

MINUTES - Munster Community Association Meeting | 2015

January 21, 2015

Attendees: Roberta Hurman, Shaun Hassanali, Heather Kirk, Henry Troup, Debra Ford, Jessica Breckenridge, Mary Sunderland, Frank Stokes, Norm Gibson, Lynn Duffy

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Review of minutes

Request to have financial report presented last meeting included in minutes. Mary motion to approve with that change. Second by Norm. All approved.

1. Rink

The rink is up and running. Thank you to all the volunteers, especially Paul Lalonde who did the work of getting it open. We have a number of day and evening crews scattered throughout the week. Henry is acting as unofficial coordinator as no one volunteered for the role. There is a first aid kit in the kitchen but decided there should be one in the change room for skaters. Henry will check into. Mary motion to approved \$250 for purchase of first aid kit. Norm second. All approved. One of the student crews took the initiative to repair the hose sled that had been falling apart – thanks to them.

2. Winter Carnival

Set for February 20/21. School decided not to run this year so MCA has taken on. Shaun and Heather are organizing with help from Janet who has been involved in the past events. More volunteers are needed. At this point community centre, school and park are booked. We have a letter of permission to have a bonfire on city property and a fire permit has been applied for. Jack FM will come Friday night as usual to play music for Friday's fire and skaters. There will be a movie night indoors for the kids. Saturday morning the church will run the pancake breakfast, Genn will run the chili cook off in the community centre late morning in the community centre. Mayor Watson may attend. There may be outdoor games in the morning. The afternoon is for kids' activities at the school with entertainment. Saturday night will be a second bonfire. Request a budget of \$2,000 to book entertainment and start making arrangements. Mary motion to approve up to \$3,000 as needed. Norm second. All approved.

3. Talos development

The village plan was closed after the last review with city staff and is to be reopened for review in 2018. It is expected Talos will approach the MCA to open discussions with the community about a proposed development. The proposal involves 142 acres to the north and west of Munster where Talos is suggesting building 500 homes, plus commercial and recreations. It is noted there is still a lot of prep work that has to be investigated including wells. Talos says they want to ensure proper consultation with the community.

4. Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt will run again. Looking for more volunteers to make it bigger. Tentatively book March 28 as the date to reserve the community centre.

5. Tree Ottawa

Tree Ottawa is an initiative by Ecology Ottawa to plant 1 million trees in the coming years. It would be good to investigate this and other beautification initiatives. Ryan McGarry from the program has invited people to meet with him. Frank and Lynn will investigate.

6. Online calendar

The community centre booking calendar has been put online. The plug in that is free is labour intensive. A request is made to approve \$65 to buy the upgraded plug in. Motion by Heather. Second by Mary. All approved

7. New Business

A-Frame Sign

Thank you to Frank for fixing our a-frame sign. Is there a better winter location to avoid damage and being covered by plows? Possibly tied to the bulletin board at Macs? Henry to ask Bonnie.

Christmas Lights

Lights will be turned off after winter carnival per usual. Roberta has the old lights at her home. We need the bins to store the new lights. Henry will pick up the old and take them for disposal in return for the price of the copper.

Mailbox Award

Only a few nomination in so far. Will advertise it again in the next newsletter which will go out as soon as some of the carnival details are available. The intent is to present the award at the carnival.

Regular meeting adjourned 7:14 pm.

Next meeting February 18, 2015.

Ottawa Carleton School Board Trustee Lynn Scott was on hand to discuss the issue of Munster Elementary School. Several residents were on hand to hear. The following summary was provided about the post-meeting discussion.

Last night there was a good discussion with Trustee Lynn Scott at the Munster Community Association meeting. She gave an overview on the suggestion she raised at Board meeting held on Tuesday. This would be to introduce EFI at MES for SK 2015 next fall and gradually transition out of the English stream and into EFI stream. Based on the comments the Board received and the community input I have heard it appears there may not be enough English stream students to make 2 viable programs.

Lynn is also suggesting some optional areas, such as between Trans Canada Trail and Fallowfield those students could choose ALC or MES for EFI, and Richmond students could choose MES or Westwind for EFI. At the meeting the Board said Westwind School is currently over capacity so that does question the long term ability for Richmond students to attend Westwind for EFI.

The Board staff was directed to collect actual data, possibly by a survey to request parents indicate their intent to enrol their child at MES next year and their program preference of English or EFI. I have stressed this survey needs to get out ASAP because we have to collect and assess the data before Feb. 17 Committee of a Whole meeting where the Trustees have to vote on the item. I be honest in my opinion this actual survey with real residents should have been done as part of the original review and discussed through the working group process.

Also the concern of past issues was brought up and Lynn said the Board did everything they could but was restricted by privacy issues. I can appreciate the privacy matters but I and others at the meeting did express that some type of public relations was needed and the Board failed on their communications to address the matter to provide parents assurances things were being done.

Last night Lynn Scott was also not clear if current JKs already at ALC would be permitted to stay and continue their education at ALC. I know this is concerning for those parents who have already have made connections with ALC and some of those also have older children in higher grades at ALC and understandably want their children to stay together. In Lynn's proposal she said that would keep ALC students in Grade 1 next year and higher at ALC, but still needs to confirm what would be proposed for current JKs at ALC who would wish to stay at ALC. In my comments to the school Board I requested they allow the JK students at ALC a choice to attend ALC or MES for EFI next year.

It is important to note that no definite answers can be given at this time because the Board resident survey needs to be collected and reviewed first to get data. In the end the elected Trustees will vote on the matter and could also make amendments to plans during the Board meeting and vote on changes immediately on the table.