



## REGULAR MEETING

**Monday, September 16, 2024**

6:00 pm at Canyon Lanes

Directors: *Tom Durie, Lori Walters, Karen Tillotson, Howard Johnson, Doug Robinson, Margaret Hendrickson, Amber Scarfo*

Regrets: *Lorna Regehr, Stephanie Tillotson*

Attendance: *14 BBNBES members and guests*

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm

**Chairperson Tom:** reported on his attending the Seniors Advisory Council in Victoria. The government approved in 2013, under the liberal government, the formation of the advisory council to respond to the issues and needs of seniors and to advocate on their behalf. Isobel McKenzie was head of the council for ten years and that position is now held by Dan Levitt. There are currently 20 people on the council with representatives from each health district. (With advocate Gerry Gosling in our area.) Main issue with all seniors is money and that financial hardship needs to be addressed more in depth. There will be a petition for seniors to sign for the Tin Cup Society. There will be another gathering of the Seniors Advisory Council (in Vancouver) in January 2025 which Tom plans to attend.

Howard moved that the minutes of the last meeting (July) be approved. All in favour.

**Treasurer Lori:** reported there was quite a bit of cash on hand but part would be going to pay for the new welcome highway signs and most of what remains will go towards insurance. QuickBooks has changed the base charge for the program and Family Place accounts increased from \$36.39/months to \$89.60. Lori moved all dollars from the programs account and will close it – all moneys went into the Family Place bank account, \$20,000 of which was put into a term deposit and the rest is there to cover any costs that arise. Lori will keep Quickbooks open for another month, then close it down in October. Everything is being backed up on a memory stick just in case there is an audit. Lori discovered that a cheque was cashed in November 2022 and because Lori had not written a cheque, she contacted the bank to reverse it. It was put through twice by the bank and they apologized. Picnic tables from the pavilion have been taken away by those interested (\$50 donation for each) and Sheri has done a great job of trimming back vegetation on the south side of the hall. A gaming grant of \$2600 arrived to cover entertainment/concert costs. A cheque for \$4000 has been received from the Surrey-Delta Food Bank (from their 'extra funds'), BC Food Banks also sent \$585 to offset the cost of eggs from our local market. The air conditioning in the shuttle has been repaired (\$2,649) and well worth it. FVRD sent a cheque for \$1200 to cover the museum rent in North Bend Community Centre. New signs are on their way. (photos sent around for membership approval). Bingo funds – cheques issued to cover wages at cooling centre, the satellite phone minutes for VFD, funds also provided to cover the new highway signs, leaving approximately \$29,000 in bingo funds. Wages will come from the funds to go to Hygienist and Foot care specialist. More expenses, PAC, Grad, Halloween Party will be covered by bingo money. Question came from the floor (Trent Thomas) regarding QuickBooks and asked what would be taking its place. Lori clarified that QuickBooks will still be used for all general accounts, (it is the programs & family place QuickBooks that will be closed off). His 2<sup>nd</sup> question was regarding the satellite phones that the VFD use when they can't use cell towers. These phones come with 300 minutes a year for each sat-phone. (\$900 per year). VFD cannot cover that expense so it is taken from the Bingo Funds. Thomas suggested an alternative plan - he uses "StarLink" – explaining their relatively low cost and superior capability. Lori agreed this might be something to be looked into. More discussion ensued about status of mobile and permanent satellite phones. Trees, mountains can interfere with signals – open skies required. 3<sup>rd</sup> Question from TT: brought up the public washroom issue in our town. The board advised that in the CN Station, when it's complete, there will be public washrooms accessible from outside of the building as well from inside. Local store owners do not like to make washrooms accessible to everyone because of septic and maintenance issues. According to highways (advised Margaret Hendrickson), there is absolutely NO safe area along our highway for the construction of roadside public washrooms...especially impossible for transport trucks. Nowhere to pull off. All are hopeful the CN station will solve that problem. It was also brought up that the community hall hours on google show that the hall & grounds are always closed (permanently) – Karen said she would try to fix that.

