



PO BOX 255 Boston Bar BC V0K1C0

Regular meeting July 15th, 2024

6:00 pm at Canyon Lanes

*Board Members present: Tom Durrie, Lorna Regehr, Lori Walters, Karen Tillotson, Howard Johnson, Doug Robinson, Margaret Hendrickson, Amber Scarfo*

*Regrets: Steph Tillotson*

*Sixteen community members were in attendance.*

Chairman Tom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Tom stressed the importance of community interest, encouraging everyone to voice their questions and concerns while stressing the need for order during all discussions. He reminded all present to please raise their hand and be recognized before speaking.

Minutes of the last regular meeting in June were approved. Tom stressed that the regular meeting which followed June's AGM was a very brief discussion during which no motions were made and/or carried.

#### **REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:** (accounting documents submitted: BBNBES Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, Better at Home Project, BB Community Hall, Food Bank.)

Lori reported she had processed the GST report which included the last report for Family Place and the programs account, so the programs account has \$128.72. This amount belongs to PHAC. Lori will send a cheque to Hope Community Services when the refund is received.

Funds to cover maintenance at the Parks is dwindling. Sheri Markovic had to do a big cleanup at Family Place which took several hours but now Sheri is on top of everything and the work ahead will take less time. Lori stated we will need to think about funding to help cover Parks maintenance,

Lori advised that the steps at the hall are all finished! Stripes are bright yellow and highly visible which should prevent tripping accidents. Sheri also did some grading outside to prevent impassable snow drifts in winter.

The air conditioning has been repaired on the Shuttle Bus - they will be submitting the bill by mail. The insurance is due on August 9<sup>th</sup> so Lori will either take care of that by telephone or go down to Hope to renew the insurance.

Thankfully there have been funds in the Food Bank Account because the cost of groceries is constantly increasing, even though generous help is coming from St. Joseph's Mission.

No total as yet for Canada Day festivities. Waiting for all the receipts from Margaret, when she receives the cheques. There is \$600 left over from the fund which was \$4000. From that, \$3400 went to the 88 Strings multicultural day event and the rest will pay for the flyers and food from July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Lori reported that four chairs are missing from the Hall. Because of that, there will **no longer be any chair rental**. Denise borrowed 52 chairs for grad but returned them all. Following that, the hall was rented out. Then Shirley Neilson from Canyon Alpine asked for some chairs. There is some confusion about who is responsible for giving her permission, the exact number of chairs she borrowed or who counted the chairs back into the inventory. In future if anyone wants to rent chairs, they can **only** rent wooden ones out of the pavilion or plastic ones at the station. The PROBLEM is - someone still needs to be present to loan them out and then count them back into inventory on their return.

**BETTER AT HOME:** Sandra Clark reported that the new housekeeper she hired has only done one house which brought forth a complaint so Sandra will be accompanying the individual on the next cleaning job to oversee her work. The Heat Pump installation company that is going around town has signed up a number of B@H clients and Sandra has been encouraging the seniors to go ahead with the heat pump program. Those that sign up also get free insulation in their attic and a bathroom fan. If one goes to the Clean BC website, there is \$16,000 available to convert households. This program is meant to reduce citizens' use of fossil fuels.

**FOOD BANK:** Kathy Monds: "This month we had 11 new people sign up on or before hamper day. We are now up to 50 hampers per month. In Many, we made up 30 hampers and only 18 were picked up. The number of hampers required has nearly tripled since May. I have been receiving feed back regarding the fresh produce in the hampers, which we receive from St. Joseph's Food Bank in Mission. I would like to be able to continue utilizing St. Joseph's donations however my space here (at the lanes) is too small. I would really like to look at finding a bigger space in order to continue improving the quality of the hampers. That being said, it's been brought to my attention from Sandra, manager from St Joseph's, that it would be nice if we were able to compensate the volunteers who take 6 hours out of their day to deliver to us. Right now, we pay \$100 for their fuel. I was extremely fortunate this month to have several volunteers for both delivery day and hamper distribution day. I certainly would not have been able to accomplish everything as quickly without their help."

