

**FIRA Executive Meeting
January 12, 2023**

Minutes

In Attendance

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

President's Message

- ~ Cindy welcomed our new Vice President, Jeff, and looks forward to working with this year's board.
- ~ Cindy reviewed FIRA executive responsibilities to clarify our roles.
- * Communications - Secretary & Treasurer.
- * Hall Rentals - Secretary & Treasurer.
- * Communications with our monthly cleaner - Past President.
- * Snow shoveling - Wayne, Joe and activity leaders (if able).
- * Outdoor Sign Board announcements - Carrie & Joe

Previous Business

- ~ Hall Improvements:
 - * Remaining for Phase 1: Carrie communicated that the wall decor is still being worked on. There is about \$1500 left from the original approval.
 - * The Improvement Committee is going to try to meet before the Member Meeting on January 29 to discuss Phase 2 & 3 and the possibility of finding a grant.
- ~ New Website Update:
 - * Cindy reports the website committee will meet at her house on Saturday, January 21 to reveal what has been done so far.
 - * Membership forms will be able to be filled out on-line (can still do paper too).
 - * There are new photos, committees, board names, dues information, etc... on the site.

- * Ken Loney gave Francis Pilon, our member advisor, the domain name and all that entails for \$15 a year. Two years of the website service has been paid up front at a discount and then it is \$20 a month.
- * Mail Chimp can be accessed for mailings for certain board members.
- * Hopefully the website will be launched by the end of the month.
- ~ Renting the Clubhouse:
 - * At the last AGM a rental price was set at \$50 for members and \$50 plus the membership fee for non-members to cover membership and rental.
 - * Non-members renting the hall will need to sign our waiver.
 - * Joe reported that FIRA's Insurance Company was ok with non-member rentals since only occasional but they would need their own insurance if they were to serve alcohol.
 - * Rental information will be added to the website.
 - * A binder will be created with a list of basic do's and don'ts for use of the clubhouse.

Financial Update

- ~ 2022 Summary and 2023 Budget was reviewed.
- * Dues collections - Expect about \$1100 more from \$10 dues increase
- * Joe reviewed operating expenses and noted dues should cover them.
- * Fundraisers can be used for capital improvements and savings.
- * Grants can be pursued as needed for major items.
- ~ Exec Board Members signed new BMO signature agreements for 2023.

Fundraising

- ~ MacGregor Meat Sale - Graham Newton will be asked if he is willing to do the meat sale again this year.
- ~ Pancake breakfast - Carrie agreed to run the breakfast as long as she has help. Lynn volunteered to assist again. This year it will be on August 19th.
- ~ Pig Roast - Wayne is going to talk to Garth about doing a pig-roast again this year.
- ~ Club 200 - Graham will be asked if he is willing to lead the Club 200. He indicated he would need volunteers to help sell tickets if we do it.
- ~Others? Dianne Kelly will be asked if the Craft group plans on selling any crafts this year.
- ~ 50/50 draws at pot lucks will be offered at some of this year's potlucks.

Activities/other committee updates

- ~ Executive Board Activity Coordinator - Carrie

- * Fitness groups: Carrie reported that Zumba is occurring at the Clubhouse on Tuesday and Thursdays and Cindy is looking at starting up line-dancing in February.
- * Games - Euchre, Cribbage, Darts and Mahjong are all still active.
- * Friday Darts will be adding Corn-hole this summer outdoors. For nights we have a lot of people at darts, we may set up a simple game in the entrance room for taking turns, such as Left-Right-Center, Rummikub, Shut the Box, etc.
- * Crafts - the craft group continues to meet and create.
- * Jeff expressed an interest in a Bird Watching Group - maybe posting sightings on the FB site?

~ Social Event Coordinators - Lynn (& Irene)

- * Happy hours - Currently we have Friday Happy Hours from 4-6 for people interested in playing Darts or just watching the game. Will look at resuming other Happy Hours this summer.
- * Bonfires will still occur as weather permits over the winter.
- * Pot lucks (discussed under New Business).
- * Dinner dance - Irene is interested in possibly coordinating a February 11 Valentines Dance.

~ Special Events (Merron)

- * Chainsaw safety session - Cindy coordinating with Mark Snell to hold a workshop in March or April.
- * Defibrillator / CPR course - Carrie reported that Donna Smith is our liaison to the local paramedic services and she is working with them to provide a full CPR / Defibrillator course for FIRA members sometime this spring. It is an 8 hour course and she may be able to split it into two 4-hour days. So far we have 28 people interested.
- * Scavenger Hunt - joint with HLCA. - Evelyn Fenwick, Lynn Yake, Carrie & Sue Harrison still need to debrief on last year's event and discuss with both HLCA & FIRA if there will be another this summer.
- ** Future FIRA communications will include a reminder that members can submit activity ideas to Carrie, Irene or Lynn (+ mention that we are looking for folks to lead new events).
- ** Upcoming events can be added to the new FIRA Home PAGE when website is launched

New Business

- ~ 2023 Dates for Executive Meetings will be set up by Cindy prior to member meetings.
- ~ 2023 Dates for General Member Meetings are as follows:
 - * Sundays: Jan 29, April 2, Jun 25, Sept 24 (these are paired with potlucks & executive members will do potluck setup)
 - ~ Full year potluck dates: We need volunteers to sign up for set-up on non **Member Meeting (MM)** dates!
 - January 29 + **MM**
 - February 26 (Weekend after family day)
 - April 2 + **MM** (Weekend before Easter)
 - May 14 (Weekend before May 24)
 - June 25 + **MM** Fathers day (weekend before long wknd)
 - September 24 + **AGM** (Combine with Pig Roast)?
 - October 22
 - November 26
 - December

* The board is considering some type of entertainment at some of the potlucks - ie, a bit of live music, themes, or a fun game.

~ Bill received an email from Brigitte Gebauer, Coordinator of Volunteer Services for Haliburton Highlands Health Services. They are seeking volunteers in the community. The email was read by the board prior to this meeting and Carrie will forward it to members with the FIRA Executive Board's support.

~ Communication items for next email: Clubhouse reminders will remain on member emails re: lights, garbage, turning down heat, activity participation, etc....

* Other reminders will include that we have a private Facebook Members Group which is a great place to post upcoming crafts, events, photos....