



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

DATE : September 13, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Shane Bergdahl
David Gibbens
Donna Woodford

Rocky Feroe
Bob Gerlock
Harold Hornig

Jennifer Carnes
Kathy Barnhart

Guest:

Kathy Barnhart, CS, CoE

EFCL Staff:

Allan Bolstad

Recorder:

Dana Mauer

Absent:

Brent Michalyk

Edo Nyland

John Hayes/Trish Filevich

1.0 Call to Order

Shane Bergdahl called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Quorum achieved. Proceeding with formal Agenda. Introductions - Jennifer Carnes new representative for District C South Clareview, and Dana Mauer recording minutes.

2.0 Agenda Review

Shane asked for any changes to Agenda. Added under Protocol 4.1 formal welcome of Jennifer Carnes District C Representative to the Board.

09-13-01 Moved: "That the EFCL Board approve the Sept. 13, 2007 Agenda as circulated with the addition."

By: Rocky Feroe/ David Gibbens

Carried

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2007

Kathy asked if anyone recalled what the specifics of John Hayes's question regarding Green Shacks were in 6.2. No one could recall exactly.

09-13-02 Moved: "That the EFCL Board approve the EFCL Board Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2007 as circulated."

By: Bob Gerlock/Donna Woodford

Carried

4.0 Urgent/Protocol Items

4.1 Nomination of Rep for District C South Clareview, Jennifer Carnes

Shane put to vote to accept Jennifer's nomination. All in favour. Jennifer officially welcomed to the Board.

5.0 Exemptions

Discussion: Shane commented being exempt are all Decision and Discussion items due to Board Members missing/staff changes but will be followed for Item 6.0 Reports. Intent is to return to full exemption after tonight allowing to get through business faster. Dave recommended additionally exempting 6.2 Community Services to have an update on the City over summer. Donna wondering who will orient new Board Executive members to their positions. 8.0 was identified as item under which a brief general discussion be held about this with further specific discussion "off-line".

09-13-03 Moved: "That the recommendations in Agenda items 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 7.0 be passed."

By: Bob Gerlock/Rocky Feroe

Carried

Exemptions: **6.2 Community Services (Dave Gerlock)**
 8.0 Decision Items
 9.0 Discussion Items

6.0 Reports

6.1 Financial Report Summary – passed per motion 09-13-03

6.2 Community Services – Kathy Barnhart

Dave asked status of Green Shacks/joint use agreement issue. Kathy said her understanding is that the school usage part completed, but not the land part. Shane asked Dave what he would like to see happen. He replied "access to the schools". Shane mentioned the ongoing desire of EFCL to be involved at the Steering Committee level where decisions are made. Kathy indicated there was a resolve. Shane commented questions that arose from his area related to the lack of motivation of leaders /supervisors. He also mentioned a new potentially contentious plan/initiative to put artificial turf in Millwoods park site.

Action: Kathy to forward to Allan an email update regarding the Greenshacks, greenspaces, artificial turf, and Access to Schools Joint Use.

Kathy added to her report two upcoming City-sponsored free workshops in October. 1) Safe Edmonton's "Helping our kids change the world" by Keith Pattinson, and "Involving Young People in Civic Matters" by David Driskell. Handouts were provided.

09-13-04 Moved: "That the EFCL Board receive the Community Services written report for information."

By: Dave Gibbens / Bob Gerlock

Carried

6.3 Executive Director's Report – Carried per motion 09-13-03

6.4 Planning and Development Report – Carried per motion 09-13-03

7.0 Work In Progress (separate document) – Carried per motion 09-13-03

8.0 Decision Items

Donna had a question about signing authority and how we will go about doing an orientation for new EFCL Board Executive, specifically for the Treasurer's position she now holds. Shane suggested an orientation with/through Linda. Donna advised she is working with her. Shane assured Donna the role of Treasurer with the EFCL is similar to a League Treasurer role except dealing with a larger budget and the City process that EFCL is part of now. Office staff is here to handle day-to-day operations of the organization and come to Board for direction and formalities.