Amber put forth the suggestion that a luncheon for the volunteers be provided (pizzas perhaps). It was pointed out that they are only here for 30 minutes or so and then gone. Lori said she would be happy to give St Joseph's \$100 to give to their volunteers who come up. Kathy was happy with that suggestion. **Marg motioned** that this money be given to the manager for their volunteers, all were in favour. Food bank storage at the Community Hall is out of the question for several reasons. Family Place would be a good location but needs to be cleaned out plus we need to wait to hear if there are any problems with the program account and need permission from the government to close down the accounts. We have asked Robin at HCS but she has not as yet replied or given back the bookwork. Lori will ask her again. Marg said they were hoping to use the front part of Family Place for the seniors' teas and the back part could be used for the food bank. The date of the teas would need to be changed from the Tuesday as well because it would conflict with food bank deliveries, hamper building, etc. There's more room at Family Place for shelving to accommodate all the food storage. Kathy has seen the facilities and both she and Lori have discussed possibilities of creating enough storage to accommodate. Diane Johnson suggested creating more shelves (in the bowling alley) and then the shelving be contained within some cabinetry. Lori pointed out wall space is needed for the chairs so that might be an issue. There are some metal shelves at BB Hall (basement) that could be used for food storage. Amber suggested dividing the meeting room with a temporary partition wall to separate food bank from anything going on in the front part of the room which isn't used very often, nor is all the space required. All suggestions will be discussed with Denise and the bowling society.

**EDITOR:** Nothing much new to report but the paper will be a little emptier without School News and photos. The printer is still functioning well. There are no other concerns.

**Tom:** A PROPER WHEELCHAIR ACCESS RAMP is needed at the hall. Estimate is required to apply for the grant which has no ceiling as far as funds go (anything less than 1m\$) but the grant application needs to be submitted by July 23rd. Waiting on Jeremy to get in touch and have a look and provide an estimate.

**Motion to adopt the reports** was made by Margaret, all in favour.

#### ***Unfinished Business:***

**SIGNS:** Howard & Diane Johnson.

Diane had not received an email from a sign maker recommended by her daughter in law Lana so Diane contacted Victor Smith, Mayor of Hope to find out who they used for signs around Hope. She corresponded with that company and Howard provided them with photographs of existing signs, posts and the land where they were situated, as well as took measurements. This was all sent off to the designer/sign maker and are waiting for a quote. The budget allowed (Lori & Tom) is \$4000 for each sign, front-facing only. Lori asked if they

would be replicating the train image or if we could ask for something else. Diane believed this was something the company would be open to doing. When Diane spoke with them on the phone, she mentioned possibly using an image likeness of the aerial ferry. Lori liked that idea and perhaps would be nice to include the two mountains on the sides. Doing that would better represent both communities of Boston Bar and North Bend – since the railway is no longer a prominent or important part of life for our residents. Historically, Diane added, it was the mill and railway that provided jobs and built our community decades ago, but they are no longer influential in any way.

### **Hall Lighting, Security and Sound Proofing/Acoustics:**

Howard suggested it might be a good idea to improve the **acoustics/sound** (*New Business*) in the BB Hall. It was agreed that acoustical modifications are something to consider, and Tom suggested Howard get more information from the person Howard know who does that sort of work. It was agreed that the music (such as Cascadia Ensemble) sound quite good, although it's very loud and Lori said it is having conversations with others that is especially difficult when there are thirty or so people having conversations.

