

FORT ST JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

September 17, 2014

Call to Order: 7:06 PM

In Attendance: Paulette Kindrat (NDTS), Sandra Gunn (SD60 Band), Miep Burgerjon (Flying Colours), Treena Davidson (NDTS), Anita Anderson (FSJ Country Quilters), Tanya Shymko (Spectrum Art Studios), Rosemary Landry (Director), Oliver Mott (Scottish Country Dance), Karen Mason Bennett (NEAT), Megan Singh (FSJ Film Society), Margaret May (PRN Festival), Wally Ferris (City of FSJ), Connie Surerus (FSJIDS/Director), Sabrina Brooks (Northern Winds Comm Band), Shauneen Gibbons (FSJIDS), Oliver Hachmeister (PRNFA), Kelly Nabseth (FSJ Dance Society), Susan McGarvey (NEAT), Monica Best (NP Music Teachers), Sue Popesku (Stage North/Director)

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Trina Davidson, seconded by Sabrina. Carried.

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Sue Popesku, seconded by Margaret May. Carried.

Attendance: 19 in attendance. One per group is voting, so 19 are voting.

Rosemary Landry welcomed everyone to the 47th Annual General meeting of the FSJ Community Arts Council and introduced the members of the board.

Our Guest:

Sue Popesku introduced our guest speaker, Wally Ferris, General Manager of Community Services, City of Fort St John. Wally is new to the City, just arrived 3 months ago.

Sue asked Wally to speak at the AGM and discuss how the City could help support the Arts Council and arts in the community. From a City perspective, resources are hard to come by; they will have a recreation director starting in October. This is a key position for the City. Tara O'Donnell is leaving the City, moving to Red Deer, in the process of interviewing for her position.

Wally was excited to be at the meeting. Enjoyed SAND Sensations event this summer. He is looking forward to reading CAC Strategic Plan and answering questions from the Arts Council. Sue pointed out CAC has 28 member groups and would like to have key City personnel including councilors & mayor invite and come to our member groups' events. How can we get in touch with staff? Wally suggested to post groups' events on City's website under Community Events and also provide council with a Calendar of our events once/quarter and would be included in the councilors packages. Also call and/or email councilors & staff. Wally said he has been to some of the events. Suggestion from the floor was to have a councilor assigned to the Arts Council. Sue mentioned this used to be the case and Bruce Christensen use to come regularly.

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Sabrina asked, "What can the arts groups and the Arts Council do to support the City and the Downtown Revitalization Project and promote the project at the various arts events? Wally said he would pass this information on to Moira Green. Megan (City) suggests sharing through Facebook. Building community. Arts Council is invited to tomorrow night's session of the Downtown Revitalization Committee.

The Arts Council feels the City doesn't appreciate the Arts and the Arts Council and a number of partnership programs have been axed. We also need to have a Public Arts Policy. Rosemary mentioned, the City is booming, there is lots of construction, maybe 1% of fees to go to the Arts, as is done in other cities, such as Edmonton. Wally suggests put together a delegation and make a presentation to the City Council. He advised we make sure we do our homework and research before going to the City.

Sue considers Wally as our connection to the City. Sue reiterated the issues the Arts Council has had with the City over the last few years. Wally pointed out when there are budget cuts it hits recreation and the arts first. The City will not be providing more funds to the Arts Council or not likely. FSJ is unique, young population and quite a bit of money in this City. Sue pointed out \$2.5 Million flows through this community from the arts groups that receive grant money from the City and by what these groups are doing.

Wally is no stranger to the Arts, 2 adult daughters were in competitive dance. He is not unfamiliar with the arts. He did point out our main link will be the community development coordinator. Rosemary thanked Wally for taking the time to meet with the membership and speak to the group.

