

Flin Flon Trout Festival Committee

Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting - Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Location: **Creighton Rec Office**

Time: **1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

Acting Chair: Dianne Russell

Present: Colleen Arnold, Laurence Gillespie, Nicky Harkin, Crystal Kolt, Dianne Russell, Lindsay Shirran, Elly Spencer, Angie Simpson, Rob Hart

Regrets: Caitlin Bailey, Kelcey Andersen

Recorder: Laurence Gillespie

	Subject	Motion & Overview of Discussion	Actions to be Taken	By Whom	Required Completion Date
1.0	Welcome and call to order	Acting Chair Dianne Russell called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and read the land acknowledgement.			
2.0	Review Agenda	MOTION 1:11-29-23 DIANNE RUSSELL/C. Kolt Approve Agenda CARRIED			
3.0	Minutes	The committee approved the minutes from the last AGM held on January 24, 2023. MOTION 2:11-29-23 DIANNE RUSSELL /C. Arnold That the AGM minutes of January 24, 2023 be approved as presented. CARRIED			
4a	President's Report	There was no President's Report in the absence of a President but Dianne delivered a report in her capacity as acting president. Dianne reported, and this was confirmed by everyone else who spoke at the meeting, that the 2023 Trout Festival was a resounding success, with strong attendance at most events and in general an enthusiastic engagement from the community and that it finished in the black. Thanks to a lot of hard work by those committee members who helped out with the grant			

		<p>application process the Trout Festival's bank account was still in remarkably good shape. She reported that the success of the 2023 Trout Festival owed a great deal to several strong collaborations with its community partners. She reported that in 2023 the Trout Festival had in some respects resumed its traditional role as an umbrella organization, where it facilitated other groups to run Trout Festival events as opposed to running everything under its own auspices. She noted a particularly good example of this was the various Trout Festival events that took place in Creighton and Denare Beach.</p> <p>Dianne reported that we were now known as the "Trout Festival Association" and that this would be the name we would be operating under in our corporate capacity as well, once the process of re-incorporating was complete.</p> <p>Dianne then delivered a detailed review of the individual events, for the benefit of those unable to attend our July 14 meeting which also featured a review of events.</p>			
4b	Share the North	Share the North was very successful, and the winner Terry Lofgren donated \$100 of his \$1,175 winnings back to the festival.			
4c	The Fishing Derby	To all reports the fishing derby was a great success, attracting many participants			
4d	The Fish Fry	<p>The Fish Fry really struggled again this year, with very poor attendance, and lost a lot of money. Talks are underway to see if a newer, younger group can be persuaded to take it on this year, the thinking being that a group closer in age to the people who attend fish fries might be more effective in promoting it to that demographic. This new group would not be in a position to cover any losses arising from the fish fry; however, the Trout Festival would be responsible for those. It was agreed that the date for next year's fish fry would be June 28. Various ways to make the Fish Fry more of a draw were discussed.</p>			

4e	Disc Golf	Disc golf seems to have been well-attended this year though the beer garden arranged for it lost money and there was a lot of beer left over. It is uncertain whether disc golf will be part of next year's festival since our main disc golf contact moved away recently and at the moment there doesn't seem to be anyone able to replace him.			
4f	The Midway	The Midway was very successful this year, but there were problems with the portapotties as the portapotty supplier waited on us to call him when we wanted them cleaned whereas our assumption was that he would come by from time to time to clean the portapotties regardless, so no call ever came. It was agreed we would arrange for a fixed cleaning schedule for the portapotties next year, to dispense with the need for calls. There was a lot of discussion of how we could move the Midway back into its original Canada Day slot again but that just didn't seem to be possible, as all the operators were booked for that day. The only reason we'd been able to have Midways on Canada Day in the past had been due to our long-standing relationship with Saturn Amusements and with the retirement of Saturn's operator that was no longer an option			
4g	The Skateboard Demo	The skateboard demo was successful, drawing a respectable crowd, and there were nothing like the delays that marred last year's event. It was suggested we make it part of our Canada Day activities next year, or to at least hold it closer to that day, and apparently this would be possible if we booked it far enough in advance.			
4h	The Community Barbeque	The Community BBQ was very well-attended despite the rain but there was some confusion, particularly on the part of some volunteers, as to whether it would proceed in the face of all the rainy weather predictions. It was agreed that from now on we would go with a policy of cancelling the barbeque the day before or not at all. There was also some discussion of whether we should do anything to limit the number of times people could go back for seconds to ensure there would			

