

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors Meeting held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Hall located at 3565 Watson Avenue in Cobble Hill, BC.

Those present: Roy Davies – Vice President, Robin Brett – Treasurer, Betsy Burr, Jayne Shaw, George Baird, Michael St. Clair and Gerry Giles – Secretary.

Apologies: Scott Robinson, Roger Painter.

In the absence of the President, the Vice President, Roy Davies, opened the meeting at 7:05 and the agenda was accepted by consensus with no additions.

Moved/second
the March 18th Director's minutes be accepted as distributed. MOTION CARRIED

Moved/second
the April 22nd Membership minutes be accepted as distributed. MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence:

- A letter issued by the secretary in support of BC Fairs was distributed for information only.

Vice President's Report – Roy reported on the changes taking place with respect to the security and alarm system. Our current system is nearing the end of its life and the changes are designed to be more efficient and to save funds in the long run. He indicated new equipment has been ordered and improvements will be made to the main hall which will see the basement and the new addition alarmed. They currently are not on the alarm system. It was noted the Telus tec had called to report the alarm system has been failing to report alarms for the past several weeks. A work order has been filed for a tec to come out and test the system to see why it is failing to notify security when an alarm is triggered.

Treasurer's Report – Robin reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income Statements for the month of April. She indicated we are in good shape financially with money in a contingency fund as well as money in reserve for the hall floor, the insurance, the Fair, and still some funds in the Technical Reserve account which are however spoken for. Overall, our financial position is solid and we can thank some of our smaller programs for this.

Moved/second
the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Secretary's Report – Gerry said she is pleased to report our Duncan Dabbers grant application was successful and we will be awarded our grant in June. We will not know the amount of the grant until June. Also, we will not know the outcome of our BC Lottery grant until August.

Rentals Report - Rental Calendar May and June were distributed. It was noted the wedding booked for this coming weekend (May 24 -26) cancelled giving only 4 days' notice; therefore, no deposit refund will be provided.

Maintenance Report – hand washing sink in kitchen required fixing. It can also be reported that grass is growing in the newly seeded areas. Our appreciation goes to the watering crew of volunteers set up by Roger and Jim Southwell.

Fair Committee – the minutes of the May 16th 2024 Fair meeting as prepared by Robin Brett were distributed for information only.

New Business:

1. Horse Field – a general discussion took place on what, if anything, should be done with the horse field. Should we continue to deposit chips on it or should we be looking to restoring it so it can be used for some kind of a horse show once a year at the Fair or something more? What would be needed to bring it back to where it was when Bill Wikkerink used to come in before each Fair and mow the field and bail the hay and we would use that hay for the Fair? What else could be done with the field?

After considerable back and forth, Roy agreed to contact Gerry Brecken to ask him for advice.

2. Fundraising Gala – The idea of a fundraising gala raise money to replace the floor was brought forward by a good friend of the Farmers Institute. The suggested date is Saturday, October 26 2024.

Moved/second

the Farmers Institute Board endorse holding a Fundraising Gala on Saturday, October 26, 2024 and authorize preliminary work on it to proceed. MOTION CARRIED

3. December 8th Brenda's Brats asked for sponsorship for this date.

Moved/second

The Farmers Institute sponsor Brenda's Brats Christmas Concert by providing the hall and posters for their event. MOTION CARRIED

4. Floor Quote from United Floors was provided for information only.
5. Michael indicated he has been successful in securing September as the South Cowichan Seniors month at the Return It Bottle Depot on Fisher Road. Consequently, the funds from all cans donated there to the charity of the month during September will accrue to the Seniors lunch program.

Next Directors meeting – June 17th 2024

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm

Submitted by,



Gerry Giles, Secretary