Reports:

Financial Report – Connie Defosses – Received the Financial Statements as prepared by the firm Sander Rose Bone Grindle Chartered Accountants. It was a Notice to Reader (not audited) Statements. We had a strong year, at June 30, 2014, with a profit of \$33,494 compared to \$7,858 last fiscal year. At June 30, 2014 the Credit Union bank account had \$53,873.07, Capital Reserve account \$45,975.57, Gaming account \$9,301.25, Lindsay Dumaine Memorial Scholarship Fund \$18,506.67. Total Receivables (SAND revenue) \$13,300, Deferred Income \$14,629 (Sand Sensations, BC Sports and Arts Grant unused portion & BC Arts Council). Total Member Group Grants for 2013/14 \$12,597.82 and these Group grants must be used by April 30, 2015. If your group has a charitable tax number, you may be paid directly, but most groups do not, so you must use it directly for an expense such as rent, costumes, clay supplies. . Other Current Payables – Scholarships \$200 (may increase when advised of this year's winner due to strike). The ArtsPost expenses, Rent and Utilities average approx. \$2600 monthly. Please contact Connie Defosses by email desfosses@pris.ca or contact the Arts Council office.

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Connie made a motion to approve the Financial Statements prepared by Sander Rose Bone Grindle LLP.

Seconded by Margaret. Carried.

Connie made a motion to continue to use the same Chartered Accountants firm (Sander Rose Bone Grindle LLP) for the 2014/15 fiscal year. Seconded by Anita. Carried.

President's Report – Rosemary Landry

In preparing the Community Arts Council President's Annual Report for the year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, I realize that it has been a very busy year filled with many accomplishments and a desire for future development. With the dedication of our Board and Members we have maintained our Mission to develop Arts and Culture activities and events in the community and to support individual artists in their creative endeavours to become self-sustaining.

During the summer of 2013 SAND SENSATIONS was held in Taylor from July 27 to Aug 3, and was a great success in spite of the wet weather. Following the final report, plans were set in motion for the 2014 event with a review of the Sand Sensations Policy and Critical Path.

In September the Annual General Meeting was held, group member and individual membership dues were collected and a new slate of Officers was elected. Not all positions were filled at this time and the Board has continued to operate without a Vice President, Director of Communications and an additional Director at large throughout the year. Office hours from 9:00AM to 12:00 noon were maintained through the week thanks to the dedication of our working Board Members. In April, our Treasurer of the past 15 years announced that she would be moving and the head hunt was on for a new Treasurer.

In October all non-profit groups were invited to tour the old Hospital to choose from the remaining equipment and we were fortunate to obtain several shelving units for the Artspost.

Many Strategic Planning and fund raising meetings were held with member groups attending. The Arts Council was successful in being awarded the BC Gaming Grant of \$11,000 for Art-in-the Park, Arts Awareness, and Sand Sensations; the City Base Budget Grant of \$15,000 for member groups; and the BC ARTS Council Basic Assistance Grant of \$9629 for operating expenses. The Recycle, Reuse, Rejoice Christmas Sale was held Nov 16 to Dec 14 earning \$4,000 and the Best Homemade Pies sold at the Fall Fair in August brought in \$2,000. The Artspost was also pleased to receive a tax exemption from the City of more than \$7,000.

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Since the Flower Pot partnership with the City was cancelled last year, the Arts Council has been garnering community sponsorships for the arts and working on establishing an Endowment Fund to support the Scholarships and Bursaries awarded each year to budding artists. Consideration was given to applying to the Vancouver Foundation grant; however, the Arts Council prefers to keep the funds closer to home.

The Fort St John Community Arts Council sponsored the 2014 Regional Juried Art Show at the Peace Gallery North March 29 – April 17th. Sue Popesku Co-ordinated the show and Barb Daley organized the art journal program for children where 160 children from SD#60 took part. A Frame-it art event was held at the Artspost for children on May 31st whereby donated frames were decorated in time for Father's Day gifts. On the same day, the Artspost was also a participant in the 2014 Art Walk hosted by Peace Gallery North. Other events at the Artspost included a Demo Day May 7th when Municipal Conference registrants made pottery, painted pots and had a lesson in spinning and weaving. There was also a delightful celebrity visit by Adam Beach from the *Arctic Air* TV show. He took away local pottery when he left.

