

MINUTES – MBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

15 February 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

Attending: Mike Saker (Chairman), Bryan Palfreyman, Roxanne Lindsay, Anne Harrison, Helen Steenburgh, John Merchant, John Perry, Paul Seltzer.

Regrets: Ted Hobson, George Anderson.

1. **Approval** of BOD Minutes for 15 (Bryan, Roxanne) and 22 (Bryan and Helen) December 2015 meetings were proposed and seconded as noted and carried by all.
2. **Business arising** from former minutes and not covered in committee reports. Bryan updated directors on the quest for improved insurance coverage. Directors' liability insurance is quoted as double our earlier estimates (governed by the size of the operation and our assets); Frank Burgoyne is seeking other bids. Helping Hands transportation insurance is also proving difficult to source. More on this in due course.

3. Committee Reports

3.1 Executive: Mike Saker. This is our first BOD meeting since we met twice in December. At our 11 January meeting of Society members we passed a Special Resolution authorizing the Board to remortgage the facility for \$250,000 (net to us of approximately \$155,000). This will facilitate needed property investments and secure funding at unprecedented low rates. The minutes of that meeting will be included in this year's AGM. This evening we will focus on the Blossom Ball planning, a proposed gathering of Syrian Refugee Supporters and an update on our many capital projects. The chairman asked directors to consider potential new board nominees (we are down three) and be prepared to discuss prospects at our March meeting. We have a particular need for skills in property and program (event planning and implementing) and ideally some younger representation.

3.2 Property: Legacy projects update (Bryan); Improvement Plan Update (Bryan).

Detailed printed reports were provided. Of significance, our federal Legacy Grant funding has been extended to the fall of 2016 and we have found a contractor who we believe will be capable of taking on the tower rehabilitation this summer. We have identified the need for better technical support for our new A/V equipment. We are working on solutions.

3.3 Rental: Bryan Palfreyman. Printed report provided. We still have some lease rooms available. Concerns were raised about returning short-term rented rooms to "as found" status; dealing with garbage created by renters; and the need for cleaning boots during messy winter period.

3.4 Communications: George Anderson (absent). Nil report.

3.5 Fundraising: John Merchant. John reported on current planning for the Blossom Ball2. The date is set as 28 May. The price will stay at \$100 (includes HST). They have requested bids from three restaurants/caterers. A band is being lined up. Lists of BB1 attendees will be provided. Advance notices will be sent out.

Major Donor Update: Bryan reported that Emera has shifted its corporate focus re: charitable donations to helping low-income home-owners to upgrade the efficiencies of their homes. Nevertheless he will continue to approach them, perhaps aiming for a room-naming option. Eastlink has said “no” to an approach.

3.6 Program: Anne Harrison. Anne reported that 2015 was a successful year for LLL and plans for 2016 are promising. All congratulated Anne on her success with Memory Cafe.

3.7 Centre Fit: Roxanne Lindsay. CFit has had a successful year and Heidrun has been a strong draw to CFit and her exercise and dance classes.

3.8 Finance: Mike Saker; Helen Steenburg. 2015 year-end results will be progressed over the next few weeks. The mortgage assignment is still in progress; therefore no money has been forthcoming yet.

4. New Business

4.1 Syrian Refugee Assistance (Paul Seltzer). Paul outlined the objectives of local supporters who want to use an event at the Centre to raise funds in support of Syrian refugees coming to the area. They are planning a cultural evening around 2, 3 April. The group would run the program; we are being asked to supply the venue. After considerable discussion of the pros and cons of offering free space for such events a suggestion was made to ask for rent in return for a share of our BB profit. This received unanimous support. BB2 will also be promoted as helping to support the refugees.

5. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm. Our next meeting will be on the new cycle of the third Monday in the month (to facilitate the presentation of more current financial data): Monday 21 March, 7:00 pm.