

August 19 GWSA Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Agenda

- 1.0 Call to Order
- 2.0 Information Agenda
- 3.0 Consent Agenda
- 4.0 Adoption of the Agenda
- 5.0 Roger Stevens: Treasurer's Report
- 6.0 Adam Rutherford: News from City re challenges of reopening
- 7.0 Minutes from M and M Committee
- 8.0 Business carried forward
- 8.1 COVID Liability Waiver
- 8.2 Funding Opportunity
- 9.0 New Business
- 9.1 AGM planning
- 10.0 Next meeting - September 16
- 11.0 Adjournment

In Attendance

Becky Fiedler, Tonie Sacchetti, Ken Fugler, Adam Rutherford, Cem Kaner, Roger Stevens, Pat Gage, Ross Knechtel, Mike Woof, Brian Smith, Keri Detlor, Athar Khan

Regrets

Ann Grant

1.0 Call to Order

Becky called the meeting to order at 9:29am

2.0 Information Agenda

Becky added a few new items to the information agenda that came in since the original agenda was posted.

- Pat Gage sent Planning Guidance to all Activity Group leaders, Directors and Committee Chairs on July 19. The Planning Guidance document was prepared by the Transition & Re-opening team comprised of President, Vice-President, Manager of City Senior Services, Program Committee Chair and Treasurer. Cem Kaner provided additional input.
- Ann Grant will be taking a leave of absence from Board Responsibilities until January 2021.

- The Sentinel volunteers provided a draft of the Annual Report and Becky emailed it to Directors on Friday, August 14 along with a request for review and comment.
 - The Succession Planning and Nominations Committee has put forward two names to join the Board at the next AGM: Pat Gage and Wenda King. The Committee closed the nomination process on August 17.
 - The United Way has postponed funding applications for one year. Currently funded programs will be rolled over one more year.
-

3.0 Consent Agenda

There were no items submitted for the Consent Agenda this month.

4.0 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion

Cem moved to adopt the agenda as published. Brian seconded the motion. All were in favour. Motion carried.

5.0 Roger Stevens: Treasurer's Report

There was little to report. The City is tracking down the June report and Roger is hoping to receive it shortly. Enbridge is donating \$1000 to help with re-opening GWSA programming. There have been many donations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pickleball gave \$6200.00 towards 2020 fees. These funds are being moved from this year to next year's budget.

6.0 Adam Rutherford: News from City re challenges of reopening

Notes and Action Items

Adam summarized the challenges of resuming activities at the Evergreen along with much of the discussion the Transition and Re-opening Team last week.

- The building will look different upon return as the city puts safety precautions in place. This is particularly true for the kitchen/dining room operations.
- Likely will be held to a maximum of 50 people (including staff) in the building at a time.
- Provincial guidelines disallow programs that involve exchanging items like cards.
- The City is considering changing carpets to hard floors and furniture with fabric to plastic.
- Victoria Road Rec Centre is the next City building to reopen. As soon as Adam has building plans to reopen the Evergreen, he will share with the board
- Finance will be pro-rating GWSA lease. Information to come on that.
- Washrooms will be a complicating factor due to the additional sanitization requirements.

There was extensive discussion about current public health ongoing advice about seniors staying at home; that a potential vaccine “is not a silver bullet”; and the lack of guidelines for older adults centres to reopen.

Last week, the Transition Committee decided not to approve any more in-person meetings because doing so would be in conflict with public health advice for seniors to stay home for their own safety.

There was a question about the fairness of allowing the golfers to continue to play (a decision made in May) when no other activities would be approved. The rationale was that Golf was approved in May when the province was pushing to restart outdoor programming. Since then, we learned that, even though Guelph has moved into phase 3, seniors are still advised to stay at home. Based on that, the Board decided to not revoke the golfers from playing because their season is short and would come to a natural conclusion. In addition, the GWSA Quilt Group had already published one more mask sale for August 20. No Director objected to allowing the mask sale to continue. However, no more in-person activities will be approved until public health guidance changes as it relates to Seniors.

7.0 Minutes from M and M Committee

Ken reminded the Board that there is free ad space in *Guelph Today* for GWSA use.

The most recent Email Update included language several Directors considered unrealistic and misleading about when the GWSA would resume in-person activities.