The Artspost purchased a new colour photocopier that was made available to the member groups via a code and password for the printing of posters and pamphlets. Thanks to the BC Creative Spaces for the funds and for funds to purchase much needed pottery equipment. We were delighted to welcome Tanya Shymko's *Spectrum Art Classes for Adults and Kids* to be held regularly on Thursday evenings at the Artspost.

Concerns were raised about the Municipal funding cuts to the North Peace Cultural Centre and lack of support for arts and cultural development by the local authorities. Meetings were held with the NPCC Management and the NPCC Society Board to address ways and means through which the Arts Council could assist and to work in partnership to plan for an *All Candidates Art Forum* to be held in the fall prior to elections. Several meetings were also held on behalf of our member groups who use the Cultural Centre to help resolve some user group issues.

Throughout the year the Arts Council has maintained affiliations with Communities in Bloom, Alaska Highway Community Society (previously PRAHTA), Hospital Art Committee, BC Arts & Health Network, Peace Liard Regional Arts Council, BC Arts Council, and the Chamber of Commerce. We nominated Sandy Troudt for the City's *Cultural Person of the Year* award and supported *Chances* in their request to have Gaming Tables. We were extremely disappointed when the Northern Lights College cancelled the Arts Program and made our disapproval known through letters and attending meetings.

In closing, I would like to thank our member groups and the Board of Directors for their support and attendance throughout the year. The Arts Council Board will

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continue to become more engaged in the community with the support and promotion of local artists; to seek out Artspost operations support; and to keep our community informed about the vibrant Arts and Culture programs that exist here in the North Peace.

Artspost/Office Report – Sue Popesku

The Artspost serves as the office of the Fort St John Community Arts Council and is the community arts studio space for the North Peace Potter's Guild, the North Peace Spinners and Weavers and the painting studio for art classes with Spectrum Art Studio.

THE BUDGET

The Artspost has, once again, covered the cost of operations for another year thanks to the active participation of the members of the Arts Council pitching in for fundraising projects. The Advocacy Donations (from previous flower pot donors), the Recycled Christmas Sale and the Best Pies Sale at the Fall Fair have all helped to keep the doors open at the Artspost.

The Potter's and Spinners and Weavers continue to pay monthly rent and the Spectrum Studios painting classes have been consistent users of the multi-purpose room, paying for each individual evening. We pay considerably lower rent than other buildings of similar structure and size, thanks to our landlord. The City of Fort St. John has granted us tax-exemption of \$7860 each year for which we are grateful. The annual budget requires \$42,000 to keep the Artspost doors open. Snowplowing this winter weighed heavily on the budget and we are hoping for less snow this year.

THE OFFICE

We continue to keep the office open weekdays for 9-12 noon with volunteer help. Margaret May and Sue Popesku take 2 days a week and Rosemary does one. We all have our responsibilities while at the Artspost with grant/reports (Marg), communication/fundraising (Sue), organizing and cleaning (Rosemary). We still have no guaranteed source of funds to employ (part time nor full time) a coordinator for the Arts Council and Artspost.

NEED FOR MORE SPACE

In our 8th year, we are finding the expanding activities have emphasized the need for more space. As an interim measure, both the Potter's and the SAND SENSATIONS have purchased C-Cans for additional storage space. We have a limit to the number of C-Cans that can be put in the parking lot. The need for a larger space for the arts and various community arts studios is becoming more and more pronounced.

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The Arts Council was fortunate to receive a BC Creative Spaces grant, it has helped to purchase much-needed equipment for the office and for the pottery studio. A coloured photocopier was purchased with these funds and the previous black and white copier is still in use for member groups. Once the new phone system is in place, all the funds will have been spent. A final report has already been submitted.

ACTIVITIES

With the donations of frames and artwork from the Hospital Art Committee in their move to the new hospital, we were able to run a FRAME IT! Day for last Fall. Young and old were invited in to get advice on framing from Holly Ulrich and Eliza Stanford and children got some creative painting experience with Tanya Shymko. We will be having another FRAME IT! Day on October 25.

Rosemary once again did magic with the flowers and the flower pots in front of the Artsposts. Watering all summer was an onerous task but she never failed to keep the flowers fresh and perky. A mishap during the summer will be soon repaired. A driverless welding truck rolled backward from across the street and totally wrecked a bay door and the walk-in door next to it. The building insurance by the owner is affected but the Arts Council has no responsibility in this situation.

