

# FIRA Annual General Meeting October 1, 2023

## Minutes

23 in attendance

### President's Message:

- \* Cindy welcomed everyone and introduced the members of the board as well as new members in attendance. She wants everyone to remember that flu & respiratory illness season is upon us. Please do not come to activities if you are feeling ill. And, as always, please let us know if you have new ideas and lead activities.
- \* Approval of June General Meeting Minutes - Cindy made a motion to approve, Glenn Scott seconded and the motion carried.

### Previous Business

#### ~ Hall Improvements:

- \* Remaining for Phase 1: Carrie explained that the Clubhouse's wall decor is almost complete in the main rooms (\$768 spent so far, with approximately \$750 left). Photo collages for the bathrooms are planned to be completed over the winter.
- \* Phase 2: The Improvement Committee needs to meet and discuss what is our next stage of improvement taking into account the member interest survey we completed in the past.
- \* Carrie still needs to get recycle bins for inside the closet but needs to do more research as she isn't finding the right sizes. Also, that closet needs hooks and re-arranging.

#### ~ Possible Grant Applications:

- \* Jeff is still researching available grants for capital projects (Trillium) to apply for whatever is possible in the way of windows, insulated floor, generator, stove, and/or dishwasher.
- \* He did receive a letter from Walt McKecknie in support of FIRA to apply for capital improvement grants where an updated building sign, generator and internet wifi capabilities were specifically mentioned to support the community. No capital grants are available right now but Jeff will be keeping on eye on future availability.
- \* Jeff did email the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility for information & received a response. They currently aren't accepting applications but we

will watch for changes on their website & Facebook page. Jeff will set up a meeting with a committee to continue the search for information.

~ **Outdoor sign upgrade update:**

\* On Tuesday, Jeff is going to order what we'd like for the new sign. He is looking for a contractor to wrap the post in white aluminum. Dave Chevrefils asked if we need a permit and Jeff doesn't think so as Dysart is aware we are just giving the sign a cosmetic facelift. Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined simply painting the posts white is the best option rather than wrapping them in white aluminum.

## **Financial Update**

~ **Dues collections:**

\* Joe reported that we gained 10 new FIRA member households for 2023, only lost 2 and took in almost \$10,000 in Revenue. Dues were enough to cover our operating expenses, wall decor and a donation to the HHHS.

\* \$4,800 was raised throughout our fundraising so we expect to increase our funds balance almost \$5,000 this year. This money can go toward the sign and other desired improvements.

\* Operating expenses

~ **Major Improvements** spent \$768 on wall decor

~ **Check was sent to HHHS** for \$1,180 (\$180 from Pancake Breakfast 50/50 draw).

~ **Update on being able to e-transfer checks out of account** - still waiting on BMO to see if it can be done.

~ **FIRA financial audit** completed Sept 2, 2023 by Cindy & Bill determined the records were accurate.

~ **Landline phone cost:** Bell can lower our phone rate by about \$35/mo if we sign a 3-year contract. Early cancelation of the contract results in a penalty of \$25/mo for remaining months at a \$500 max. It was noted if we get cell service we may be able to cancel and if we kept the phone service at least 15 months we would still be ahead cost wise, so we will go ahead with this.

~ **Propane Program:** The propane rate is down \$.10 from last year and there are now 101 properties in the program

## **Fundraising**

~ **Macgregor Meat Sale** - \$915 raised! Many thanks to Graham Newton!

~ **Pancake breakfast** - Carrie: Our profit was \$1333 (includes the \$180 made from the 50/50 raffle that was directed to HHHS). Also, Mark Feagan gave a generous \$200 donation. It was unfortunate that we had a power

outage for the last 15 minutes but it only forced us to turn away one family. Next year, Carrie is stepping down from the lead of the breakfast but Jeff & Jenn Vanderkuur agreed to take over.

~ **Pig Roast** - We sold out! Garth Krieger and Wayne MacKenzie began roasting at noon and Lynn Yake did a great job decorating the Clubhouse. Thank you to all the helpers!

~ **Club 200** - Graham Newton reported that Bill Odell did a great job organizing. We had 9 tickets left that were sold by the end of the evening. Graham explained to our new members how it works. First draw will be on October 11th.

~ **Crafts** - Dianne Kelly explained that the Wednesday Ladies Coffee & Crafts group were at 2 craft sales this year. The first one was at the Marina and the other at the Pancake Breakfast. They will also sell crafts for Christmas. So far, over \$400 has been made.