**Better at Home Sandra:** Rita is back doing the housecleaning. Currently planning lunch trips for seniors (65+) to the Somewhere Else Café (as is Hope Care Transit). Shuttle bus and private vehicles might also be required for

transporting. Costs are being covered by the Aging In Motion grant. Sandra advised that the cost per person is a flat \$10 – and they can order anything off the menu.

**Food Bank, Kathy:** had two challenging months regarding food supply for the hampers. Unable to get delivery from St Joseph's in Mission due to the fact hamper days were on the same day. August was an expensive food shop month as a result. Kathy had great connection with the Hub in Chilliwack – they were very generous with donations to our food bank. They supplied more than 80% of what went into the hampers. Deliveries from St Joseph's will resume in October. Numbers of those in need increased by 14 applications to 55. 4 more added in September – total prep now is for 60 hampers. Discussion ensued about how to prepare for Christmas, hampers, giving tree, stuff the cruiser, etc. Kathy is looking for input since she is new...she said she will reach out to current vendors for any food donations. Trent Thomas suggested approaching Lilydale for great prices. All agreed that is a great idea!

**Seniors Committee (Tom):** Pat, Jazzmine and others meet once a month – there is an afternoon tea once a month – always good attendance and great conversation as well as wonderful food. Seniors' dinners, the trip to Desert Hills, etc. - are all funded by The New Horizons Grants which amounts to \$25,000/year. The application needs to be done yearly - Tom has already submitted the next request. There was more discussion about the foot care and dental hygiene programs and their popularity as well as the new dental coverage for seniors tying into the benefits now offered to all elders.

**Howard:** Reported on progress CN station. Perc test done for the septic system: passed. Engineering: passed. Rebar tested.

**Motion by Trent Thomas** to accept all reports provided. All in favour.

**Unfinished Business Tom:** Karen is having difficulty for personal reasons, finding time to give the secretary job the attention it's due. Tom asked could someone step up to take the secretary position and asked audience members to put the word out. Someone needs to be willing - even to just be the recording secretary would be helpful. But a stipulation exists: attendance at all meetings is necessary.

- Tom also put forth a motion that Deanna (foot care) get a raise. Bingo funds already cover a flat rate of \$539 a month which includes her travel expense. Deanna has been coming here for 4 years and puts in long days. Tom moved that she get a raise of 10% - most disagreed with that amount. Jason Kimber suggested 20% which would cover her fuel costs, etc. – most agreed with that figure. Trent Thomas, suggested getting a contract and then pay her \$650 total which was agreed upon by all. Lori said she would send an email telling Bingo committee to give Deanna \$100 more a month. Doug amended Tom's original motion to reflect the raise: all were in favour.

**New Business: Halloween Party** – doors will open/food available at 5. Hot dogs for everyone. Bingo will be at 6 (hopefully) in Family place. Margaret said there will be no customary senior's meal on Oct 31. Fireworks to being at 7 – 7:30. Kids will trickle in from 5:30 on after they have canvassed their neighbours. Costume, judging, candy toss, etc. will take place – chair issued a call out for volunteers. Lori and Marg will take care of the Hotdogs, Mike and Tim will do fireworks, BBFN will donate \$1000 towards the fireworks. Bingo funds will cover the remaining costs of fireworks, prizes, candies, etc. Volunteers will be needed to do the costume judging. (School kids?)

**A Sign** needs to be installed in the fire lane situated by the Hall that is currently being illegally used by a tenant (Fraser Canyon Market) to park her vehicle(s): No Parking Violators will be Towed. She has been warned several times. Towing will need to be arranged with Marios or Hope Towing. Howard/Sheri M volunteered to put in the post, install the sign etc. More signage is also available: "Clean Up after Pets, No Motorized Vehicles, etc." which also need to be placed in appropriate locations to stop misuse of grounds.