The Board discussion centred around Directors’ desire that messages going out to members should represent the views on the board. Given the current pandemic, we prefer any messaging highlight community services that we do/can provide, virtual activity options and the need for volunteers to run virtual programming as examples.

Cem moved to move the meeting in camera to discuss next steps with the M&M committee. Roger seconded the motion. All were in favour. The motion carried.

While in camera, the board discussed next steps with M&M committee leadership.

8.0 Business carried forward

8.1 COVID Liability Waiver

We circulated a compilation of the feedback and concerns Activity Group Leaders shared about the liability waiver. Cem responded to the main issues in an email to the Board. At a meeting on August 12, Adam, Becky, Brian, Roger and Pat were scheduled to evaluate the Return Plans submitted by Activity Group Leaders. We recognized we have work to do to educate our members and leaders about the waivers. Cem has agreed to work on a video/narrated slide show for the purpose of educating the members and the subgroup that met believed this was the best next step.

Ross thanked Cem for his explanation. No one had questions or desired further discussion about the waiver.

8.2 Funding Opportunity

The Resilient Communities Fund is a one-time fund to support the non-profit sector recover and rebuild from the impacts emerging from COVID-19 so they can effectively meet the needs of communities across Ontario.

OTF is investing in projects of eligible non-profit organizations to aid their medium to longer-term recovery efforts, help with their stabilization and build their capacity and resiliency in the aftermath of COVID-19.

This fund is providing a flexible range of activities over two deadlines to address the diverse needs of organizations and to support them where they are at in their recovery and rebuilding.

Request amount: From \$5,000 to \$150,000

Grant term: up to 1 year

Application Deadlines*: September 2, 2020 at 5 pm ET. and December 2, 2020 at 5 pm ET.

Organizations can apply for one or more of the following, to:

- Equip board members and employees with supports to implement new approaches, prepare for change and build resiliency (e.g. organizational training and coaching, strategic planning and implementation, research & development; mental and physical health and wellbeing supports)
- Improve and increase ability to access financial resources and develop new and/or alternative sources of revenues (e.g. develop fundraising plans, identify fundraising and financial technology resources, seek opportunities for public-private partnerships and social finance)
- Adapt or re-imagine the delivery of programs and services to meet the needs of the community, employees and volunteers (e.g. identify new health and safety processes and required personal protective equipment; technology supports; staffing and volunteer recruitment and training)
- Procure equipment or renovate spaces to meet the changing needs of the organization; its programs and services, and adapt to new ways of working (e.g. equipment and/or renovations to meet changing technology health and safety, and service delivery requirements)
- Create and/or adopt new approaches for organizations to work together to meet the needs of communities (e.g. peer learning, professional development, networking, resource, knowledge and data sharing)

What projects do we have that fall within these guidelines? Do we have a project champion for any of those projects? Candidate projects include:

- Sound system for auditorium (Would this be better suited for a SALC grant?)
- iPad initiative (but we haven't been able to find a champion/leader for that project)
- CSS (iPads for CSS, Diabetes Support, phone service etc.)

Discussion

After extensive discussion, the Board decided to pursue the project CSS has in mind, along with hiring someone to 1) plan for a future iPad initiative and 2) work with activity group leaders to transform activities into virtual opportunities for our members.

9.0 New Business

9.1 AGM planning

A team has started planning for the virtual AGM. More details will be available as we finalize our plans.

- First ever virtual AGM to take place this year
- AGM package will be put online in September
- We had a brief discussion about whether or not to invite local politicians. Our preference is to keep this a small event this year.

- Pat volunteered to confirm registration through Zoom this year
-

10.0 Next meeting - September 16

This meeting will welcome the new Directors. Likely topics will include Strategic Planning and ongoing discussion of reopening plans.

Before adjourning, the Directors decided to set a realistic re-opening timeline so activity group leaders could make plans to offer activities in a remote format of some kind.

Pat Gage moved, and Ross K seconded, that we adopt the following policy:

Because public health officials' current advice is that Canadians should expect to have to continue managing the risks of COVID-19 for an extended time to come; and that seniors are currently advised to stay home except for essential activities; the Board determined that no in-person GWSA activities will resume before September 2021 unless government officials inform Ontarians that it is safe for seniors to return to community spaces at an earlier time.

The motion carried with 11 directors in favour and 1 opposed.

11.0 Adjournment

Motion

Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:46am. Becky seconded. The motion carried.

These minutes were approved via email on Thursday, August 20, 2020.