		be enough to go around, such as going to a ticketing system for the hamburger and hotdogs.			
4i	The Regatta	The regatta was another success story, being very well-attended this year. There was some discussion about whether it was worth extending the docks being used for it, and whether it might be worth while devoting some of our Build Sustainable Communities grant to that.			
4j	The Parade	The parade was another success story, with lots of floats, enthusiastic crowds lining the route, and wonderful weather. However, the parade did experience several delays when the RCMP repeatedly paused for cooling breaks. Since this proved highly disruptive there was some discussion of whether there were any possible work-arounds for this that would allow the parade to proceed while the cooling breaks were underway, since people farther back in the parade (not to mention the spectators) did not understand why the parade kept stopping and starting. The committee also discussed the letter raising these concerns.			
4k	Show and Shine	It was agreed that next year the Show and Shine should be moved to where the rest of the Canada Day activities were taking place.			
4l	Canada Day events	The Canada Day activities in Creighton were quite well-attended, with the Trout Festival and the Chamber covering some of the extra cost for the Bouncy Houses and the portapotties.			
4m	Beaver Lake Day	It was reported that Beaver Lake Day really struggled with attendance. Ways to change this for next year were discussed.			
4n	Seniors Card Tournament	The Seniors Card Tournament was cancelled since no one signed up for it. The committee discussed what could be done to draw more people to this event and whether there were other seniors' groups that could get behind organizing and promoting this event. There was some discussion of whether handing out more copies of our schedule in advance might help attract people to events like this.			
4o	Motion to Approve Acting	MOTION 3:11-29-23			

	President's Report	<p>CRYSTAL KOLT /L. Shirran That the Acting President's Report be approved as presented. CARRIED</p>			
5a	Treasurer's Report – the Reading of the Annual Financial Statement	<p>Elly presented the Treasurer's report annual financial statement. She reminded the committee it was unaudited.</p> <p>Elly reported that from a financial point of view it was another very successful year for the festival that despite a solid slate of programming and events our bank account remained largely intact, due in no small measure to the various grants we were able to obtain this year. She noted that almost all the events, except for the Fish Fry, were well-attended.</p> <p>She noted that a significant portion of the Building Sustainable Communities grant remained unspent and there was an extensive discussion of what to do about this. It was noted that part of the Building Sustainable communities grant was to be spent on sidewalk extenders. It was still open to us to spend more to use up the grant, but then that would also require a further financial commitment from us because of the fund-matching requirement built into the grant.</p> <p>She then reviewed individual items in the financial statement that called for further comment.</p> <p>The question of the allocation of \$500 for the teen scholarship came up again. There was some discussion of how this was supposed to work, since such a scholarship had not been awarded in several years. Some suggested it may have been associated with the Queen Mermaid contest at one time, which was no longer part of the festival.</p> <p>MOTION 4:11-29-23 ELLY SPENCER /C. Arnold</p>			

