if so what the change may be. With the green team we have the manpower to inform all members of this important change. When the process is open and inclusive of all members, then EPC could justly consider a By-law change.

A few concerns I have...

1) This name change has been requested without opportunity by the members to express their desires. Just before Mr Shepard spoke on the topic of a name change at the annual general meeting he spoke of a business owner off Provencher that wondered why he pays a BIZ tax when he does not feel he benefits. How would the businesses off Provencher feel with this name change?

2) The justification for a name change from the minutes is "the current name does not necessarily give the right impression and does not really reflect the essence of the BIZ" I agree with this and while on the board a few years ago we did start a name change that due to time and manpower did not come to be. The name "Old Saint-Boniface BIZ" was agreed to after a number of meetings with members who were notified by hand delivered notice and advertising the fact in the community newspaper. Whatever name is chosen this time it should be done with the same openness and concern for all the members.

3) The largest contributors to the BIZ are off Provencher such as Scott Screen and Wire, Parmalot, Saint-Boniface Hotel, The Nicollet Hotel, Winnipeg Elevator and others. They deserve a say.

4) An annual general meeting attended by 16 people, some who were not members does not give a true representation of the desire of all the members

I wish that I could be there in person for this presentation, but the short notice about this meeting does not give me time to make changes to my schedule and I will be at my store on Provencher Boulevard while this meeting is taking place. I thank you in advance for your time to have read this.

Sincerely

Tom Scott

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cc Councillor Dan Vandal