### **Activities/other committee updates**

~ **Board Activity Coordinator** - Carrie

- \* Fitness groups (Outdoor walking / Line Dancing, Zumba (still on hold), Walking DVD, Indoor walking)
- \* Games - Bid Euchre, Mahjong & Cribbage night. We are open if anyone else has ideas for additional games.
- \* Darts - have resumed on Friday's from 4-6!
- \* Crafts - Dianne announced the Harvest Lunch: 1:30am - 2:30pm October 11th. Open to FIRA ladies. There are 5 soups, you can bring a side, enjoy apple cider or bring your own beverage.
- \* ~ **Social Event Coordinator**
- \* Both Lynn Yake & Irene Odell are stepping down as our coordinators. Lynn discussed that activities have been occurring nicely and spontaneously and we'll all work together to provide at least monthly fun.
- \* Summer Happy hours: Five members hosted in their homes every other Thursday this past summer. Thanks to our hosts!!
- \* Bonfires - hope to have some this winter, maybe one on October 11th.
- \* Potlucks - instead of monthly potlucks, we are going to see how Winter Happy Hour events are attended. Potlucks can happen whenever the situation arises.
- \* Winter Happy Hours with special events continue. On October 11th - planning on a Corn Hole Tourney Happy Hours 4-6pm.
- \* Chainsaw safety session - Cindy coordinating with Mark Snell for possibly January 6.

\* Defibrillator / CPR course - Carrie: A note was forwarded to me by Donna Smith from the Haliburton County Paramedic Service. They are currently understaffed and lacking a CPR certified instructor. We are waiting to hear further information. After the meeting, Donna explained that she should be able to conduct a review course. Details will be announced.

### **New Business**

~ **Clubhouse monthly cleaner:** To share, the Board agreed with Bill Odell's proposal to give our Clubhouse cleaner, Kendra, a Christmas bonus of \$40 and a monthly raise from \$60 to \$65. Kendra has been very reliable and does a good job.

~ **Snow plowing** - Dan Kay has agreed to plow again. We are very grateful to Dan. In addition to free membership, the board agreed to give him Canadian Tire gift cards.

~ **Starlink** - There is a deal right now where Starlink is charging \$199 for equipment as opposed to \$800. The monthly fee is \$160 per month. Subsequent to the meeting, we found out the \$199 offer expires Sept 30 so in a follow-up email with Board members it was decided to go forward with the purchase since we have 30 days to cancel. Members agreed to give it a try.

### ~ **By-law changes**

- At the last AGM there was discussion to make some by-law changes and Irene Odell suggested we look at ONCA ( Ontario Not For Profit Corporation Act) where the government is creating standards for all non-profit organizations.
- Cindy started looking at their information and noted that at first review we appear to have much of what ONCA requires. A governance committee will be formed to ensure complete compliance to ONCA - the grant committee will act on this also. The deadline to comply is September 2024.
- There is a 1-time fee of \$150 to be able to upload necessary documents if we are sure we qualify and pursue it. This will be a winter project.
- Also, some changes to our by-laws may be required for any Grant approval so they will be reviewed to determine if changes are needed.
- **A review of the by-law changes discussed at the last General Meeting (June) are:**
- Reword the bylaws to change our obligation from having 4 mandatory meeting per year to 3. Meeting 1 would be in January or February for planning in the 1st quarter. Meeting 2 would be mid-year in May or June for updates, decisions on summer activities & fundraisers and

improvement ideas. Meeting 3 would be the AGM in the fall. We can always add another meeting if necessary.

- The bylaw wording is restrictive and we would like to omit the requirement to having meetings on the 3rd Sunday. Meetings will be scheduled and announced by Executive at least 30 days in advance but subject to change if schedules require.
- Due to our struggle with obtaining volunteers for board positions, most especially the Vice President role, we would like to add wording to the bylaws which allows the current board to remain the same in a new year if we cannot fill roles that are open in a given year, subject to the current board members being willing to stay on. If no VP nomination is received by December 31 after exhausting all avenues, the existing board can opt to remain in place.
- Sue Mason made a motion to reword the bylaws as shown on screen by Joe, Graham seconded and it was carried.

#### ~ Open Board positions for 2024

\* We have no volunteers for any of the open board positions of Board Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Members-at-Large for 2024 so the existing board members have agreed to remain as is. President: Cindy Woodrow, Vice President: Jeff Vanderkuur, Past President: Bill Odell, Treasurer: Joe DiFrancesco, Secretary: Carrie DiFrancesco, Member-at-Large: Wayne MacKenzie, Member-at-Large: Lynn Yake. Francis Pillon made the motion to re-accept the current board, Duncan seconded and the motion carried.

~ Dues for 2024 - The Executive Board would like to keep the dues the same for 2024 at \$70 for an individual, \$120 for a couple and minus \$10 if you are a member of another association. Joe made a motion to accept the proposed dues, Wayne MacKenzie seconded and the motion was approved.

~ Question: Duncan asked about the West Bay Boat ramp being in bad shape. Joe explained that our land and the ramp area were donated by a local landowner to Dysart to be used for public purpose and that Dysart owns the boat launch. Cindy explained that FIRA is a social club but would be supportive in requesting Dysart repair the boat launch. Duncan is going to phone Walt McKecknie to see what can be done.

~ Adjourn: Joe motioned to adjourn this AGM, Glenn Evans seconded and the motion was carried.

#### ~ Last Note:

\* Call Wayne for any building issues.

\* And a thank you Dave C for adding latches to the Clubhouse's windows (compliments of the window store in Minden).