

Western Communities Branch #2700

Minutes of Planning Session April 4, 2023

Location: Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall, 2637 Sunderland Road, Langford

Present: Al Cocola (chair), Valeska Campbell, Tammy Welch, Colleen Cocola, Sharon Stewart, Lynda Hoel

Meeting came to order at 2:50 pm

Membership Report: Valeska reported that she is attending a training session on ZOOM with Josie to look at the new Findjoo online database. This Canadian software will be used to set up a new online membership database and will also replace Campaigner.

Financial Report: Current balance \$200.57.

Agenda Items:

Old Business:

- **April 25-26 EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) & Directors' Meeting** - Al will attend as the Chair and Lynda will be our delegate. The EGM will focus on the amendments to our constitution and whether we become a 'member-funded' society.
- **Hall for June 13th Meeting** - Al reported that Colwood Community Hall is not available. Tammy said that the Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall is available to rent for \$50.
- **Executive Elections** - As we have had a low attendance at our meetings, Tammy proposed that we do elections electronically in order to reach more members. We would send out an initial email requesting nominations, followed by an email with the names, with voting to be completed by a certain date. We could announce the results at our June meeting. The number of executive members will be capped at 8. Al will send out an e-blast to tell members what is involved on the board - a few planning sessions, four general meetings, and assets that might be helpful to the board. Members will not run for specific positions as responsibilities will be decided later by the board. Tammy will put together a formal plan with specific dates/deadlines for emails and voting.
- **Elements Casino Visit** - Not many people have signed up for the 2 days. Al will check with attendees and try to amalgamate to one day.

New Business:

- **May 2nd Meeting** - Presentation by Trip Merchants. People will be asked to respond to Al if interested and he will send out the ZOOM link. Tammy suggested that this meeting be focused on the presentation and not contain the territorial acknowledgement or branch

reports. We will have a round table and discuss coming events at the end. Al will try to get a door prize at the meetings in Tsawwassen.

- **May Hike** - Thursday May 18th at Matheson Lake. Al & Dale Chandler checked out the hiking trails and took pictures. The trail has an easy section for those people who don't want a strenuous hike.
- **June wind up** - Tammy has received a proposal from Poncho's to provide a lunch at the Gilbert Cade hall. There is no deposit required and final numbers do not need to be in until the Friday before. The menu includes 2 salads (green and quinoa), 2 quiches (veggie, ham & brie), chicken penne and a berry crumble. The board asked that buns be added. Al will bring water bottles and we have coffee and tea at the hall. Tammy will confirm that the hall is available. People will be asked to contact Tammy through the Treasurer email if they want to come. Tammy will contact them about payment (either by cheque made out to the branch or by electronic funds transfer). Number of guests will be capped at 40. Cost of the meal will be \$26.40 (incl. GST & 15% gratuity) based on a minimum of 20 people. **Motion #1 made by Tammy - Poncho's provide lunch for our wind-up event at the Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall 50+ Club.** Seconded by Colleen. Motion carried. **Motion #2 made by Tammy - Tickets be capped at \$20 for members and \$25 for guests.** Seconded by Valeska. Motion carried. Al has invited BCGREA President Brian Green to the event and asked him to do a short presentation. Door prizes were discussed. Lynda will ask Bernie Dinter if he can provide centre pieces for the tables that can be raffled off. If we have 6 people per table, 4 to 7 centre pieces will be required depending on the number of attendees. Total cost to be capped at \$100. It was suggested that we promote Dinter's nursery on our FaceBook page. Sharon will add a link to his website. Valeska thought we should play a game at the luncheon and suggested having attendees guess the percentage of members residing in each of the Western Communities. Prizes could include the BCGREA planning calendars.

Our next planning session will be May 16th, 2023 at 10:30 am on ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Action Items:

- Tammy to put together a formal plan with dates for board elections/voting
- Al to change Casino tours to one day
- Al will look for a door prize at the EGM for our May ZOOM meeting
- Tammy to confirm hall is available & book Poncho's
- Al to send out e-blasts to members about branch elections & board duties
- Lynda to ask Bernie if he could supply from 4-7 centre pieces for \$100 or less.
- Valeska to set up a postal code game for the luncheon
- Sharon to set up a link to Dinter Nursery on our branch Face Book page
- Al to set up the ZOOM meeting for our next planning session