

**SECHELT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE  
5604 Trail Avenue Sechelt BC**

**Minutes of the Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 12, 2014**

Present: Kit Artus, Ron Atkinson, Dorothy Fraser, Phil Green, Maureen Heaven, Barbara Lightfoot, David Marsh, Joanne Rykers, Douglas Smith, Linda Stroud, Doug Whitworth.

Regrets: Brigitte Horn

**The Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.**

- 1) **The agenda** was adopted with the following additions:
- 2) **The Minutes** of the June 10th, 2014 meeting were adopted.

The President acknowledged and welcomed visiting members. The Board were then asked to introduce themselves to the visitors. The visitors were asked if they had a spokesperson. The response was that there was no spokesperson as they were at the meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.

- 3) Business arising from the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

**a) Credit card processing:**

- David has reviewed the hardware available for the "Square" credit card reader. There is a stand, printer and scanner available at a cost of \$665. It is not necessary for us to buy this equipment now. David recommends we review later, once we have been using the system for a while.
- David has been using the system and reports the analytics are very good. Cost is 2.75% per credit card transaction. No charge for using the system to track cash and/or cheques, or for issuing receipts. The system cannot handle debit cards yet. Phil noted that the system could be used for all of our transactions.
- David suggested we aim to run a pilot project, starting in September. There was general agreement.
- Tabled to September meeting.

**b) Report on the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch**

- Kit reported that more than 100 volunteers were served a delicious lunch. Many thanks to Emily who produced a wonderful meal, as always.
- Door prizes were generously donated by local businesses who were invited to attend the lunch. 4 business people did attend.

- Potted plants, supplied at cost by Anne Lynne florists.
- We did not have entertainment this year and some people were disappointed. We should reconsider entertainment for future years.
- Linda offered a vote of thanks to Kit for a great job organizing a very successful lunch.

**c) Preparation for the October General Meeting.**

- Linda requested that submissions for the General Meeting, which will take place on Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, be forwarded early.

**4) Correspondence**

- Barbara reported she has received some correspondence regarding Pickleball, and that this will be dealt with under New Business.
- SSAC Member, Mary Caple has reported she felt unprepared for the driving test she was recently required to take. Mary has asked if the Centre could offer classes of some kind to assist those who need to take the test. David notes that it is not a matter of computer literacy as improving computer skills will not affect the outcome. The Ministry does not allow people to practice on the machine ahead of time. David believes a person can have someone with them when taking the test. Doug Whitworth noted that the local MLA did some work on this and should have some information.

Barbara will speak with Mary, David and Linda will seek further information.

- Barbara has received an e-mail request from Australia regarding past member Peter Gawn's research into his family history. Barbara will be responding.
- A letter has been received from BC Housing and from Jef Kiley the Senior's Advocate. It does not seem these are areas in which the Centre would be involved, Douglas Smith will look into them.

Ron notes we do not have a complete reference of services for seniors on the Coast. Our members often come to us looking for help and we need to have a more complete reference of where to send them for assistance. Linda will look into this.

**5) Committee Reports:**

**i) Maintenance:**

Ron distributed information regarding the Lighting Upgrade project. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$25,330 or \$26,903. The difference is because there are 2 options for the road sign retrofit. Total amount of grants/funding expected to be \$21,421. There will be a cost to the Centre of \$3,908 or \$5,508 – again depending on the road sign option. Savings are expected to be about \$770 per year. Additional savings will be realised from

reduced maintenance costs. Ron wished to recognize the contribution of Tony Stroud with this project.

ii) **Treasurer's Report** has been distributed. Any questions can be e-mailed to Brigitte.

iii) **President's Report:**

Barbara wishes to thank the Board for their continued support and for giving up time during their own busy summers to keep the Centre Director's Desk staffed.

## 6) **New Business**

### a) **Upgrade to the Audio/Video system.**

Phil explained that we could upgrade the present Audio Video system by adding a monitor and speaker to the control room. This would allow the operator to see what is on the screen without leaving the room.

**Motion:** That the Board approve an expenditure of up to \$700 for improvements to the audio/video system.

**Second:** Dorothy

Discussion: Joanne asked for clarification regarding the intended use of this equipment. Douglas Smith noted that the upgrade would be an enhancement to what we already have – it is not a requirement. Ron feels funding may be available, but we have other expenses coming up – and this may not be a priority. Ron believes we should wait on this upgrade until other items have been prioritized.

**Motion Failed to Pass.**

### b) **Open House Update.**

Kit explained she is looking for approval from the Board, in principle, to advertise at the Open House that we will be requiring Membership Cards at lunch (to obtain the Member's Price) and for all activities.

Concern was expressed over delays at lunch while people look for cards, and long-time or Life Time Members being offended when asked to show their cards. Dorothy notes that West Van Centre has a much larger membership, and cards are required every time. Ron suggested that someone be in the Lobby to ask Members to have their card ready and help people prepare. Dorothy offered to do this.

The Board agreed to Kit's request for approval in principle, of advertising regarding the need for the presentation of Membership cards.

c) **Discussion regarding conflict of interest, Pickleball.**

Ron introduced himself as someone new to playing Pickleball (PB). He noted that we were fortunate to have Karen and her associates and thanked them for bringing PB to the Centre. Much as Ron enjoys the game, he is dismayed to hear comments of animosity towards others. There is an unpleasant atmosphere. Ron presented a chart showing Pickleball Canada and the affiliated groups: Sunshine Coast Pickleball Association, Pickleball B.C. (Pickleball B.C. West Coast Association Est. 2009) and Coast Pickleball Society, incorporated May 2014.

