

FIRA General Member Meeting

June 25, 2023

Minutes

President's Message

- * Cindy Woodrow opened the meeting at 4:30. She announced that members have been busy at the clubhouse and that's a good thing!
- * She asked us to remember to check the website's calendar as Cindy is keeping it up to date.
- * A big thank you to all of the volunteers.
- * We are always looking for feedback. New ideas are welcome, especially leads for activities.

Previous Business

~ **Approval of March 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes.** A motion was made by Bill Odell, 2nd by Dianne Kelly and was carried.

~ **Hall Improvements:**

- * **Remaining for Phase 1:** Wall decor (\$1,500 to possibly use): Carrie DiFrancesco: The new sign above kitchen was hung last week. The feature wall includes: A framed HLCA 25 year map (donated by Glen Smith - THANK YOU!), a wood sign from Dugout Designs with FIRA (spelled out) and 4 framed scenery photos. A quilting photo collage near the quilt in the front room is almost completed. Also, a history themed wall is planned for near the bathroom and 2nd exit wall.
- * **New vacuum:** Cindy explained that our current vacuum doesn't work. Dianne mentioned that the Coffee & Crafts Ladies typically use the Swiffer to clean up. There was discussion about a shop vac versus a stick vacuum that will fit in closet, with the stick vacuum being the consensus choice. Cindy and Jeff are looking into the vacuum purchase.
- * **New recycle bins:** Carrie explained that we would like the recycle bins to go back into the utility closet. She thinks we should purchase another kitchen garbage container like the one that is empty in the closet now and use biodegradable bags to bring to the dump so we don't have to carry the bins. Everyone is in agreement.

~ **Grants:**

- * Jeff Vanderkuur is working on registering FIRA with the Government so we can apply for grants.
- * There is one grant specifically geared towards creating community resilience to help the seniors of our area.
- * Andy Valickis reminded us that our municipality never supported us on the grants we put in previously. A letter from council may be helpful. They do support us with the land lease (leasing us the land that was given to them by a local which allows us to not pay property taxes). It may be a good idea to approach them for a letter of recommendation for support.

* Irene Odell also did research a couple of years ago and there is an active living center contact for our area we can contact. Some grants want a municipality match. It may be possible to get FIRA registered as an active living center.

~ **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. Someone suggested that the bottom banner be larger so our website address is prominent.

* The representative suggested replacing the plexiglass and to update the words & numbers. The grant committee is going to try and get the cost covered by the grant. But, if that is denied, members approved \$1,000 towards the new sign and a solar light. The motion was made by Graham Newton, a second by Joe DiFrancesco and carried.

Financial Update

* Dues collections - \$7,840 collected YTD with another \$1,000 expected

* Fundraising - \$915 raised from meat sale - thanks to Graham!!!

Approximately, \$3,000 or more is 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 e-transfer 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.

~ **Propane Program** - There are 80% of our members in the program. It is still possible to add people so let Joe know of anyone new interested.

Fundraising

~ **Macgregor Meat Sale** - Graham is pleasantly surprised at the support for the meat sale. If there were any issues or complaints, let Graham know. This program raises a decent amount of money without a lot of volunteers.

~ **Pancake breakfast** - Carrie: This year's event is on Saturday, August 19th. A group of volunteers met last year after the breakfast and have come up with guidelines for the volunteer positions in hopes of making the event run as smooth as possible during the busiest times. Information will be sent out soon with volunteer requests.

~ **Pig Roast** - This year's pig roast is on September 24 and we'll again partner this with the AGM.

~ **Club 200** - Graham is going to revive Club 200 after a few years off with Bill Odell as his partner. They are looking for ticket sellers so anyone interested should contact Bill or Graham and that will be included in the next FIRA communication.

Activities/other committee updates

~ **Board Activity Coordinator** - Carrie announced that the Indoor Walking DVD group is resuming on Mondays at 10am. Darts and Zumba are on hold for the summer. All the rest continue to be active.

* Fitness groups (Outdoor walking, Zumba, Walking DVD, Indoor Walking)

* Games - Euchre, Cribbage and Mahjong

* Darts - will resume in Fall

~ **Coffee & Crafts on Wednesdays**: Dianne reported that the ladies are getting crafts ready to sell for the pancake breakfast. They had a number of fun workshops this year. They are still meeting this summer on Wednesday mornings but not as much craft activity until Fall. Attendance has increased and every week is different.

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

* Summer Happy hours: June 29 Odells, July 6 DiFrancescos, July 20 Valickis, August 3 Vanderkuurs, August 17 Kellys

* Bonfires - next Fall

* Pot lucks - will be paired with the 3 member meetings per year (January, mid-year, AGM).

~ **Special Events** (Merron)

* Monthly Winter Happy Hours with special events: In April Sue & Brian Verburg hosted the Wine / Beer tasting event and that went really well. In October, we are working on possibly Cornhole games & a BBQ. We are looking for November & December ideas so please let us know if you have any and would like to take the lead.

* Chainsaw safety session - Cindy coordinating with Mark Snell to hold a workshop in November.

* Defibrillator / CPR course - Carrie - Donna Smith is working with Adam Payne, the PAD Coordinator at the Haliburton County Paramedic Association and in April he explained that he is scheduled to become a certified CPR/AED/First Aid instructor but the training is not until this Fall. For FIRA to receive an accredited course with certification upon completion, then we have to wait until late this year or early 2024.

New Business

~ **Good Will Cards**: Lynn Yake:

* We purchase cards made by Sue Harrison and Lynn sends them out to members for instances such as losing a spouse, seriously illness or

significant FIRA contributors who are moving away. Lynn doesn't always hear that someone is seriously ill or is experiencing other issues like this.

- * Please have activity leaders who may know someone is sick or struggling to let Carrie, Dianne or Lynn know.

~ Donation

- * If the hospital gets approval to purchase a CT scan, would FIRA like to donate towards the cost?
- * Glen reminded us that we used to make hospital donations through the quilt raffle proceeds.
- * Graham suggested we donate \$1,000.
- * Irene conveyed that the CT scan has not yet been approved but we could make a donation for other new equipment now that the hospital may need with a provision of donating an additional money if the CT scan gets approved.
- * It was decided to donate \$500 now for other needed equipment and \$500 towards the CT if approved.
- * Barb Vansteinburg suggested we do a 50/50 draw for the hospital at the pancake breakfast. We will have the ticket sellers also run the draw.
- * A motion for approval for the donation plan was made by Andy, second by Glen and carried.
- * We will communicate our commitment to the hospital.

~ By-laws changes for Number of Meetings:

- * Cindy led discussion to possibly reword the bylaws to change our obligation from having 4 mandatory meeting 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 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.

~ 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, subject to the current board members being willing to stay on.
- * Irene explained that the ONCA - Ontario Non-profit Corporation Act will check for compliance on our bylaws within next 2 years and just went through this process with the CFUW group. We are considered directors of FIRA, not executive. She will send information so we can review our bylaws to bring to compliance and bring any proposed changes in writing to be voted on in September at the AGM.

~ **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Jeff Kunsman, second by Bill and carried.

In attendance: 24