

Kanata Seniors Council Inc.
Minutes of Annual General Meeting - September 12, 2011

Present: Judy Anderson, Ralph Boone, Colin Brooker, Kay Dubie, Ed Gurgurewicz, Jane Grant, Renate Harder, Gail Jones, John Kern, Joan Sibley, Sarah Trant, Liz Tucker, Jeet Wadehra, City Representatives and registered members of the Kanata Seniors Council.

Call to order:

The President, Ed Gurgurewicz, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Margaret Burman was introduced as recording secretary. It was determined that there was a quorum present.

Approval of the agenda:

Judy Anderson moved the agenda as circulated be approved, seconded by Dee Campbell. Owen Prince asked if there should not be an item for new business. The agenda was approved as circulated.

Acknowledgement of special guests:

It was noted that Councilors Marianne Wilkinson of Kanata North and Shad Qadri of Stittsville-Kanata West were running late. However, Tiffany Lepack was in attendance to represent Allan Hubley of Kanata South. Councilor Eli El-Chantiry of West Carleton-March was invited but did not respond.

Presentation of Frank Valentine Volunteer Award:

Joan Sibley, co-ordinator of the Frank Valentine selection committee, introduced Chris Valentine, son of Frank Valentine. Joan gave the criteria of the award, and thanked the members of the selection committee: Patricia Guimond, Kathy Norton, Kay Dubie, Liz Tucker, Colin Brooker, Gail Jones and Renate Harder. The winner of the award was Charanjit Wadehra, and Joan gave his bio. Chris Valentine presented the award to the recipient, who responded by saying that he knew Frank Valentine from the beginning of the Kanata Seniors Centre.

Approval of minutes from last AGM:

It was moved by Sarah Trant, seconded by Joan Sibley, that the minutes of the 2010 AGM be accepted as circulated. Motion carried.

President's remarks:

President Ed Gurgurewicz said that it has been an interesting year. The three pillars of the Council - the Council Café, the Computer Operations and Travel Group - have all had a great year. (Full transcript of the President's remarks are shown as Addendum 1).

Report of Annual Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2010 and report of the Auditor:

A copy of the Financial Review for 2010 was made available to the membership. Liz Tucker highlighted several items, and also said that the Council holds money for the craft group in a separate account. She stressed that this is a financial review, not an audit. Judy Anderson moved that this Review as presented be accepted, seconded by Jeet Wadehra, and carried.

Appointment of Auditor for 2011 Fiscal Year.

Liz Tucker said that Mr. Wilfred Lamb has agreed to continue into next year and do the 2011 financial review. Kay Dubie moved that Wilfred Lamb be appointed auditor for the 2011 fiscal year; seconded by Shirley Kelly. Motion carried.

Business - By-law Review:

A copy of suggested changes to the By-laws had been circulated to the membership. Liz Tucker went through each change, explaining the reasoning for each change. Liz Tucker moved that we accept the suggested by-law changes, which have to be sent off to Industry Canada for approval; seconded by Jeet Wadehra and carried.

Change of term for newly appointed directors:

Judy Anderson spoke to Article III section 3C which reads: The Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years by the active Members at the Annual General Meeting of the Members.

To be **amended** to:

The Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of three (3) years by the active Members at the Annual General Meeting of the Members.

The elected Directors can run for a second term consecutively, after which there is to be a break of at least one year.

Judy explained the rationale for this change. It was recognized that the suggested change had come up too close to the AGM so that it could not be publicized to the membership, although it was noted in minutes posted on the website and on the Council bulletin board. Several people spoke to the motion.

Dee Campbell moved that we waive the by-law provision to have the change advertised ahead of time in this one instance to deal with it now and not wait for another year; seconded by Owen Prince, and carried.

Shirley Kelly moved that the motion to change the term for officers be accepted, seconded by Owen Prince. Motion carried.

New Business:

Owen Prince spoke briefly about the consumer page that is on the Council web page. It is hard to find, but look for it.

Introduction of Municipal VIPs

The President said that Shad Qadri had been present for a brief time but had to leave for a meeting. He welcomed Marianne Wilkinson representing Kanata North and invited her to say a few words. She began by congratulating Jeet Wadehra on receiving the Frank Valentine award. She talked about drawings for a new library; tenders for the Kanata North complex are out, and also talked about transit service. Tiffany Leback said a few words on behalf of Allan Hubley of Kanata South.

Election process:

The President informed the meeting that due to an unforeseen issue, we cannot proceed with the election of directors until the issue has been resolved. He assured the membership that proper notice of a future meeting to proceed with the election will be given.

Closing:

Ed Gurgurewicz reminded everyone of the two candidates' forums, Expo 55 and the Retirement Living Fair.

He also thanked everyone for their attendance, the telephone committee who called all members, the greeters who directed everyone to the hall, the registration desk who verified the membership, and the Council Café staff for serving today's lunch, which is sponsored by Bridlewood Drug Mart, Kelly Funeral Homes and Waterside Retirement Residence in Carleton Place.