Dave questioned status of "Tools" for Community Leagues, something that the former E.D. Russ had indicated there was work being done on. Allan commented Linda has been going out regularly to assist individual Leagues. There's some information on the website and working with the Edmonton Chamber volunteer project to "beef" this up. "Best bet" is to have Linda help directly. Dave commented that as far as getting volunteer League board members, the Treasurer's position is the most difficult to fill because there is typically a lot of detail work and meetings. The proposed concept was to have a software package with a Treasurer "protocol" block/package/template i.e. set reports etc. that would make grants, reporting etc. easier. Dave commented that training courses are a mistake due to time demands. Shane commented it takes time to enhance the website and that there are other key pieces required as well. Allan commented that Wendy Kinsmen is coordinating with CRCs, interviewing Linda and other Treasurers putting together info.

Harold Hornig from District H arrived from another meeting at 8:50pm.

Donna commented that most Leagues are currently doing manual books making meeting deadlines difficult, and that to go to a computerized system is very difficult for them. This is why Dave suggested it be done "all at once" across the board via a package or website. Shane acknowledged it is a contentious issue at this point going from manual to computerize. Dave wants to know where it's at to ensure it doesn't fall thru the cracks.

Action: "Tool Kit" and "Treasurer's Report" to go on Work in Progress. Shane to report on these critical issues at next Board meeting.

Donna suggested putting the "leasing/licensing agreement" on the Work in Progress list as well. What is the status: is it with the City? Kathy reported on progress saying Russ was trying to mend fences and open up dialogue and re-engage (re: 10 non-signing). Kathy stated she was never informed of the issues for the City to address. Donna understood it was already at City level.

Action: Add "Discussion regarding the license/leasing agreement/City document" to Work in Progress list. Allan and Shane to report.

8.1 2008 Budget (separate document). Note: only discussion/comments on report items are noted in the minutes. Full Budget report included in Sept. 13 Meeting Package.

Submitted end of August. Board needs to review/discuss change to budget timing, as it's currently inappropriate. Allan checked in with the City (Marlene) to see what items are ongoing and included work Russ had started. Allan reviewed the Budget report in detail (refer to report Board package Sept 13/07).

Discussion on Budget report items:

Re: Item 2. Dave asked what the criteria are for becoming a new Community League. Shane responded he believed they include being recognized as a Neighborhood by the City, not being within an existing Community League's boundaries, sustainability, and population baseline. Allan commented requirements of the Societies Act i.e. by-laws, volunteers to fill Executive positions must also be met. Dave asked if this falls under EFCL or CRCs umbrella. Shane replied it's a combination. Kathy commented that CRCs are generally assisting new Community Leagues. Shane added that the EFCL office fields frequent inquire from both CRCs and other parties re: criteria. Kathy mentioned the City has a project underway to clean up community league boundaries.

Re: Item 3. Dave asked if the new website would include "sub-domains" as there is high demand for it. Harold asked about a launch date for site. Allan stated there is a lot of material to go through before posting it. Shane added that recruitment has slowed the project somewhat so that it's looking like late fall for early stages.

Re: 3.c. Donna commented that Neighborhood patrol is difficult to organize.

Shane commented that Allan is trying to help EFCL become more proactive vs. reactive.

Allan would like to set up a process for feedback from Membership re: critical areas and business planning, then determine how much money and implement the required fundraising. Suggested ideally two additional staff people in "programs". This then becomes a significant budget item in order to cover salaries. It is important to look externally for funding other than just to the City.

Issue of getting **charitable status** is critical for EFCL developing endowment fund to provide tax receipts. In Allan's assessment, it needs to be "finessed" i.e. incorporate a "foundation" group that can be charitable. Potential obstacle is that CRA is not big on approving perceived political or advocacy groups for "charitable" status, so the need becomes to create a subsidiary group. The feeling is that many vested individuals would donate if there were a tangible tax benefit and way to do this. The money has to be secure for patrons and businesses to donate. This could be achieved by working with

the **Edmonton Community Foundation** as they have high credibility. Some big capital is needed to make these moves and the City not able to provide all of the funding, as there are too many groups. EFCL has to be creative and resourceful and start branching out and look for other resources of funds.