On the other side of the chart Ron shows the Board of the SSAC, and beneath them the SSAC Pickleball Activity Committee, the Board Liaison and the Pickleball Activity Chair.

Ron notes that the problems seem to be due to the Board of the SSAC not having policies in place to keep the demarcation line in place between the various PB groups affiliated with Pickleball Canada. As various affiliates have been promoted within the community and the lines of direct responsibility between the groups and the SSAC have become very cloudy. As an example, Ron showed a list of lock-up procedures, for locking the Activity Centre, printed on Sunshine Coast Pickleball Society letterhead.

Ron presented a “preamble” to his motion as follows:

“In order to make quality decisions regarding the SSAC PB activity, we must have clear policies and procedures in place. These policies should reflect that the SSAC PB activity is not affiliated with or governed by any outside organization and should apply strictly to the activity at SSAC.

Due to the organizational complexity we now face, we could consider our PB activity to be strictly “social play” thus eliminating levels of play. Outside organizations could rent our facilities under our rental fees and standard agreement if they wish. Scheduling of outside rentals would, as per our rental policies, be determined by giving priority to SSAC scheduled activities.”

**Motion:** Ron Atkinson

That the existing SSAC PB Activity Committee be dissolved and a new committee be formed by Joanne Rykers who will also act as interim SSAC chair of the PB activity.

The new committee will be comprised of non-partisan members and will be responsible for the formation of the SSAC PB policies and procedures.

**Second:** Phil Green

Discussion:

Douglas Smith is against the motion and wished to give some background regarding the actions of another organization. Barbara felt that this was not pertinent to the motion on the table.

Ann Selder (Member) remarks that she took up PB because of level play – members must have a say.

Barbara wished to make it clear that “Level Play” is not at issue.

After further discussion the first sentence of Ron’s preamble (regarding Level Play) was deleted.

Linda noted that the Centre is for the enjoyment of its members and the PB issues are detracting from that. It seems some members have felt pressured to buy memberships, T-shirts etc. in these organizations. Barbara felt this was not the issue on the table. A member pointed out that more than one organization had sold memberships at the Centre.

Andre Casaubon (Member) noted that the present PB Committee Members were selected by the player’s group. Why isn’t this good enough? By appointing Joanne as Activity Chair, the Board will be going against the wishes of the players. The players do not support “social play” and half of the players will leave the Centre if “level play” is not continued.

Doug Whitworth noted that The Board does have the right and the responsibility under the constitution to manage the activity. We are not talking of level play, but of managing the activity.

Douglas Smith raised a question regarding the “non-partisan” in the pre-amble. Following discussion it was agreed to replace the phrase “non-partisan members” with “SSAC members”.

Frank Cloutier (Member) claimed that there was a conspiracy at work. The minutes of the PB Committee meeting were incorrect. The democratically elected members of the Committee objected and were waiting for correction – when the minutes were distributed anyway. Joanne was not democratically elected and should not be allowed to remain on the PB Committee.

Kit asked Frank what he would like to see.

Karen noted that she had problems with the minutes of the PB committee being incorrect, and then those incorrect minutes being distributed. Karen feels that she and Sunshine Coast Pickleball have been discredited by these actions. Karen feels there is a problem with the SSAC and the fact that there are 2 competing groups for PB players on the Coast. Karen feels that with David and Barbara both Directors of Coast Pickleball Society there is a conflict within the Board. Karen also objects to the appointment of Joanne as Chair of the PB Committee. Joanne noted that her appointment is an “interim” appointment only and not meant to be permanent.

The Board then voted on the following amended motion:

Preamble:

In order to make quality decisions regarding the SSAC Pickleball activity, we must have clear policies and procedures in place. These policies and procedures should reflect that the SSAC Pickleball Activity is not affiliated with or governed by any outside organization and should apply strictly to activity at the SSAC.

Outside organizations could rent our facilities under our rental fees and standard agreements if they wish.

Scheduling of outside rentals, would, as per our rental policies, be determined giving priority to SSAC scheduled activities.

**Motion:**

That the existing SSAC Pickleball Committee be dissolved and a new committee be formed by Joanne Rykers who will also act as the interim chair of Pickleball.

The new committee will be comprised of SSAC Members and will be responsible for the formation of the SSAC Pickleball policies and procedures.

Decisions to be brought to the SSAC Board for approval.

For the Motion: 5 votes

Against the Motion: 2 votes

Abstentions: 3

**Motion carried.**

**d) Pickleball Committee**

Douglas Smith wished to discuss the Pickleball Committee and had a prepared statement. Douglas noted he has heard concerns from the democratically elected PB committee. Douglas felt that it had been decided when this committee was formed, that Karen would be the chair. Douglas noted everyone is looking for openness in the process. Ron noted the validity of Douglas' comments regarding openness. Douglas wished to continue with his statement regarding the Coast Pickleball Society. As this had no relevance to the subject, and as the Pickleball Committee had already been discussed, the Chair felt further discussion was now unnecessary.

Doug Whitworth made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Dorothy Fraser.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20.

Next Meeting September 9, 2014.