Everyone was invited to enjoy a free light lunch at the conclusion of the meeting. The current directors were asked to take their lunch to the Board Room for a meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Kay Dubie.

Margaret Burman
Secretary.

Addendum 1:

President's remarks:

Travel Team:

- The Travel Team has run 19 trips to various venues around Ottawa and surrounding areas
- 397 Council members participated in these trips.
- The Travel Team put in over 2100 volunteer hours to organize and conduct these trips.
- For the year ahead, the Travel Team is planning another series of trips to exciting destinations that will be both entertaining as well as educational.

Computer Group:

The computer training team achieved the following during the past year:

- Installed Wi-Fi internet access throughout the Kanata Seniors Centre, and actively promoted including signs on all doors.
- Established charity based relationship with Techsoup which allows for highly discounted software to be used by charities like KSC.
- Upgraded both training computers with Microsoft Windows 7, MS Office 2010 and Adobe Photoshop 7 all using the Techsoup relationship.
- Advertised and promoted to KSC members and externally updated training courses for Windows 7.
- Replaced the 3 Centre-owned old public PCs with 4 new large display PCs and advanced software, and varied input devices to expand access to computers for all Kanata Seniors Center computer users.
- Replaced and redesigned the old Kanata Seniors Council and Seniors Center web site with a new site to provide easier access and navigation.
- Generated 4 computer seminars for seniors, and delivered a total of 6 and presented to KSC members as follows:
 - Buying a new Laptop or PC
 - Mobile computing
 - Safe and Secure Computing
 - Repair your PC open house.
- Provided and installed a large screen Monitor/TV to replace the old system in the Lounge including internet access and movies on demand via the internet. Obtained and programmed Harmony remote to replace several remotes to allow for easier one button access to TV, movies and internet access.
- Provided approx. 420 computer training classes, similar in number to the previous year.
- Added Saturday morning for computer training, and some multi-lingual instructors to provide better access.

The Coffee Shop has had a lot of changes, not least is a name change to the Council Café. Even though the Council Café has been affected by ever increasing costs, we have made very few pricing adjustments to reflect those additional costs.

- We served approximately 3800 meals during the period Sept. 2010 to Aug. 2011.
- We dished out approx. 4400 servings of soup and sandwiches. Not to mention all the coffee and tea.
- We provided catering services to Expo 55, the Victoria Tea and numerous other events.
- Council Café volunteers have logged over 5700 volunteer hours since the last AGM.

And as a separate group from the Council, as they function independently, the Ladies Craft Group have sewn together a number of successful events:

- This group of approx. 30 talented ladies meet to socialize and produce many items of hand knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting and craft gifts.
- They sell their crafts at numerous venues like Hazeldean Mall, the Diner's Club, and several of the special events held within the Centre. They have very generously provided funding for special events, purchased kitchen supplies for the Council Café, and paid for the wall mounting of the recentlyh acquired TV Monitor in the lounge.
- They have also donated their crafts to the Cancer support groups as well as several of the seniors residences within Kanata.
- The Council extends many thanks to this group of talented ladies.

Activities of the overall Council include:

- We developed a new logo to be more inclusive of the diversity within the Council.
- Re-wrote the Code of Conduct and the Harassment Policy, both of which are being reviewed by our lawyers.
- The Council continues to help fund and assist the WOCRC "Diners Club".
- "*The Seniors News*" - the Council's newsletter - continues to provide news items and helpful hints. It is published monthly and is attached to the back of the "Seniors Scoop".
- Last November the Council hosted a very successful Retirement Living Fair and this year's version happening on October 2nd portents to be equally great.
- Our new Sponsorship program is growing and we benefit greatly from their generosity. We presently have 12 sponsors.
- Our Media and PR program includes a new column in EMC featuring the Council and other senior activities/concerns/issues.
- Everyone I talked to had a great time at the Far West Fun Fest. Next year's Fest will be even bigger and better: more events, more prizes, and more venues.

- Our outreach and advocacy programs continue to strive to obtain more resources and facilities for the seniors of our community.
- We were successful in obtaining a government grant for purchase of a new fridge, large screen monitor and upgrading of computer equipment.
- We now have added a 2nd Volunteer Award beside the Frank Valentine Award - it is called the Volunteer Appreciation Award and will be given out at the Volunteer Recognition Day this coming June. The Kanata Seniors Council wishes to recognize volunteers, either an individual or a group who has:
 - Made a significant contribution to the well-being of the senior community in the west end of Ottawa.
 - Demonstrated a willingness to contribute above and beyond normal expectations required of their activity.
 - Demonstrated significant leadership and respect while working with their peers.

All in all I know that the Council has had a great year and I wish the new Council well in all their endeavors during the coming year. And just a gentle reminder, new volunteers are always welcome for the Council Café, Computer Team, the Travel Team, and all the other activities in and around the Centre. Come join us - I am sure you will have a great time.