**Tom asked Lori:** to brief all the membership present about the requests for money that have arrived via emails from *Carly Thompson* requesting that the Enhancement Society give her funds to run her family place location and to draw that money from Bingo Funds we hold "for community use". Her first request issued directly to the board was for \$5000, and was refused, then her request increased to \$10,000 at which time Carly directly asked the Bingo committee to "intervene" on her behalf and asked them to urge the Enhancement Society comply with her request for money. Lori (and eventually Tom) both replied to the Bingo committee explaining exactly why the board was not in favour of supporting her financially and relayed a multitude of occasions when Carly repeatedly broke trust. "The Enhancement Society has been burned too many times" Lori said, by Carly's defiant behaviour, lack of

accountability and reluctance to be completely transparent about her activities and misuse of funds. As a result, the board has absolutely no confidence in her ability to handle money responsibly...and cannot trust her to not spend any funds, which she might be successful in soliciting – solely on herself.

Lori explained to the membership, that following several disputes and being repeatedly being stonewalled by Ms Thompson, the board decided it was necessary to finally close the doors to Family Place in order to cut ties with Carly. There are still thousands of dollars that remain unaccounted for and even though the families and children could certainly benefit from funding support, suffice to say that while Carly Thompson attempts to remain in charge of any “Family Place” enterprise, any joint venture with her will continue to be an impossible arrangement and would only serve her personally, and our community’s families.

Lori stated that she could prove all the accounting discrepancies through documentation she has stored and printed to prove that Carly has continually attempted to gain all control of money and/or hide any influx of funds from outside sources. Lori stated all printouts are accessible on request.... the accounting, the discrepancies, the emails, and the communications with Hope Community Services and Lions committee. Tom went on to describe the existing situation with Carly, her ‘family place’ operation currently taking place in the old pub space at Fat Jacks, the discordance with Young (the owner) and his frustrations with Carly, as well as Carly’s overstepping another rental situation. There have been many complaints. Young expressed to Tom Durie that he has been very unhappy with the situation. The floor recognized Trent Thomas: he asked if there was anyone else that might be able to take over the management of the Family Place program. Lori advised that essentially, Hope Community Services and PHAC need to oversee the resumption and/or operation of Family Place. Long time resident and 26 year employee of Family Place, Margaret Hendrickson, advised the membership, that the ONLY way the continued operation could work and benefit this community’s families: Hope Community Services would need to request the funds from the Bingo Committee on Carly’s behalf, and then Hope Comm Serv would need to be entirely responsible for the disbursement of any funds given to Carly Thompson for the operation in any location she chooses to conduct Family Place. The BBNBES board feels that Ms. Thompson cannot safely be given any money directly and/or to be used at her discretion.

It has been declared a FIRM DECISION, by the BBNBES board, that the board will NEVER agree to providing or entrusting any financial support requested by Carly Thompson. It will be up to Hope Community Services (and Lions Bingo) to make a decision to support Ms Thompson - presently or in the future.

**Security Cameras at Pavilion & Park** – will be installed by board members Howard and Amber

An audience member suggested we should be live streaming all regular meetings but the suggestion was met with disagreement. It was pointed out that written permission is required from everyone present to do so in a public forum. Membership was reminded that meeting minutes appear at the website and hardcopies are kept in a binder at Canyon Lanes.

Trent Thomas spoke up suggesting that we should be encouraging youth to join the Society. He suggested we try to find ways to create seats on the board for our town’s YOUTH. Many heartily agreed! Perhaps contact principal/teachers to encourage more participation from our town’s youth. Especially 16 yrs plus. “Fresh Ideas” and new ideas are needed!

Thanks was given to the membership for their contributions and ideas.

Motion to adjourn: Sandra Clark, all in favour. Adjourned at 7:18 pm

