

SECHELT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE
5604 TRAIL AVENUE, SECHELT, BC

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 1:30 pm, Auditorium

BOARD: Richard Ward, Mark Garland, Alison Kowalewski, Jeff Weeks, Birgit Stefani, Jay Alexov, Andre Casaubon, Gail Riddell, Val Galat (recorder)

Regrets: Mark Patterson

Welcome: 1:03 pm

1. Call to Order and Singing of O Canada.
2. Moment of silence for those who have passed.
4. Introduction of the Board of Directors.
5. Confirmation of Voting Member Quorum.
6. **MOTION to adopt Agenda.** PASSED, as there were no changes.
7. **MOTION to accept Spring AGM Membership Meeting minutes of March 12th, 2025.** [AGM rough minutes March 12, 2025](#) PASSED, as there were no changes.
8. Ratification of new board member:
MOTION to ratify Jeff Weeks as a director at large. Moved by Val Galat, seconded by Alison Kowalewski. Approved unanimously.
9. Annual Reports:
 - a. President's Report – Richard Ward renewed the Centre's commitment to seniors and encourages inter-generational socialization by having younger members, and inclusivity as demonstrated by having SCACL membership (persons with developmental challenges). Currently we have more than 2100 members.

Our affordable lunch program is a great success. Over 3000 frozen meals are sold every month. We want to give a huge thanks to the Kitchen staff and volunteers.

The installation of an air conditioning unit is necessary for the Craft and Farrish rooms in the near future. A folding door between those rooms is being considered. Space is needed and being considered throughout the Centre.

Parking is also an ongoing issue.

Members seem reasonably happy with the Centre, and we strive to continue this.

Our new Executive Director is Vicki Raw, who was unable to be here today. She seems as impressed with us as we are with her.

Alison helps so much in running the Centre along with me. Both of us will be leaving the board after the 2026 AGM and are happy to leave things in Vicki's hands.

Sources of income include grants, the Affordable Lunch Program, rental income, and donations. The 50/50 online lottery ends in December 2025.

However, it will be replaced by a provincial Seniors Lottery, with several senior groups agreeing to join. They will get 30% of their sales, and our Centre will receive 30% of our tickets sales plus 5% of the entire jackpot as our administration fee. That first draw will be February 1st, 2026.

b. Treasurer's Report – Alison Kowalewski [Rough Budget for 2026](#)

We are facing a substantial projected deficit this year. This is a very conservative budget; this is mainly due to the hiring of the executive director. We expect to get back to a balanced budget as strong fundraising efforts should be in place. We do not want to pass costs onto our members, and plan to work within this deficit.

We are looking at options for cost savings. For example, The ECHO costs about \$1000/month to produce. We are looking at ways to save on this item.

MOTION to approve this projected 2026 budget. Moved by Alison, seconded by Val. Approved unanimously.

10. Any other business – none.

11. Q and A

Michelle Boudry asked why we pay extra for an activity when there is not instructor. Shouldn't social activities not be charged a fee? Richard responded that the rooms do require an income, and if we kept it just as a yearly membership fee it would be much higher than our current fee.

Paula Salymayr asked about whether the Board, when changed to a governance, will they still be able to make operational decisions? Richard responded that yes, they still will.

12. Adjournment and refreshments: 2:46pm

