

**FIRA Executive Meeting
June 20, 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

Previous Business

~ **Hall Improvements:**

- * **Remaining for Phase 1:** Wall decor (\$1,500 to possibly use): Carrie explained that she and Laura Golbeck have ideas in place for the rest of the wall decor and are waiting on answers from a few places. A new Friends Gather Here sign has been put up above the kitchen and other creations will be up soon.
- * It seems we need a new **vacuum**. Cindy was thinking of a small shop vac and there is mention of a stick-vac. Jeff is going to check out some ideas.
- * There was discussion about kitchen closet space, storing the vacuum & maybe putting up hooks for other cleaning tools. Carrie mentioned that it would look nicer to have the **recycle bins** back in there too. She is to look at tall and thin recycle bins to use with bags to make it easier to transport them to the dump.
- * **For Phase 2**, the committee will convene in the Fall & after the wall decor is completed.

~ **Grant:**

- * Jeff has researched some grant possibilities. There is a Provincial one for non-profit organizations called The Seniors Active Living Center with a deadline to apply by July 10th. A committee is going to look at the details and see if we can apply by then.
- * The grant is for non-profit incorporated groups to help develop an outreach to seniors and provide activities to increase socialization.
- There is also a Federal grant for capital improvements called Trillium that is open with no deadline which we will look at in the future.

~ **Outdoor sign upgrade update:**

- * Jeff tracked down the sign company we purchased FIRA's sign from years ago and explained our vision to update the sign after getting some ideas from a few members.
- * Jeff commented that he never noticed our sign after 2 years of going by it so thought it would be a good idea to go with a bright blue background (like what provincial parks use). Wrapping the poles in white aluminum is also an option.
- * The representative suggested replacing the plexiglass and to update the words & numbers. Take out coming events. The grant committee is going to try and get the cost covered by the grant.

~ **Switching phone from rotary:** Joe will call and inquire.

~ **Pickle Ball:** Carrie will send a note to Brent / HLCA and Jeff to connect them as Jeff volunteered to be a liaison for collaboration for a possible pickle ball court at the Public Beach.

Financial Update

- * Dues collections - \$7,840 collected YTD with another \$1,000 expected
 - * Fundraising - \$915 raised from meat sale - thanks to Graham!!! \$3,000 or more expected from Pancake Breakfast, Club 200 and other events
 - * Operating expenses - normal and forecast to be about \$8,400 for the full year so we should cover that with Dues collections as targeted
 - * Major Improvements- \$118 used YTD from \$1500 prior authorization
- ~ **Update on etransfer payments out** - Joe still needs to check into a secure way of using e-transfers for expenditures but it is not a high priority. A change would require a new banking agreement be signed so we may wait until next January.
- ~ **Donation:** HLCA is donating money towards the hospital's purchase of a CT scan. It was suggested that it is a good cause for FIRA to consider donating to, especially with mainly senior members. Members will be asked to vote on this at the June meeting. We are proposing that we donate up to \$500 (\$114 of this is money leftover from the now canceled Scavenger Hunt) .

Fundraising

~ **Macgregor Meat Sale** - Thank you Graham for running the meat sale again this year. For 2023, we made \$914!

~ **Pancake breakfast** - Carrie: The breakfast will be on Saturday, August 19 this year. The committee is meeting soon and volunteer list will be sent out.

~ **Pig Roast** - Wayne/Garth: This year's pig roast and AGM will be on Sunday, September 24.

~ **Club 200** - Graham has requested that we find someone to work with him this year and will take over for next year. He provided a summary of how it all works and we need to get going on it ASAP. Bill volunteered to partner with Graham - thank you, Bill!!

~ **Wednesday Ladies Crafts** - Crafts are being created to sell at the pancake breakfast.

Activities/other committee updates

~ **Board Activity Coordinator** - Carrie

- * Fitness groups: Outdoor walking / line dancing is every other Thursday, Zumba is on hold for the summer, and Indoor Walking DVD has resumed on Mondays.
- * Games - Euchre, Cribbage and Mahjong all continue
- * Darts - will resume in Fall
- * Crafts - The Wednesday Ladies continue to meet.

~ **Social Event Coordinators - Lynn (& Irene)**

- * Summer Happy hours: June 28 Odells, July 6 DiFrancescos, July 20 Valickis, August 3 Vanderkuurs, August 17 Kellys
- * BBQ - There is discussion to not hold a BBQ this year and will put the money towards another event.
- * Pot lucks - There is a Potluck & Member Meeting this Sunday, June 25th.
- * Bonfires - On hold until Fall.

~ **Special Events**

- * We tried monthly Winter Happy Hours with special events with an April Wine / beer tasting event. We may try Corn Hole games in October.
- * Chainsaw safety session - Cindy is coordinating with Mark Snell for Fall.
- * Defibrillator / CPR course - Carrie: Donna Smith is still working on getting a class together.

New Business

~ **Good Will Cards:**

- * Lynn: We purchase cards made by Sue Harrison and Lynn sends them out to members who loses a spouse, is seriously ill or moves off the lake (that made a significant contribution to FIRA). Lynn doesn't always hear that someone is seriously ill or other issues.
- * Please have activity leaders who may know someone is sick or struggling to let Carrie or Lynn know.

~ **ByLaw Changes to Reduce Member Meetings:**

- * **For discussion at Sunday's General Meeting**, Cindy led discussion to possibly reword the bylaws to change our obligation from having 4 meetings per year to 3. Meeting 1 would be in January 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. We can always add a meeting if necessary.
- * 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 but subject to change.

~ **Bylaw Changes for Board Member Elections:**

- * 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. And, that the current board members are willing to stay on.