

SECHELT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE
5604 Trail Avenue Sechelt BC

Minutes of the Special Meeting
For Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Proposal
Thursday, January 21, 2016 1:30 pm

Present: 107 Members were verified and signed in for this meeting, quorum requirements were met.

1. Bert Carswell, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 1:30.
2. The agenda format was announced by the Chair, and displayed on the Power Point presentation
3. A Power Point Presentation addressed by the following:
 - a. Linda Stroud gave a statistical background on the refugee status situation;
 - b. Joanne Rykers gave a brief explanation of the Refugee Sponsorship Committee and explained the Private Sponsorship Program of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Joanne noted that we are asking for \$36,000 for a family of 4.
 - c. Linda Stroud outlined the volunteer opportunities available.
 - d. Juergen Dankwort, SSAC member and Refugee Committee member, spoke of his support to the Refugee Sponsorship Committee.
 - e. Ed White, (SSAC Refugee Committee member) addressed why SSAC should be involved.
 - f. Joanne introduced the Refugee Sponsorship Committee.
 - g. Joanne further explained that the SSAC is in a good financial position to take on this project. The funds being allocated will be coming from our contingency fund which has been earmarked for building renovations.

We have over \$240,000 in our contingency and cash reserves and we are requesting \$36,000 for this project. However, we plan that fundraising will put us in a position where we will not need to use up the Centre funds.

Future grants will not be affected as grant applications are very specific as to what those funds can be used for.

We are a Registered Charity and we have sent a letter off to Canada Revenue Agency asking them to allow us to issue deductible tax receipts for donations received.

- h. Dagmar Nunn addressed concerns with regard to the terrorist aspect and spoke to Canada's screening process. Refugees who have been in refugee camps have been screened by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Canada also has the resources of the following departments; Canada Border Services Agency, CSIS, CIC and RCMP working on this refugee crisis.
 - i. We have also been given legal advice which states we will not be operating outside our constitutional mandate.
 4. Barbara Cochrane, spoke to her experience as a member of the Tibetan Sponsorship Group in Gibsons. They have settled five Tibetan families since their group was formed. She also talked about some of the challenges faced by refugee families. She noted that the Canadian Council of Refugees was a good source for information.
 5. At this point, the Proposal was presented. Moved by Ann Stuart and Seconded by Cheri Kingsland:

That the SSAC make application to Canadian Immigration and Citizenship, to sponsor a refugee family from Syria, with the understanding that sponsorship will be for a period of one year, according to the terms of the CIC Sponsorship Program and to a maximum cost of up to \$36,000 from SSAC reserves.
 6. Members were then invited to provide their comments on the proposal.

Eight members spoke for and two members spoke against the proposal.
 7. The meeting was adjourned for 20 minutes to deal with a medical emergency and was recalled at 3:00 pm when the ambulance and first aid people left.
 8. The chair announced it was time for the vote.

Moved by Pats Carswell, Seconded by Gary Hill, that the voting take place by secret ballot.

The motion was put to a vote by show of hands. The motion was defeated.
 9. The motion to approve the proposal was then placed before the members. The vote was by show of hands and the Chair declared the vote in favor of the motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

Minutes Recorded by Wilma Lorimer