

## **FIRA Executive Meeting Minutes January 19, 2026**

In Attendance: Jeff Vanderkuur, Peter Connelly, Cindy Woodrow, Joe DiFrancesco, Carrie DiFrancesco, Lynn Yake, Wayne MacKenzie, Sue Harrison, Sue Verberg, Brian Verberg, Gail Connelly  
Absent: Bill Odell

### **Previous Business**

~ UV Upgrade- A Health Unit representative did a FIRA kitchen inspection last Fall and Joe explained to her about the history of our UV system being disconnected by Dysart years ago. She was to get back to us as to who we could speak to to resolve the situation. The board is in favor of FIRA Hall having a UV system so Joe is going to follow up again with the woman who did the inspection.

~ Acoustic Team Proposal: Joe –Phase one – Plan is to reduce the noise level by adding ceiling panels. Joe explained the details which involve painting the ceiling and heat ducts black, upgrading lights to LED and hanging acoustical panels using fire-proof insulation with the highest noise reduction rating and an architectural rendering was presented.

Consensus that the executive members agreed to go forward with the Acoustic Panel Proposal and the plan will be presented at the General Meeting.

Joe and Glen Evans will do the presentation for the Members meeting. Wayne McKenzie will be in charge of electrical. Cedar Winds is donating some of the wood to make the panels. Mark Smith will bring a sample frame to the Members Meeting. Peter will contact the insurance company on what we need to do if adding acoustic panels. We are also checking the local regulations regarding the changes.

~ Feedback re: government grants available: Lynn- With the focus of obtaining financial support for an alternative source of power and improved acoustics at FIRA I contacted all three levels of government...municipal, provincial and federal. After numerous phone calls, email exchanges, site research and webinars it would appear that out of 13 potential opportunities FIRA might qualify for 2. Some of the reasons we don't meet the criteria include: not being a senior active living centre, not piloting a new program, do not support structural support, costs cannot be incurred before grant application.

The 2 with potential are:

\* Ontario Power Generation....The Power For Change Project. One pillar we might fit the criteria for is, Supporting Strong Communities, which includes - supporting the foundation of strong and resilient communities focusing on food, shelter and mental wellness and building community pride through inclusive local events, celebrations and programming.

\* The Ontario Trillium Foundation - There are three grants available...Capital, Seed and Grow however the last two focus on upscaling existing programs or building capacity for future programs.

\*Lynn's recommendations are to form a grant application committee, apply to The Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2027, as there is not enough time to get one in for 2026 and contact municipality and provincial staff to support our grant applications.

~ Alternative sources of power during outages were sent to Lynn Yake

## **Financial Update**

~ 2025 Records Audit – Gail and Peter will do 2025 audit and Joe will do the 2026 audit.

~ 2026 YTD

- Operating Expenses
- Major Improvements/Expenses/Donations
- Did not reinvest in a GIC as we will be putting money out on acoustic panels in the near future
- Will look at the members wish list of Capital Expenditures, after we deal with the two big agenda items (acoustic panels and UV).

## **Fundraising**

~ MacGregor Meat Sale – Will check with Graham, but he had indicated, he will offer this sale this year.

~ Pancake Breakfast: Doug Harrison: Saturday August 15, 2026.

~ Club 200: 2026 possibility. It was discussed that we may want to run this fundraiser when we have a specific project to fund.

~ Legacy donations - Legacy Donation would always be appreciated.

## **Activities/other committee updates**

### **~ Board Activities**

- Fitness groups, Sue Harrison: **Fitness classes will begin in Mid February on Monday and Thursday mornings.** –
- Games - Euchre, Cribbage and Mahjong - all going well.
- Darts: Continues to be well attended.
- Wednesday Ladies Craft group: Dianne Kelly

### **~ Social Events**

- Summer Happy hours: Lynn - Once again we are looking forward to summer happy hours at the homes of members. The dates scheduled will be (and with flexibility to accommodate hosts):  
Thursday, July 9th  
Thursday, July 23rd  
Thursday, August 13th

Thursday, August 27th

Those that have hosted and/or attended in the past are familiar with the simple requirement to host.....your outdoor setting.

Members provide their own beverages and bring an appetizer to share. If you are interested in hosting or require more information please contact Lynn Yake

- Sand Bay Happy Hour: Cindy
- Winter Happy Hours:
- We need volunteers to lead Happy Hours
  - January - event postponed due to weather
  - February - Wine Tasting/1920's Speakeasy
  - March?
  - April ?
  - May?
  - June?
- Bonfires - Spontaneous events, weather permitting.

### ~ **Special Events**

- Trivia Night 2: February 17, 4-6pm.
- Cornhole Tournament: the Bishops will coordinate another tournament this Fall.
- Pig Roast: Cindy will no longer be involved. Donna & Mark will continue as coordinators. Mark & Donna would like to get members opinions on what they want after the AGM
- Harvest Lunch
- Christmas Party: Members that attended FIRA Christmas 2025, 'Christmas On A Frozen Lake' were anything but cold! Mingling, eating, imbibing and dancing kept everyone warm in the festive spirit. The team of Carrie DiFrancesco, Cindy Woodrow and Lynn Yake were grateful for the help of the Connellys and Barb VanSteinburg in set up. Once again the dj duo of Joe DiFrancesco and Mark Smith provided the

tunes for background music and dancing. Thank you to Features Brasserie for the appetizer buffet and the Bradburys for your contribution to the selections. Cheers to those that helped clean up!

Lynn is willing to coordinate the 2026 Christmas Party.

- Any new ideas?

## **New Business**

**Volunteers – Joe will create** a sign up sheet for shoveling snow off the deck and ramp, so it is not just on one person.

~ FIRA photos – Carrie returned a photo album and some loose photos to the hall and is hanging on to one last album to use photos for a collage (by taking pictures of pictures). She is hoping someone can decide where to store the photos / albums and see if anyone wants the loose ones put in albums or a photo box.

Lynn will show the Wednesday ladies.

~ Thumb drive; FIRA photos: Cindy - The thumbdrive will be kept in the box in the kitchen for folks to watch on the tv.

~ FIRA Website volunteer – Cindy is hoping Doug Harrison will take over the website update position and will also update the thumb drive.

~ Record of Minutes – Carrie

Carrie has all the minutes from 2017 and they are all on website. We will no longer be printing minutes to store in binders or folders.

~ **Next meetings:** Executive Meeting, Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Members General Meeting June 18<sup>th</sup>.