		That the unaudited annual financial statement be approved as presented. CARRIED			
6.0	Election of Officers	After some discussion, the committee approved the following appointments to this year's Trout Festival Committee: Acting President – Dianne Russell, Acting Vice-President – Lindsay Shirran, Treasurer Elly Spencer, and Secretary – Nicky Harkin and Kelcey Andersen and all those appointed agreed to accept these positions.			
7.0	Plans for this year's festival and general discussion				
7.1	The Building Sustainable Communities Grant – What to do with it?	There was an extended discussion of what to do with the money remaining in the Building Sustainable Communities grant. Suggestions included extending the dock that had been purchased for Ross Lake or investing in a nice sign to be placed near the dock that would reference the Trout Festival. The committee agreed that getting the sign should be the top priority for the remaining funds, especially since it was listed in the original grant application. Dianne noted that only the Building Sustainable Communities grant required us to allocate funding to specific items, that the other grants she and Caitlyn applied for simply gave us a lump sum grant for festival expenses to be allocated as we saw fit			
7.2	Applying for funding for a student position	There was an extended discussion about the merits of applying for Canada Summer Jobs for funding for a student position. The biggest stumbling block was that we needed a student for the two months leading up to the festival, which means that only a university student would qualify, yet it was unlikely we would be able to employ them for after the festival. It is unlikely most university students would want to apply for a summer job that would be over by July 1. The committee discussed whether we could find enough things for the student to do for the rest of			

		<p>the summer and it was suggested there were still things like preparing procedures manuals and job descriptions and other documentation that could keep the student busy for a while. Laurence suggested it might be possible for the student to operate out of the FFNRC office, so there would be a place they could work from, and that he would be happy to help out with the Canada Summer Jobs application, since he had some experience with those. After some discussion the committee agreed not to submit an application for Canada Summer Jobs funding this year.</p>			
7.3	The 2024 Fish Fry	<p>Crystal reported that she'd recently been contacted by a former Flin Flonner now resident in Germany who was interested in arranging for his class of '84 40th anniversary celebration to take place at the 2024 Fish Fry. He seemed confident that he would get a large number of his former classmates to attend and was already in close contact with them about this. He apparently also had a lot of local contacts as well. The committee was very enthusiastic about this suggestion and agreed that anything that would possibly draw more people to the fish fry should be strongly encouraged. This former Flin Flonner "Frank" had already prepared a travel package for this reunion but needed to have a firm date for the fish fry to make it work. After some discussion the committee settled on June 28 as the date for the fish fry, since grad was set for June 27. There was also an extended discussion about the group of young people who might be willing to take over running the 2024 fish fry and what needed to be done to make it more enticing to them. Crystal noted that the Arts Council had access to funding from CAPF (the Canadian Arts Presentation Fund) which could help fund the participation of touring bands in the Fish Fry (but could not be used towards the cost of hiring a local band) and this had helped cover some of its losses on the last fish fry. Dianne noted the "young people's group" would not be in a position</p>			

		to cover any losses incurred by the Fish Fry if they did undertake to run it, that losses would still remain the Trout Festival's responsibility. Crystal indicated that the Arts Council wouldn't be able to assume responsibility for any future losses incurred by the Fish Fry, except to the extent these could be covered through CAPF (i.e. which would be limited to the costs associated with bringing in an out-of-town band to perform at the fish fry.			
7.4	Canada Day Rides	Several committee members expressed their support for moving the rides back to their original Canada Day timeslot but Dianne was adamant that this was simply impossible, noting that she had called every ride operator in Canada and the northern U.S. and that there was simply nothing available for that day or even anything near it.			
7.5	Disc Golf	Elly reported that the prospects of Disc Golf at the next Festival were quite uncertain, as with James McGraw's recent move out of Flin Flon there was really no one else who could run it for us.			
7.6	Skateboard Event	Nicky Harkin indicated she would take care of organizing the skateboard event this year.			
7.7	Seniors Events	The committee discussed what could be done to make a seniors event, such as a cribbage tournament, work this year. It agreed with Laurence's suggestion that we approach the New Horizons seniors' group in Denare, since it appeared to be quite a dynamic organization with an active membership that was regularly putting on seniors' event.			
7.8	Other Events	It was agreed that Creighton would run the parade this year.			
8.0	Motion to Adjourn	<p>The committee agreed to hold its next meeting sometime in January at the Creighton Recreation Office. Nicky Harkin moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>MOTION 5:11-29-23 NICKY HARKIN To adjourn until January 2024. CARRIED meeting adjourned 3pm</p>			