

FIRA Executive Meeting Minutes May 17, 2022

In Attendance:

President: Bill Odell

Vice President: **Open**

Past President: Andy Valickis

Treasurer: Joe DiFrancesco

Secretary: Carrie DiFrancesco

Member-at-large: Wayne MacKenzie

Member-at-large: Lynn Yake

Previous Business

~ The proposed changes to FIRA's bylaws that were approved at the annual general meeting (AGM) last fall were updated on the FIRA website.

~ Open VP position - We recently heard that there is a possibility of a candidate and Bill will have a meeting with her in mid-June. We may offer 2023 as continuation of current board plus new VP candidate so there is more time before assuming the president position. The rest of the board agrees to stay another year in their current positions if necessary.

~ Covid protocols and survey results - There were 26 responses, half from folks who are currently active participants in weekly activities and the others from those who plan to attend in the future.

- * As to the question of requiring vaccination to go to events in the hall, 13 indicated they would stop attending if we allowed unvaccinated people to attend activities. It appears there is enough response to not change this policy regarding vaccinations at this time so we will continue to require vaccination for activities inside the hall.
- * As to the questions regarding mask requirements, there were just 6 people who would still attend activities if masking was required while 7 others would stop attending if masks were required. The majority of people attending now are doing so under the current mask optional policy. Therefore, we will continue with the status quo.
- * The COVID situation is a moving picture so we will continue to re-evaluate as necessary in the future.
- * Current Covid Guidelines for FIRA Hall:
 - To participate in FIRA activities:
 - The 3-dose vaccination will remain a requirement
 - Up to 25 maximum participants can use the hall at one time
 - **As per provincial guidelines, the physical distancing/masking requirement is now optional. Individual groups, please continue a rapport with each other to ensure those with health concerns are given appropriate consideration and respect for their wishes.**
 - Activity Leaders will continue to monitor their group.

It is also noted that HEPA filters are now being used in our HVAC system continually filtering the air 24/7.

~ FIRA Activity & Improvement Committee - Irene Odell has researched card tables and chairs and would like to purchase the tables from Uline but needs an empty car to fit them. She would also like to buy a couple of chairs from there to test. Time and car space are holding things up but will purchase them as soon as possible.

* Other plans for this year include: Laura Golbeck is going to give us color combination options for interior painting. TVs are being looked at for a larger one with a sound bar and dart boards will be purchased. The old A/C units will be removed and wall patched before we paint. We may need a lift to remove the air conditioners and put up the drywall. We can advertise that someone can have the air conditioners otherwise they will go to the dump. Andy & Wayne will take care of this over the summer. We will assemble volunteers for the painting and will probably wait on the TV and dart boards until painting is done.

Financial update

~ Joe reviewed our finances and the current statement. FIRA dues were lowered this year, payments are coming in steady with \$5620 collected, similar to last year. So far we have 8 new households (7 of which are in the propane program). We discussed if Bill should do a short presentation at this Saturday's HLCA meeting and Bill will ask if there is room in the schedule for a last minute request. If they can't fit us in, maybe we can create a flyer for attendees and emphasize that FIRA isn't just for year-round residents, list activities and propane program. There is a FIRA page in the HLCA magazine listing benefits.

- * This year's fundraising includes about \$300 from the craft ladies and \$800 from the meat sale.
- * Hydro and propane use and cost are up, and we are doing cleaning every month now so those expenses will be higher than 2021, but our dues should still cover our base operating expenses.
- * Hall improvement financial updates: We were authorized to spend \$4,000 on improvements. So far we spent \$937 on various things. We are still planning for wall cork, dartboards, TV & sound bar, cribbage and new card tables, as well as painting.
- * For the capital plan, we are holding off on anything major until the septic inspections are done. Joe will re-check on when our septic was last pumped. If it's been 5 years, we'll get it pumped either before the inspection or during.
- * Grant applications are something we can always look at should we ever need something big. Would need to see what grants are out there and if they are actually funding things.
- * The current checking balance is \$20,852 and we expect the balance at year end to be about \$17,000, less the cost of additional hall improvements done.
- * Auditors needed to go over 2021 financial records - Bill will ask Lee Fenwick & Cindy Woodrow to volunteer.

