

FIRA Executive Meeting September 23, 2024

Minutes

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

Previous Business

~ Hall Improvements:

* Remaining for Phase 1: Wall decor: Carrie commented that the decor for the bathrooms remain a work in progress. Laura purchased a frame for the Haliburton Lake print.

~ Outdoor sign upgrade update:

* Jeff reported that we plan to get more word phrases for the sign. Cindy & Jeff will go through what we have and decide what to purchase.

~ Grants: Jeff

* Resilience Community funds - we did not receive this grant due to the competition. There was a huge response from groups with more needs. Will keep an eye out for new grants in the new year.

Financial Update

* Dues collections & Fundraising. Joe reported that all the dues seem to be in unless we get new members. There are 5 new members and 2 members did not return. We received \$275 for Hall Rentals this year. Our fundraising is close to what we brought in last year.

- * Operating expenses: Our costs are higher due to a full year of internet payments. We need to check on who will snowplow for us this year and we have not received an insurance invoice yet this year.
- * Major Improvements/Expenses: This year's improvements include the new sign, small folding table and tent for \$1582.
- * HHHS Donations: FIRA donated \$1,554 to the hospital.
- * 2023 Records Audit - Reviewed & approved by Peter & Gail Connelly.
- * Propane Program Review: Propane cost is up .02 from last year. We have 117 households & 167 members enrolled in the program.

Fundraising

- ~ Macgregor Meat Sale:
 - * Another great sale for 2024 - thank you Graham! (reviewed at previous meeting).
- ~ Pancake Breakfast - Jeff
 - * We had a record year! The number of volunteers contributing & 180 customers served were great.
 - * The rainy morning most likely worked in our favor bringing folks out for breakfast.
 - * Features Brasserie was a huge help! They closed the restaurant that morning with a sign directing folks to come to the breakfast. They also provided butter pats when we couldn't purchase them & donated cups of fruit compote to offer for each breakfast.
 - * Of course, we offer continued thanks to Independent for all of the years of donations.
 - * Unfortunately, Jeff & Jenn need to step down from running the Pancake Breakfast due to family obligations and travel. We need a new lead and there is plenty of support. We have a good system in place for future volunteers to follow.
 - * It was great to have all the vendors in attendance and we hope for a few more next year.
- ~ Pig Roast & AGM.

- * Responses are coming in!
- * Expenses are a little less this year due to West Guilford sourcing the pig being purchased from a new supplier. Wayne and Mark Smith will be doing the roasting
- * Thank you to all the volunteers!
- ~ Club 200 - Bill:
 - * Bill wonders if we should take a year off from this fundraiser in 2025 as some of the sellers are struggling to sell their tickets. We'll try and sell what is left at Cornhole Tourney & Pig Roast.
 - * Another thought is to get another helper with sales. We'll re-asses next year.
 - * The first draw will be at a Bonfire Happy Hour on Saturday, October 26th. The second draw will occur on Saturday, November 16th Happy Hour with DJ Dave Bright. And, the third drawing is to be determined in December.

Activities/other committee updates

- ~ Board Activity Coordinator - Carrie
 - * Fitness groups: **All On Hold.** Cindy thinks some people would be interested In resuming Yoga again, possibly Tuesdays & Fridays in Oct & Nov. We will ask about interest at the AGM.
 - * Games - Euchre, Cribbage and Mahjong: Cindy: All still being attended.
 - * Darts - slower in summer but starting up again for the Fall & Winter.
 - * Crafts - Dianne will be asked to report on at the AGM.
 - * Cycling club for guys: Jeff: There may be interest for next summer.

- ~ Social Event Coordinator -
 - * Summer Happy hours: Lynn offers thanks all the hosts who participated this summer. A thought for next year is to maybe avoid scheduling on a holiday weekend.
 - * Sand Bay Happy Hour: Cindy & Carrie reported that this impromptu event was really fun, we received lots of compliments and some folks showed up that don't normally attend at the hall.

* Winter Happy Hours: Cindy: Continuing with our monthly happy hours - some are themed & we'll have bonfires when we can.

~ Special Events

* Cornhole Tournament - Drew & Kristen Bishop are hosting this tournament for the 2nd year on Thursday, September 26th.

* Harvest Lunch - This year's annual lunch is taking place on Wednesday, Oct 9th. See Dianne Kelly for details.

* Spanish Lessons - Conversational Spanish lessons are being offered by Denise Gorman Wight. Dates & times are being worked out.

* Wine / Beer tasting & 5 O'Clock Somewhere on a Saturday nights? We are going to try hosting the larger themed Happy Hours on Saturdays since they seem to run later than the 2 hours. We will see how attendance is on a weekend vs our typical weekdays.

* Interest in a Holiday Christmas Party or New Years? This question will be posed at the AGM.

* Any new ideas?

New Business

* Snowplow service FIRA parking lot - Wayne is asking Dan Kay if he can continue to plow this year. Many thanks to Dan for all his years of helping us out! If Dan is unable to we will need to find another plowing service.

* 2025 Dues: Our dues are still covering our basic operating expenses so we will propose to members to keep dues for 2025 the same at the AGM.

* Board positions needed: Vice President for 2025, Member-at-Large positions for 2025 and Secretary & Treasurer for 2026. We plan to continue with 3 Meetings per year (with 3 separate exec meetings before hand). We have had issues in the past of people not wanting to be a VP in their first year on the Board, and President after that. A subsequent email conversation between Board members took place after this meeting involving making a proposal at the AGM to change the by-laws to allow for more

Members-at-Large / Directors to provide an opportunity for people to get comfortable and learn the board process before considering other roles. This and some other options will be discussed and proposed at the AGM for possible change to our bylaws.