

## **FIRA Executive Meeting January 25, 2024**

### **Attendance:**

**President:** Cindy Woodrow

**Vice President:** Jeff Vanderkuur

**Past President:** Bill Odell

**Treasurer:** Joe DiFrancesco

**Secretary:** Carrie DiFrancesco

**Member-at-Large:** Lynn Yake

**Member-at-Large:** Wayne MacKenzie (absent)

### **Previous Business**

~ **By-law changes** were made for the previously discussed reduction of member meetings to 3 per year and Executive Board options if there isn't a Vice President volunteer in a particular year.

#### ~ **Hall Improvements:**

\* Remaining for Phase 1: Wall decor: Carrie explained that the 4 new lake contour maps on the wall to the right of the TV are there to represent that FIRA members are from various area lakes. Laura Golbeck & Carrie are still trying to come up with a sign that simply explains that and identify the pictured lakes. We are looking to add the Haliburton Lake one as well and are planning to purchase it from the Marina this spring. Stay tuned for the final arrangement. Also, Carrie is working on photo collages from older and current FIRA photos. A time consuming project!

\* Phase 2: The committee plans to meet and discuss what is next for hall improvements. Some decisions will depend on what we may obtain from any grants.

\* Carrie purchased recycle bins for inside the closet & bin liners. Also, that closet needs hooks and re-arranging. We are hoping Wayne or another volunteer/s can work on that.

#### ~ **Grants:** Jeff:

\* A Resilience grant has been submitted and we need to hear if we are awarded anything before we can apply for another grant.

\* A Capital grant is available so we will see what happens with the Resilience before applying.

~ **Outdoor sign upgrade update:** Jeff spoke to someone at County Sign and we were on their January list to complete. Hopefully, the sign will be done before Spring.

~ **ONCA update:** Cindy researched the material ONCA had on their site describing the material being reviewed in some workshops they are offering. One directive stated that board directors need to sign consent

forms stating that we are “a chair / directors” on the board which we completed at today’s meeting. FIRA’s Governance committee is meeting soon to further review rules in March.

~ **Starlink** has been installed and while we haven’t heard any specific feedback, Cindy said it is being used based on the statistics she can see. Several groups are using it for music, videos and ability to use phones at the hall.

### **Financial Update - 2023 results and 2024 forecast**

~ **Dues & Fundraising** - Dues continued to grow to an all-time high and fundraising was strong with Club 200 back after a couple of year’s off

\* Two Person vs Family rate for one household: Joe shared that one family on the lake requested if their adult daughter, who lives with them, could be included in their membership. We had another request from a member whose adult son’s family that visits often and would probably take over the household would be included in a “family” rate to get them involved with FIRA, or if they should pay separate membership. In this last case, this member voluntarily paid for an additional membership for their son’s family using their same household (paying \$180 for the 3 people). The Bylaws do not address these scenarios, only that the Board recommends annual Dues at the AGM for the Member’s to vote on. At this point the Board will handle these rare situations on a case by case basis and a proposal can be made at the next AGM whether we should have a 2 person rate or a family rate to encourage the next generations to get involved with FIRA

~ **Operating Expenses** - Starlink increased but still being covered by Dues

~ **Major Improvements** - Fundraising helps provide for hall improvements. For 2024 only the sign upgrade approval is listed so far for \$1,000 and the Board is open to considering other membership suggestions. We are trying to get a grant for some large improvements so a lot depends on if we get one or not. We will ask for opinions at next membership meeting.

~ **Banking:** no signature update needed, e-transfers out are still not option.

~ **Bell:** Upgraded phone lines and \$45/mo lower rate with new contract

~ **Need 2023 Auditors** Joe will ask for volunteers at the February Member Meeting.

### **Fundraising**

~ **MacGregor Meat Sale** - Graham is traveling this spring but he can still conduct the meat sale if members would still like him to? It is still quite popular.

~ **Pancake Breakfast** - Jeff & Jenn are ready to take over and Carrie will get them the information as well as remain on the committee to help. Lynn Yake will also.

~ **Club 200** - Bill: Creating the Club 200 tickets is time consuming and so is organizing the ticket sellers. Graham & Bill will partner again to run it with the same time frame. This fundraiser is dependent on ticket sellers. Bill will send an email to the same sellers in hopes to get advance agreements to sell so we know we have enough.

~ **Others?**

### **Activities/other committee updates**

~ **Board Activity Coordinator** - Carrie

\* **Fitness groups** - Cindy: Outdoor walking, Walking DVD & Line Dancing - being canceled & taken off site. Zumba - Carrie will look at Youtube or if any free classes, Low impact Cardio (Cindy) & Yoga (Gwen). All morning available except Wednesdays.

\* **Games** - Euchre (Typically 8 participants), Cribbage (Typically 5 participants) and Mahjong (Typically 8-10 participants), Game Night (Typically 4-6 participants)

\* **Darts** - (Participation varies: 6-26 participants)

\* **Crafts** - (Typically 20 participants)

\* **Summer Happy hours:** Lynn will coordinate getting folks to host and we will continue with a Happy Hour every other week.

\* **Bonfires:** Hoping to do 1 or 2 for March.

### **~ Special Events**

\* **Monthly Winter Happy Hours** - Set dates & ask members for ideas (organizers). Calendar started below

\* **Corn Hole event** - This event last Fall was a great success! We are hoping the Bishops might volunteer to do that again!? FIRA can purchase food in lieu of the annual BBQ.

\* **Pig Roast:** Will be combined with the AGM.

\* **Harvest Lunch** - October

\* **Chainsaw safety session** - Cindy reported it was a great turnout with 16 people. Very informative.

\* **Defibrillator / CPR course** - ~ AED Orientation - Randy Hague will do with Donna Smith. Need to propose dates - stay tuned

### **New Business**

~ **Review the rental cost for Fira Clubhouse & Facility Use Agreement**

\* Currently to rent the hall, it is \$50 + membership fee. We would like the cost to be \$50 for 1/2 day and \$100 full day & member in good standing for a year. The Facility Use Agreement must be signed to use the building and it will be put up on website.

~ **New Hall Cleaner** - Courtney Berre-Davis is doing great and cleans on various day - flexible.

~ **Health Department Inspection** - We had a Health Department inspection and we passed with 1 low risk item noted that the utility drawers should be finished so raw wood does not leave shavings or retain moisture. Subsequent to the meeting this was completed by Dave and Dianne Chevrefils finishing with polyurethane. Their report also noted that only disposable single use items should be used for serving the public and that we are fully compliant with that at our Pancake Breakfast. It also noted as a reminder that all surfaces and sinks should be cleaned and sanitized after daily activities.