

General Meeting Monday, October 21, 2024

Attendees: Ron Shepherd (chair), Jenny Balke, Stirling Fraser and Claudia Kroll-Gray plus 9 residents

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM in the Back Hall at the Community Hall

1. Changes to the agenda; remove the Parks Committee and Ferry Advisory Committee updates.

Motion to approve agenda with above changes, seconded and all voted in favour - MOTION PASSED

2. Motion to approve minutes from previous general meeting on June 10, 2024 - MOTION PASSED

3. **DIRA Executive Report**

DIRA will need to enter into big financial contracts as follows.

Bookkeeper

The bookkeeper for waste management and the bottle depot is retiring and DIRA needs to hire a bookkeeper for their records. One accounting firm and three bookkeepers in town were contacted and only one bookkeeper (new) was able to take on the extra work. A resident was found with the qualifications, experience and quickbooks training. The cost will be significantly higher than in the past. There will be approximately an additional \$15,000 cost per year for bookkeeping as follows, \$5,000 for DIRA admin, \$5,000 for waste management and \$5,000 for the bottle depot.

There was a motion to approve the change in bookkeeping with an additional cost of up to \$15,000 per year.

The motion was seconded and all votes in favour. MOTION PASSED

Garbage Pickup

The 3 year garbage pickup contract is up for renewal. Advertising for residential and commercial garbage pickup was placed in the Comox Record, the Islands Grapevine, DenmanWorks and the DIRA website.

The current contractor, Strathcona Recycling was the only bidder. Their price is up by about 20% from \$1,100 to \$1,320 per pickup. DIRA has experienced excellent service from this provider over the past 3 years and would recommend awarding the contract to Strathcona Recycling.

There was a motion to renew the garbage pickup contract with Strathcona Recycling for another 3 years.

The motion was seconded and all voted in favour. MOTION PASSED

Insurance

DIRA insurance is up for renewal. The policy covers the Old School buildings, Commercial General liability (\$5,000,000) and Directors and Officers (\$1,000,000). The premium is increasing from \$13,851 to \$14,237.

The Old School will be charged \$9,532 and the balance \$4,705 will be charged to DIRA for liability and directors' coverages.

There was a motion to approve the insurance renewal. There were no questions. The motion was seconded and all voted in favour. MOTION PASSED

4. Old School Heating System

The old school is heated with an old oil burning furnace and the Denman Island Climate Action Committee (DICAN) would like to replace the furnace with a heat pump. Three quotes have been obtained in the \$35,000 range.

The old school is not CVRD funded and the tenants (waste management, bottle depot, freestore, weavers and conservancy) pay rent but are unable to pay for a heat pump. DICAN will be looking for funding for this project.

5. Community Dock and Boat Launch Committee

The chair has stepped down and a search is underway for a replacement. The dock committee consists of 3 members and will be reaching out to the community to actively recruit

new members. More members will help to provide a safe recreational boating and emergency services facility. It is very important the dock is kept in good repair and repairs are expensive.

A resident offered thanks to John Johnson (resigning chair) for his hard work and passion in keeping the dock in good repair. A thank you letter will be sent.

A question was asked, Will BC Ferries be providing after hours emergency evacuations?

In the past BC Ferries provided after hours emergency evacuations, however that service was never in their contract and is no longer available.

When emergency evacuations are required, other options are available which includes the use of the dock. The emergency services personnel decide the most appropriate method of evacuation.

6. Liaison Report - Hornby/Denman Health

Hornby/Denman Health is a non-profit with about 12 staff providing services on both islands. Those services generally fill in the holes in the healthcare system such as: companionship, bulk meal preparation, house cleaning, conversation, shopping, garbage/recycling disposal, extreme weather support, and mental health support. The cost is \$0 to \$35 per hour, based on means. A film screening and speakers will be at the Activity Centre on October 23rd to discuss the dying process and death. This will be the first of four events.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM - MOTION PASSED