

# FIRA Annual General Meeting October 25, 2025

## Minutes

### President's Message:

Jeff Vanderkuur welcomed all and thank everyone for the great turn out for the meeting.

### Previous Business

**Approval of Minutes:** Dianne Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting in June and Graham Newton seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. Minutes can be read on our website at [firahall.ca/minutes](http://firahall.ca/minutes).

### Financial Update

~ **2024 Records Audit:** Thank you Gail & Peter for auditing last year's financials. The records were determined to be accurately maintained and reported.

#### ~ **2025 YTD and Forecast**

\* **Dues and Fundraising** - About \$1,000 more in dues collected than last year with 13 new households joining FIRA.

\* **Operating expenses:** Internet costs are down with the switch to Bell Fibe from Starlink. Everything else similar to last year.

\* **Major Improvements/Expenses/Donations:** We purchased a new tent and vacuum and have several possible major projects to discuss.

#### ~ **Possible improvement expenditures:**

\* **Acoustics:** Joe explained that we received concern from several members that it is hard to hear in our hall during events. In response, we are looking to find resolution to the acoustic issues. One suggestion was to add acoustical panels that absorb sound and reduce echo. Andy Valickis has a contact that would supply them at cost and sent us a rough quote and product information to start the evaluation process. Drew Bishop asked if anyone has tried this product in a room like the hall to see to what extent they will really help. Dianne Chevrefils suggested contacting the hearing society to ask their opinion on any experience they may have had with these boards. It was decided to form a member committee to look deeper into the panel's effectiveness and if they recommend proceeding, they will evaluate type, shape and colors so a proposal can be made to membership. Lynn Yake explained that she is

looking for grant money for a possible generator and any financial help with the sound issues. Joe will form a committee and get the process started.

- \* **UV Upgrade:** Back in early 2000s, the hall's water did not pass a safe quality test. Since Dysart is responsible for the water system, they recommended a UV system be installed and split the cost with FIRA. In 2018 Dysart disabled the power to the system due to the model no longer being the most current system. Their position is our water is tested a few times a year and we are considered low risk and do not require primary treatment. We recently had the Health Department kitchen inspection and discussed if a UV system could be put in operation for added protection. The inspector is going to ask the person of authority on the matter and get back to us with their position. Drew asked if we could just test our water ourselves more frequently, such as every 2 months, which would help, but still would not be everyday protection. When the Health Department provides guidance we will evaluate our options to present to membership.
- \* **Generator options:** We have discussed information in the past regarding the types of generators we could purchase so we have heat in the event of power outages. Once we have all the information we need, we will come back to it. We can also fundraise specifically for the generator.

## **Fundraising**

~ **MacGregor Meat Sale** - another great sale this year!

~ **Pancake Breakfast:** Doug Harrison reported that the breakfast was another great success! A round of applause for Doug and his committee! There were 169 people in attendance. Doug thanked his great organizing committee of 9 people and the 30+ volunteers. Everything went smoothly and Features Brasserie had Sisco donate all the food and juice this year. The raffles also went well with larger prizes. Doug will continue as our lead.

~ **Pig Roast, with the AGM.** Thank you Donna, Mark, Wayne, Cindy, Carrie & Lynn. FIRA is providing the cost of the side dishes and desserts in lieu of the summer picnic we used to hold.

~ **Club 200:** We may run this again in 2026 and will discuss in January.

## **Activities/other committee updates**

~ **Board Activities**

- \* **Fitness groups:** Sue Harrison is wondering if anyone would be interested in holding a class over the winter via the Internet. She explained that we

used to have an instructor but wondering if anyone is interested in pursuing some specific classes online or with an app. Carrie will put this out in a member note.

- \* **Games** - Euchre, Cribbage and Mahjong. Cindy reported that all games are still running. If you don't know how to play something you are interested in, you will be taught so please join if you are interested.
- \* **Darts**: Fridays, 4-6pm. Darts are still very popular - just come on in on a Friday evening. You do not need to know how to play well!
- \* **Crafts**: Dianne Kelly declared that the Wednesday morning group consists of a great group of ladies. You don't have to be crafty to join. It's a fun time and the craft level is mostly pretty easy. Occasionally, there is some sewing. The next project are Sea glass Christmas trees. The group just donated 3 prizes for today's 50/50 draw.

### ~ Social Events

- \* **Summer Happy hours**: Lynn explained that 2 Thursdays in July & 2 Thursdays in August are typically set aside for Happy Hours at member homes. It's getting harder to find folks to host in the summer as everyone is so busy. We have a new idea for next year. Thanks you to the MacKenzies and Watts for hosting this past summer.
- \* **Sand Bay Happy Hour**: Cindy reported that this event was another great success this year. It remains spontaneous due to weather but we try to hold it at the end of August. Everyone brings appetizers and catch rides on someones boat if a ride is needed.
- \* **Winter Happy Hours**: We try and hold a Happy Hour every month in the winter. We are starting out with a new Trivia Night event on Tuesday, November 4th from 4-6pm. Graham Newton and Bill Drummond are the hosts Graham explained that the trivia questions will be projected. Teams will consist of 6 people - you can form your own group or get assigned to a table. There are no themes to the questions. Everyone bring \$1 to participate.
- \* **Bonfires**: We are hoping this year's winter weather will be more conducive to having more bonfire events.

### ~ Special Events

- \* **Cornhole Tournament**: Thank you Drew & Kristin for coordinating this year's tournament!
- \* **Harvest Lunch**: This year's Harvest lunch is on Wednesday October 29th at 11:30am. All FIRA ladies are welcome. There are 5 different soups, a variety of sandwiches & plenty of desserts.

- \* **Christmas Party:** This year's theme of *Christmas On A Frozen Lake* with colors light blue, silver and white will lead us into celebrating the holiday on Thursday, December 11th. Features Brasserie is catering the event again with a few new menu items. This is a heavy appetizer meal, not a sit down dinner. A note will go out soon with further details.
- \* **Any new ideas?**

### **New Business**

- ~ Board Nominations - Treasurer, Secretary, Supporting Directors
- \* Joe nominated Peter Connelly for Treasurer and the motion was seconded by Cindy.
- \* Carrie nominated Gail Connelly for Secretary and the motion was seconded by Kristin Bishop.
- \* Supporting Directors: Carrie & Joe will vacate the Secretary and Treasurer positions but will stay on the board as Supporting Directors to support the Connellys. Current Supporting Directors, Cindy, Wayne, Bill and Lynn will also stay on. Brian & Sue Verberg and Sue Harrison volunteered to join the board as new Supporting Directors. A bylaw change to allow for 2 more Supporting Director positions to a max of 10 was requested. A motion was made by Gail and seconded by Jeff to approve the Supporting Director changes and additions.
- \* The motion was passed and all nominations for the Board were unanimously approved.
- ~ **Next meetings:** At the beginning of 2026!

36 members in attendance!