

Kanata Seniors Council Inc.
Minutes of Annual General Meeting - September 14, 2015

Present: Polly Erskine-Henry, Isobelle Skinner, Valerie O'Callaghan, John Kern, Sarah Trant, Liz Tucker, Jeet Wadehra, Susan Dotzenroth, Mayor Jim Watson and other City representatives, and registered members of the Kanata Seniors Council.

Call to order:

The President Sarah Trant called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. with 98 members present.

Introduction of Mayor Jim Watson:

The President introduced Mayor Jim Watson who brought greetings from Councillors Qadri and El-Chantiry who are tied up in meetings. He spoke about various things relating to seniors and the City Council's dreams for 2017 to recognize Canada at 150 years. Following his talk, he asked for questions from the floor, several of which dealt with Para Transpo.

Recognition of municipal VIPs and Centre staff:

President Sarah welcomed Janet Baigent and Maureen Moynahan from the Seniors Centre, and Mariann Wilkinson, councillor for the area, who said a few complimentary words about the work of the Seniors Council.

Presentation of annual financial review of fiscal year 2014 and report of auditor:

Treasurer Liz Tucker went over the items on the statement of income and net assets, and gave an explanation for some of the items. She stressed that this is a financial review, not an audit.

It was moved by Valerie O'Callaghan, seconded by John Kern, that the financial review of the fiscal year 2014 and the accompanying Auditor's report be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditor for 2015 fiscal year:

It was moved by Liz Tucker, seconded by Renate Harder, that Wilfred Lamb be appointed auditor for the 2015 fiscal year. CARRIED.

Year in Review:

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The Advisory Council is composed of Janet Baigent, Kanata Seniors Centre Manager for the City of Ottawa, Valerie O'Callaghan, VP of the Kanata Seniors Council and two representatives from the membership at large. We meet once per month, provided there are issues to discuss that are relevant to all.

A few highlights from the past year:

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2. Health Workshop - As discussed at our monthly meeting, this event was held in June, based on information from a Council Director. Janet arranged a very successful one day Diabetes Assessment Workshop, in partnership with the Pinecrest Queensway Resource Centre, with members of the Seniors Council assisting with the assessments.
3. Digital Projectors – After a much needed new purchase of a Digital Projector by the Seniors Council, we found ourselves with an extra projector, albeit without the highest resolution. Janet had mentioned that she could not justify, in her budget, the rationale for buying a new projector to address the needs of those who rent this facility for various activities. When I brought this issue forward, at the next Board of Directors' meeting, the Seniors Council unanimously agreed to donate the second projector to the City.
4. We all participate in discussions re possible topics for the upcoming Learning Series. Speaking for all of us on the Advisory Council, we are definitely open to any and all suggestions.
5. We had lengthy discussions on how to improve the sound system in the large programme room. To that end, Janet has taken on this project and earlier this Summer I asked the Seniors Council for agreement, in principal, to help fund a portion of this expense, as costs were just being ascertained. The Council unanimously agreed. Update: At our last Board of Director's meeting, the Seniors Council took a positive step forward and agreed to commit to a maximum of \$3K for a new sound system.

Travel: John Kern

From Sept 2014 thru Aug 2015 the Travel Team offered educational and fun experiences:

We operated 16 trips, held 2 Travel Presentations/Seminars for multi day trips, 218 people participated in Trips and Seminars/Presentations, plus put in 1084 volunteer hrs.

Computers: Sarah Trant

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Christmas wrap: Liz Tucker

Another successful Christmas Wrap at the Hazeldean Mall between Dec. 15 to Dec. 24 raised \$1874.95 after expenses. Many thanks to Renate Harder for organizing the volunteers, and thanks to those who contributed supplies, including Christmas bows. Thanks also to all the seniors, friends and students who donated their time to help wrap presents. Thanks also go to Patti Guimond and her crew from The Waterside in Carleton Place, and to Sharon Gray and her crew from Island View Suites in Arnprior, and representatives from The Royale in Kanata who took several shifts. Thanks also to Hazeldean Mall for allowing us to repeat this successful fund raiser 17th – 24th.

Café: Sue Dotzenroth

We have had another busy year under our Café Manager Frank Zeitlhofer, who always maintains a friendly and easy-going atmosphere with kitchen volunteers and our customers.

This year our staff participated in a short information session on proper food handling and safety measures presented by two of our Cooks who earlier had received their official Food Handling Certificates from the City of Ottawa.

We continue to provide a variety of nutritious meals at a low cost, but are always challenged by having a shortage of volunteers to fill the various shifts throughout the week.