Fundraising

~ Meat Sale has occurred. Many thanks to Graham for his hard work in running that!

~ Summer Fest - Nothing planned this year but if there is a Pancake Breakfast, the craft ladies will create some products to sell if there is enough time.

~ Pancake Breakfast - Carrie will organize this event but will require a couple of helpers for preparations before the event as well as the volunteers needed the day of. She will send out a request to see if there are enough people willing to help. If so, we may purchase a tent for an outdoor seating option to keep hall to 25 max, as well as provide a system for more take-out. Carrie also needs to see if the Independent will still donate the level they typically do. We will also need take-out containers and may ask Till Death BBQ if they could get them for us.

~ Pig Roast - Wayne will talk to Garth to see if he would like to do it and/or see if there are any other volunteers. Again, we would try to eat outside and provide take-out.

~ Club 200 - It was decided to defer for another year as activities and opportunities to sell tickets are still limited.

Activities/other committee updates

Board Activity Coordinator - Carrie

* Fitness groups: Outdoor group walking on Tuesdays at 3, Zumba on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 and the Walking DVD group may resume on Tuesdays at some point.

* The usual games are still active - Bid Euchre, Mahjong, & Cribbage.

* Crafts - Dianne reported to Carrie that they had a very successful painting workshop last week. They are on a shopping/lunch excursion this Wed and next week is a sewing workshop. June 1 they are having a nail spa morning with Laurie Hillaby.

Social Event Coordinators - Lynn and Irene

* Pot lucks - surveys will go out again to see if there is interest.

* Happy hours - Lynn found out from Gordon Cochrane right after today's meeting that he will not be coordinating Happy Hours this year so we are looking for a new volunteer.

* Bonfires - looking to tie in happy hours occasionally when there isn't anyone to host.

* Christmas Dinner - this decision is tabled until the Fall.

Special Events Coordinator - Merron Gottardi - Carrie will contact Merron to see if she wants to stay on the committee

* Scavenger Hunt - On again this year in partnership with HLCA for the weekend of July 16th. Lynn & Carrie are on the committee with Sue Harrison & Evelyn Fenwick.

New Business

~ Member meeting agenda and date. FIRA bylaws state that we need a general meeting 5 times per calendar year. We are looking at having one on June 26th? A survey will go out to see who would be willing to go to a potluck or have a bonfire. We will schedule the rest after we see how this goes. Discuss / propose at this first meeting to see if we need to meet 5 times per year or we should revise the Bylaws to a requirement of 4. COVID prevented 5 meetings/year the past two years.

~ The next executive meeting is Tues, June 21st, 1pm.

- ~ Paul Carey requested Septic Inspection information to be sent to membership. All the information is on the municipality website and if HLCA sends out any information, we will share it.
- ~ The FIRA website needs to be reviewed / updated - Joe volunteered to review it.
- ~ How do we recruit new executives? Prior Boards created a recruiting team. With so many new members, once activities start increasing, we should have more opportunity to get people involved
- ~ Donna Smith reported to Carrie that the Defibrillator was replaced 2 weeks ago and it is good until 2027. Donna requested that Carrie include in her next member note that if there is enough interest, a CPR course and Defibrillator refresher will be offered by the Haliburton Paramedic in charge of the Out Reach defibrillator program for the county. It may occur this summer but more likely this fall. Donna reminds us that if someone needs the CPR/ Defibrillator, they should first phone a friend to pick it up and have others available to assist, then call 911. It's a long drive from Haliburton and CPR is best done in 2 minute blocks, so the more people you have to do CPR the better the chance of survival. The phones are locked out as soon as you call 911 so remember that you can't call anyone after you dial 911. As well as offering the CPR course, we could create a short document with guidelines of use and list those that have had CPR training to post at the hall and email to members.