Rocky wondered if there is more opportunity to work with CRCs as well in this regard for synergy on initiatives.

Kathy commented that the Community Services Advisory Board might also be able to assist as they have the ability to put forward what Council ought to fund. Contact is Ellen Nash and it would require a meeting or presentation.

Shane commented it's become very evident that the budgeting process is flawed and will be discussed further.

Action: Allan to follow up on Community Services Advisory Board as a resource to assist with obtaining EFCL (or affiliated society's) charitable status.

09-13-05 Moved: "That the Board accept the budget as submitted."

By: Rocky Feroe / Jennifer Carnes

Carried

8.2 Scheduling of Regular General Meeting - October 22, 2007

October 22nd AGM is at Woodvale Community Hall (Millwoods golf course). Allan suggested the Board use the Oct. 22 AGM to flag important issues and invite the Leagues to send Representatives to engage in discussion. Suggested a Workshop in Jan/Feb. on a Saturday for 3 -5 hrs. with Membership to discuss (arts, sports, crime prevention, housing, etc.) what EFCL should be doing in next few years.

8.3 Scheduling of EFCL Business Plan and Structure Workshops

David stated that is why the Area Counsel Reps are present "De facto" at EFCL Board meetings. His comment was that unless the structure/foundation gets fixed first, then further plans may be mute. Bob asked if Allan is aware of the Board structure initiative to bring Area Counsels and EFCL closer together. Bob commented he didn't receive by e-mail the results from the Saturday meetings in the April/May planning session with consultant(s). This is apparently due to technical difficulties in the EFCL office with some documents not being received through Outlook from certain computer(s) in the office. Comment was that many of the things Allan is talking about were discussed there, and it's important to revisit it before proceeding.

Shane summarized the issue addressed at the April/May workshop saying that the current board structure is recognized as not working in all areas. Since Revitalization, the plan was to go forward to a "dialogue process" involving Stakeholders and discussing issues between Member Leagues to EFCL and back again.

David commented that if we build something new based on the current "faulty" structure it may be all for naught. Currently many potential League don't want to follow League boundaries for various reasons i.e. sports, so it becomes a structure question. Shane suggested the boundaries issue is separate.

Shane added the issue has been "district structure" or "representative model" and that it's been difficult as there is some reluctance to come together to continue discussion.

Allan stated he was not aware of the business planning sessions held in April and May and will find and review the minutes and results. He acknowledged the problems with structure and wondered if they should be addressed at this time.

Bob commented that he appreciates that the new E.D. has been “dropped into the deep end” but they would really like to revisit these items from last April before proceeding further. Dave stated he is doing what he’s asked to do as the West Edmonton Counsel Rep, and in his role his concern is that if we focus on programming and not “structure” it might be “putting the cart before the horse”.

Action: Shane recommended “offline” discussion with Dave regarding “structure”.

Action: Allan to check into business planning element results of April/May consultant meeting and forward to Bob and David and report back.

8.4 Trails, Paths & Routes Advisory Committee Nomination

Dave asked who the individuals are that are representing EFCL on various committees etc.? His concern is about reporting/accountability and requested that a formal list or names be maintained.

09-13-06 Moved: “Moved that the Board accept Brian Kropf’s recommendation in Agenda item 8.4, adding “and report back to the Board”.

By: Rocky Feroe / Bob Gerlock

Carried

Action: Office to formalize a list of all EFCL Committee representatives and report back to the Board.

9.0 Discussion Items

9.1 EFCL Board Structure (separate document)

Allan proposed changes recommending the Board develop an Executive Committee (Officers) to monitor the books and take care of core operational issues, freeing up Board Members to focus on Policy and Planning. Executive Committee Members would also sit on board. The idea is to separate out “operations” and “structure” in the name of efficiency.