Since the summer we have been working hard on ways of attracting new volunteers, and especially Cooks, to join our staff, so that we can continue serving hot meals during the winter months, in addition to our usual soup and sandwich menu.

Sponsorship: Terry McPartlin

At this time last year I was persuaded into joining the KSC and in almost no time I found myself a director and put in charge of sponsorship. It happened so fast that my head's still spinning. I don't want to use words like "coerced" or "bullied" about our President but they do come to mind.

I had never handled a position such as sponsorship in my life. To beg for funds was foreign to me but somehow I succeeded. I followed what had been established as the traditional path by going out to local retirement residences and here I want to say for myself, and on behalf of the Council, how very grateful I am for all their help - especially Chartwell, Island View, Lynwood Park, Valley Stream, The Royale (now the Red Oak) and River Park who kindly supported my endeavours.

This past year I was just learning my role – and as I learned it became clear that in such a place as Kanata where businesses do so much for – as well as profit from – their huge older adult clientele – the time has come to look for continuing financial commitment from Kanata's very healthy businesses.

Accordingly, I'm heading out to extend our sponsorship base with every intention of achieving outstanding results. As they say ... if you don't ask, you don't get!

Membership: Kay Dubie

This has been a harder year to find volunteers. Our students filled in during the summer, but have not opted to continue once they completed their 40 hrs. That has rarely happened to us before.

More of our café volunteers have started to travel and this has created some challenges. We are always actively looking for new volunteers, so let me know if you or a friend has a little time to share with us.

Far West Fun Fest: Liz Tucker

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Participants had a wide range of activities to choose from, some physical, some testing our mental prowess and all just plain fun. Activities started with an opening breakfast where the Mayor, Jim Watson lit the games flame and included square dancing at the Kanata Rec. Centre, latin chair dancing at Bridlewood Trails, darts and a fish and chip supper at the Kanata Legion, lawn bowling at Goulbourn Lawn Bowling Club and 9 hole golf at Loch March. We were lucky with the weather for all our outside activities although the wind was rather cool and strong at both the mini putt and 9 hole golf. But it didn't rain!!

For those who enjoy playing cards we included a euchre tournament at the Waterside in Carleton Place, bridge at Island View Suites in Arnprior and cribbage at Thorncliffe Place. Bingo was held at the Kanata Seniors Centre this year so that everyone was able to take part. A bus trip to see the tulips (which were in full bloom) took place on the Saturday. Sage Age Theatre performed for us at Chartwell Kanata, Chartwell Empress hosted a fun Cinco de Mayo party and Chartwell Stonehaven hosted a delicious lunch with a classical music accompaniment. Robertson House showed us how to make bath salts. The Red Oak hosted a cookery demonstration which gave us some new ideas for breakfasts. Mini Putt was held at Karters Korner and Viva Barrhaven, a new residence coming in 2016, provided the refreshments and prizes. We had a delightful afternoon walk in Gillies Grove in Arnprior led by Island View and people enjoyed the chair yoga hosted by Symphony Senior Living Kanata. A new participant in our Fun Fest this year was The Court at Barrhaven who hosted 2 movies plus a great lunch. We put together a trivia tournament which tested our teams on a variety of subjects. The Fun Fest closed with a luncheon at the Kanata Seniors Centre on May 21st with some wonderful entertainment from Chris Pilsworth's World of Magic and Illusion.

Every venue provided door prizes and refreshments from snacks to full lunches and dinners including the Legion's famous fish and chips.

We would like to thank all those who hosted the activities for their very generous support and for the effort that they put into welcoming our members. We especially thank those who stretched the numbers they were able to accommodate, those who sponsored us in other ways and those who provided door prizes for the opening and closing. We would also like to thank all those volunteers who helped us out in numerous ways over the course of the two weeks.

Most of all we would like to thank all those who participated in our Fun Fest in such a positive and light-hearted way. We hope that you had lots of fun, made new friends and renewed old friendships.

Plans are already underway for next year's Fun Fest so mark your calendars for May 12th to May 26th 2016.

Council special events: John KERN

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Thank-yous:

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Sarah advised that we lost Ralph Boone this past spring, and also gave thanks to Cam McNeil for his hard work. Cam is leaving the Board.

Introduction of potential new Board members:

Sarah introduced the potential new Board members - Paddy Mccavour,, Mirrieme Girard, Monika Mouchet, and Mary Ann Robblee. Mirrieme and Monika are already known at the Centre as they are involved on committees. Mary Ann Robblee was asked to tell a bit about

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