

MSABC Board Meeting.

Meeting 3-2024 minutes.

25th. March 2024.

Present- Jan Fennema, Robert Goluch, Varouj Gumuchian, Randall MacKinnon, Mike Jennings, Frank Rensing, Chris Staddon. Cliff Irving and Ron Embree unable to attend. Cliff was contacted by phone.

This was a face to face meeting in Squamish. Varouj began the meeting with a check in of the board members. He encouraged us to talk about our relationships, financial, health and passions. The agenda provided a loose direction for the meeting. There was much learning about where we are and a general discussion about needs, resources and directions. It was a full and useful day.

The meeting was opened by Varouj talking about meeting etiquette, then the board members were warmly welcomed by Jan. He suggested that we stay on track and reminded us that everyone's opinion matters.

The meeting started at 10:18am.

- 1) The minutes of meeting 2-2024 (6th. March) were approved.
- 2) Correspondence. There was no correspondence.
- 3) Strategic Plan consultation.

Purpose (a) to delete "independent" so independent Sheds becomes Shed.
Secretary to change.

There was a lot of consultation about the plan and progress made. There were no other changes suggested.

- 4) Motion- That MSABC have a table at the upcoming North Central Local Government Association in Smithers on the 13th. May. The cost of the

table is \$750. Other costs are purchase of a banner and business cards.

Budget is up to \$1,000 from MSABC general account.

Approved.

Jan to action.

- 5) It was suggested to add a “sample meeting agenda” to the ‘Welcome to MSABC’ letter.

Secretary to change.

- 6) There was consultation about the outreach program. It was agreed that board members would shadow the program coordinator for one community (yet to be determined). Then there would be further discussion about how the board can further support this program.

The coordinator reported that there are now Men’s Sheds in Fort St. John, Kamloops, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Nelson, Lumby, Salmon Arm and Vancouver, Frog Hollow; while the Sheds in Port Alberni, Houston and Golden are works in progress also in the next couple of weeks there will be presentations in Revelstoke, Dawson Creek, Burns Lake, Campbell River and Sidney (17 in total). The next flight will probably be Cranbrook, Merrit, Whistler and Burnaby or New Westminster.

The treasurer reported that, so far we have expended \$8,181.78 of the \$20,000 budget.

- 7) The current financial report was presented. The current balance is \$3,498.

- 8) Motion, to add Ron Embree and Jan Fennema as authorised signatories to the MSABC account.

BOARD RESOLUTION AND AUTHORISATION. To add RONALD EMBREE and JAN FENNEMA as signatories to the Men’s Shed Association of British Columbia bank account. No change to the number of signatures required.

9) Consultation about directors and officers insurance, tabled until next meeting.

To conclude the meeting Barbara MacMillan of the United Way was invited to talk about fund raising- These are a few notes.

Fund raising is for immediate needs, we should also consider fund development, what opportunities are there for us to ensure funding for future needs. Bequests, wills and estates is one possibility.

MSABC and the Sheds should develop their grant writing skills (Barbara is willing to help with this).

We have powerful stories to tell that demonstrate the impact Men's Sheds have.

Our growth reflects the need for Men's Sheds.

When writing a grant appeal to HEART AND HEAD. That is, stories and numbers.

Be sure to keep track of the number of manhours of Shed activity. It is far better to have a log than estimate. Also, attribute a financial value to the volunteer activity.

Customize your application to show how it achieves to goals of the organization making the grant.

Describe your organization and its purpose.

Have a KEY MESSAGE.

Be clear what you need the grant for. If it is to go on a fishing trip, WHY is that beneficial?

Operating costs are most difficult to get but there are ways to include operating costs into a well written grant.

United Way is offering longer term grants.

Collaborate with other Sheds so that several Sheds can make applications for the same purpose but in different localities.

Share good / successful applications so other Sheds can benefit.

Share ideas about where funding is available.

Wondering where your funding is coming from? Come up with a prospects list. Have a plan, set goals and have a strategy.

Have a fund development plan for future needs.

Build in evaluation of your project so you know how you are doing.

Partner with other groups like environmental organizations.

Be clear who benefits from the project and show how the project aligns with the funder's goals.

Connections with local, provincial and federal governments can be very beneficial.

Local companies and community forests may offer financial support.

Be clear, use data about needs (suicide rate if you want to get to the bottom of it).

Barbara also talked about changes to the regulations that should make it easier for Men's Sheds to get grants, directly from the funder, without having to go through a registered charity. Yippee.

Asked about where to go for a \$60,000 grant for our Safety Supply program, Barbara suggested we approach United Way and their emergency preparedness program. We need a volunteer to take this on.

Formal meeting ended at 4:30pm.

The meeting continued with a meet and greet with the members of the Squamish and Pemberton Men's Sheds. Thank you.