Discussion: Harold agreed it makes sense. Area Counsel West Edmonton Rep (Dave) expressed concern that the link between the “Membership” and the “Board” (on the chart) is where a disconnect exists. Shane commented that the collectives are dynamic and will change over time. Shane stated some Leagues belong to more than one umbrella and that part of the animosity since Revitalization, from his point of view, is that some Stakeholders felt they lost their voice. Difficult to get volunteer Board Members out is part of the fundamental problem. Every area is different. Shane commented that the way the By-Laws read, Reps are here representing dynamic collectives serving different needs.

(Further discussion about “Structure”)

Allan brought it back stating that the first issue to clarify is the division of duties to open up more time. Secondly, is the fundamental issue of to what degree is the EFCL comfortable with the Area Counsels appointing Reps to the EFCL Board.

David asked what the response to Membership will be regarding Restructuring at the Oct. 22nd RGM meeting. Shane said the dialogue from the focus group needs to continue to be solicited electronically for reporting to the Membership. One year isn't enough time and more time is needed due to some hold ups with new Executive Director, etc. Doesn't see a vote on it happening before the October RGM.

Action: Allan will send out a note addressing how the Area Counsel Reps and EFCL might function.

9.2 Budget Timing

Discussion: Allan strongly suggested that the Budget timing doesn't work currently as it is out of synch. Suggested a new process starting at the AGM asking for some direction from the Membership (not specific dollars), then in April, May, June, the Board should flesh out initiatives for end of Aug. The idea is to ensure the Board is directing, not just being reported to (tail wagging the dog). Bob suggested right after the AGM the process should start.

Action: Allan will have a proposed budget time line for next meeting.

9.3 October 22, 2007 General Meeting Agenda (Draft)

Discussion: Allan wanted to flag business plan development and where we're at with Organizational Structure development. Guest Speaker suggestions needed. Mayor can't commit at present due to the Election. Rocky suggested showing an edited version of the Showcase of Leagues PowerPoint presentation. With regard to Kathy's report and Rec. facilities, suggestion was made to have someone from City come out. Rocky agreed that would be good idea.

Shane commented to ensure there's enough time to get through the Agenda and that 7.1 & 7.2 should be the focus. Consensus was to set up displays similar to the March 2007 AGM with tables with brochures. Bob strongly recommended putting directional signs up for the AGM, and a map needs to be included with the email.

Suggested 15 minutes for lectures and 5 minutes for questions. Shane asked what feeling is inviting someone other than the Mayor to speak.

9.4 Talent Show

Discussion: Current Talent Show Chair is Judith Richardson. Can we return to/build in a community element into the Talent Show in the future? Perhaps a section of the event could be reserved for novice performers, and also one just for participation. Suggested that segments be sectioned off in big show by League so that performers from the same area are performing at the same time. Need to continue to evaluate it as there have been issues in the past. Rocky suggested asking for a proposal from prospective organizer(s).

Action: Shane asked if the Talent Show still serves its purpose and asked to solicit/receive feedback from Community League members about this. To be put on Agenda for next Board Meeting.

9.5 2008 - 2010 Business Plan

Business Plan already covered.

10.0 Information Items

10.1 Community League Showcase

Discussion: Make sure submissions get in, including background information. Donna asked if it was possible to get more Showcase posters (like orange ones on website). Shane pleased with level of interest and said to forward suggestions and comments to Allan.

09-13-07 Moved: "That the Board approve the Showcase event."

By: Donna Woodford / Rocky Feroe

Carried

10.2 Fall CL Membership Campaign

Difficult to get Community League cards was the feedback. Often difficult to connect to Membership person. EFCL office has some "generic cards" for walk-ins and it was agreed there is a need for them to be available this way. Kathy asked if the CRCs could assist in this regard. Allan suggested placing a link on the website that will generate an email to the office. Harold suggested selling them in the schools and it was suggested to Leagues to combine membership sales with other events.

11.0 Notice of Motion (next meeting)

There were no notices of motion.

12.0 Private Matters

There were no private matters for discussion.

13.0 Next Meeting/Announcements

Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, October 11, 2007 at EFCL Office

14.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Approved:

Shane Bergdahl, President

Dana Mauer, Recorder