Tom informed everyone of the donation of the **PA/sound system** from *George Kirzenstein*. The speakers are currently at Tuckkwiowhum (Byron Spinks has the keys) but the rest of the system is at George's house. Tom

Tom advised prices have been updated for the **lighting proposal** he made some time ago. He referred to photos of the lights for the ceiling and walls, showing them to all members present. Referring to more photos, Tom said that one, two or even three lights directed to the stage would probably require some rewiring. Sandra Clark spoke up and said the stage lights suggested were very hot as well as hard on the eyes (despite the ability to adjust the direction). Another suggestion from the membership was to attach the stage lights to a steel bar (on pullies) hanging from the ceiling. The cost of the fixtures Tom showed the membership was \$3,400.17 and on speaking with **Universal Electric** in Chilliwack, installation would cost \$3,670.78 all totalling around \$7000. The lighting expense, combined with the "next item of business", Tom said when we apply for a capital grant, the gaming commission will pay half. Whatever outlay expected, we only need to come up with half. Lori pointed out that the wiring is very old in the hall and an electrician should assess the hall wiring before we proceed with ordering any products or installation. Electrician Stuart Pruim is always very busy so Diane suggested local contractor Robert Sotham might do the work but it was agreed that it's important that a qualified electrician do the work. Much discussion followed about the actual brightness and positioning of the lighting that Tom has been suggested. All agreed that an electrician might be able to help to determine what type of lighting would work best.

**Security:** Tom contacted the company that does Canyon Lanes. He asked for an estimate to include the park, pavilion, the Hall and Family Place building. The total was over \$3500 and included cameras overlooking park and pavilion, alarmed entries at the hall and family place. Monthly monitoring was quoted at \$60.00, camera monitoring \$25, minus \$500 for a three-year contract. The monitoring and alarm would however require someone to be responsible for responding to any and all security breach notifications from the alarm company. Lori said it was a good quote but said she did not think we could afford that kind of expense. Amber emphasized that if there are photos or videos of people vandalizing or otherwise with the proposed security equipment, that "nothing will be ever done about that" suggesting that trying to secure everything was pointless as there don't seem to ever be any consequences. She suggested fake cameras...little red lights blinking...reiterating that there is seldom, if ever, a response to any level of vandalism or criminal activity from our local constabulary. Ang Hunter supported Amber's idea, saying that even after multiple "catches" on her own personal security cameras, nothing is ever done. There are still 2 sets of security cameras at Family Place but Lori said they're unplugged...because Carly still has not relinquished control. Lori is still searching for the instruction booklet to regain control of the cameras. It was discussed that just securing access and not having cameras might be the way to go. Ang said you can have a generic code for people to gain entry when renting the facility. That code can be changed on the keypad, Ang advised. But again, **someone has to be willing to take the calls from the alarm company** and attend the scene. It was asked if there had been any break-ins at the Hall. Lori said years ago, someone got in through a window (she and Marg knew who did it)

but it is the pavilion that has had several incidences of vandalism, damage and break ins. The garden shed has been broken into as well. There's never been a break in at Family Place that anyone could recall.

Lori advised that Sheri has chained all the tables together off the stage to discourage the rowdies from hanging around on the stage and getting into mischief. Lori asked: **do we really want to keep the picnic tables?** *Should we ask people to bring their own chairs for different functions?* The 4 existing picnic tables are in poor condition – it was decided that for a donation someone could take them all away. Denise is interested in taking two of them. Frames are still intact, but the rest of the tables need a lot of work. It was agreed that they all GO. “By donation. First come first serve.”

Marg said there is also a very large desk that needs to be removed. It is in the BB Hall, by the door to the access ramp. It needs to be taken apart...metal removed...before dump will accept it. *Takers?*

Tom brought up the condition of the flooring in the Hall. Chilliwack Floors Carpet One came and took a look in 2022 and proposed refinishing wood floor, replacing the linoleum, with vinyl – estimate: \$19,957.... (out of our league). Diane suggested asking Sotham who might be able to do the Hall flooring. Cheaper mostly likely and he's local! All agreed. Painting the hall was also mentioned again.

Lori advised she has an appointment with a lawyer regarding Ellen's case against BBNBES. Results of that meeting are forthcoming.

*Next meeting will be September 16<sup>th</sup>.*

Moved to adjourn at 7:09 pm by Howard, all in favour!