

# 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 at 7pm

Food Security Hub

43 Main Street, Erickson, MB

**Invited:** All Chamber of Commerce Members and the General Public

## **In Attendance:**

Heather Parrott-Howdle – Citizen member

Dave Walker – Erickson Flying Club Representative

Valerie Soltys – Citizen Member

Eric Bjornson – Kithouse, Radon Matters, EGB Enterprises

Brandice Bator – Citizen member

Julietta Hardiman - Little Hands Early Learning Center

Josh Surovy – TJ Hookers

Kristy Vermiere – North Star Insurance

Steve and Reghan Langston – SCORE Store, Good Street Hall, owner of Iris Café building

Meg – Locally Maid

Claire and Keri Phillips – Katie Lake Petting Farm

Mary Nichols – Services to Seniors

Deandra Tousignant – Grit and Growth Wellness

Krisjanis Kaktins-Gorsline – Parklands Youth Hub Project Coordinator

Margaret – Community Member

Isla Shellborn – Community member

Bruce Mcewan – Community member with interests in airport and campground

Dustin Smith & Katy Powell – Green Rabbit Farms

Mary Ann Kologinski – Compass Credit Union

Tracy Cable – Community Member

## **Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 19:03

- Land acknowledgement

1. Welcome to the Food Security Hub – Heather Howdle & Krisjanis Kaktins-Gorsline
  - Developed to address food insecurity in the region
  - Includes stone flour mill, market, greenhouse, community garden, community kitchen, workshops for local growers and producers
  - Food marked from local growers is Wednesday from 12 – 5
  - Community kitchen will provide space to process food, make food communally, hold demonstration and education events
  - Space available to the public to rent
  - Contact info for more information: [parklandsyouthhub@gmail.com](mailto:parklandsyouthhub@gmail.com)
2. Approval of Agenda
  - Motion to approve – Valerie Soltys
  - Seconder – Kristy Vermiere
3. Introductions of people in attendance (above)
4. Year in Review – Eric Bjornson
  - Re-established board of directors

- Updated bylaws
  - Business incubator project
  - Created website
  - Leda Lake project proposal
  - Supported Reconciliation breakfast
  - Board of Governance Training
  - Digital media workshop
  - Established relationship with MB Chamber of Commerce
  - Organized kids bicycle parade
  - Continued \$500 high school bursary
  - Facilitated installation of Ag weather station
  - Held community Christmas party
5. Director Acclimations
- Renew term for three members every year
  - Introduction of board members
  - Four positions available and four members up for acclimation this year
    - i. Brandice Bator
    - ii. Reghan Langston
    - iii. Kristy Vermiere
    - iv. Josh Surovy
  - Move to acclaim nominees – Heather Howdle
  - Secunder – Mary Nichols
6. Financial Report – Valerie
- Chamber of Commerce est. in 1920
  - Services to broader area – important to keep in mind going forward
  - Income – land rental, airport hangars, memberships
  - Expenses - taxes, scholarship, MB Chamber of Commerce Membership, software requirements
  - Current Balance: \$25,235.61
  - Savings (Reserved for credit card): \$1,650.04
  - Motion to accept financial report – Heather Howdle
  - Secunder – Dave Walker
  - All in favour of accepting financial report, none opposed
7. Membership Renewals
- \$50/organization or person
  - Organization recognized on membership directory on website, shop local flyers
  - Easiest to renew online
8. Seeking Chamber Manager
- Administrative position – prep agenda, keep minutes, financials, generally take load off board
  - Paid position – 6-8 hrs/month \$20-25/hr
  - Email possible leads to [admin@ericksonchamber.ca](mailto:admin@ericksonchamber.ca)
9. Chamber website updates: <https://ericksonchamber.ca/>
- Meeting minutes
  - Bylaws
  - Membership directory
  - Community Calendar
10. Vision and Priorities for 2023
- Marketing Area Businesses
  - Airport Area Development
  - Support for Erickson Airport Resurfacing
  - Led Lake Eco-Park

- Establishment of EV Charging Station(s)
- Improved Cellular Service in the region
- Active Transportation Improvements (sidewalks, trails, etc.)
- Training opportunities (grant writing, business skills, etc.)
- Supporting area non-profits
- Main Street Beautification
- Regional growth of the Chamber
- Preservation and Presentation of local heritage

Suggestions from Attendees:

- Advocating to RM/Council and maintaining that relationship – what is important to membership, sidewalks are overgrown and in need of repair for example
- Garbage cans on main street – SCORE store would consider getting involved
- Support the region, but focus remains on Erickson
- Marketing Community as a Regional Food Hub
  - Best place to start a food business
  - Lots of people already involved and interested
  - Lots of local producers in the area
- Speed limit reduced from 80 to 70 on highway 10 and extended past campground to north entrance to Erickson
- Turning lane at Southquill Gaming Center, Mountain Road
- More collaboration with First Nations neighbours – open up communication
- Attract more young worker, volunteers, board members
- Annual intake of potential board members training
  - Line up people with boards that need people based on interests
  - Offer income
  - Get young people involved in governance
  - Junior Board (Minnedosa Credit Union Example)
  - Teach in school
  - Get high school students involved – fund raising and volunteering at community events
- Invest in buildings for seniors to live in
  - Discussion on Parkland Home – run by MB Housing
- How do we retain employees in Erickson?
  - Lots of vacancies at local businesses
  - How to we keep people here
  - Job fair in April (SCORE store willing to help)
  - Mental health related – are people having a difficult time maintaining employment for these reasons?
  - Affordable housing is a problem (suggestion for tiny homes)

Wrap up:

- Heather Howdle – Thanks to Mary Ann Kologinski for helping make the food hub happen
- Head to Kammingas Kitchen for a taste testing

Meeting Adjourned at 20:10