A 3 year budget forecast for the Artspost was also submitted.

Member Group Reports:

School District 60 Band – Sandra Gunn – We welcome new band teachers, Sabrina and Joe Brooks. We have expanded the beginner band class and currently have 120 beginners and a waiting list of 80. Middle school band was accepted at the MusicFest Festival and received 3rd place (first time in 20 years). Christmas concert November 28th, senior band is going to Cuba (20-23 students), spring concert May 20th. Rehearsing for Handel's Messiah with Northern Winds and Community Choir, and taking place Dec 15th at NPCC and Dec 14th at Alliance Church. There are 50 in the choir and 25 people in the orchestra. It will be 25 years since it was last performed.

FSJ Irish Dance Society – Shauneen Gibbons

Two of our dancers competed at the World Irish Dance Championships in London, England in early April. Many of our dancers traveled and competed in hotel ballrooms in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Seattle. The 2010 Olympic Oval in Richmond, school gyms in Cloverdale and Surrey, the State University in Portland, Oregon, and the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow, Scotland.

We did very well at our annual recital back at the start of June. There was a full house at the Cultural Centre and we brought in just over \$6,000. We received lots of

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positive feedback from the performance. It was a very successful event and we are looking at doing 2 evening performances at this year's recital.

July 2-6 was the North American Irish Dance Championships in Montreal at the lovely Palais de Congres and we had 9 dancers competing. The girls came away with some fantastic results ranging from 6th place to 37th. Quite impressive for a small school in Northern BC!

We had a workshop over the Labour Day weekend with Aisling Watt. Lots of blisters, sweat and some tears....also lots and lots of excitement as the dancers received plenty of fun new steps to work on.

We started back with dance classes the first week of September for all dancers continuing on from last year. Connie is just in the midst of wrapping up registration for all the dancers. There are lots of new little dancers and they will be starting up in October.

Upcoming Feiseanna (competitions):

October 11 & 12 – Feis an Fhionhair in Calgary. We have 20 dancers competing at this feis.

Western Canadian Regional Oireachtas – this is our World and North American qualifier. We have 16 dancers confirmed to compete at this competition in Calgary, November 7-9.

The girls are busy working on their new steps for the upcoming competitions. Lots of new solo dresses have been purchased and/or used dresses taken in/out/down. The girls will also be getting some new team wear this year so we have been getting that organized as well.

Fundraising – the Society is currently doing Mega Lottery and will be soon starting up with our annual wreath fundraiser. Our fundraisers last year included FSJ Rotary Mega Lottery, Nova Scotia wreath sales, and Panago Pizza tickets.

The Society would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the City of FSJ and the FSJ Arts Council for our grant money. Last year's grant money went towards studio rent and recital expenses. This year's grant money will be used for new team dresses and/or toward new Marley flooring.

Our AGM will be held on October 7, 2014 at 7 pm.

Peace River North Performing Arts Festival – Oliver Hachmeister – We had a very good year last year with most of the slate of dancers going to provincials. Challenges are funding increases to renting the Cultural Centre and we are currently looking at

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splitting up the festival over different venues. We will be hosting the Provincials in 2016.

Spectrum Art Studios – Tanya Shymko – classes started up for adults on September 11th- November 27th, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, Pencil, Pen & Acrylic are full. Kids (ages 6-12) classes in Pencil & Acrylic start October 8th – 29th, Wednesday evenings 6:30-8pm and are full. Looking at possibly having teen classes. All classes are going well.

Scottish Country Dance Group – Oliver Mott - non-competitive – social dancing – multiage from 12 to adults – dance at Central School – Monday nights – 7-9pm – use gym for free, hoping to have 20 people to start, need at minimum 8 people (4 couples). Oliver gives classes to the schools for free. Taught Grade 5 class this past year Scottish Country dance and it went very well.

North Peace Music Teachers – Monica Best – September, 2013 – June, 2014
We had 5 teachers in our group this year – 4 piano teachers and 1 violin teacher.

In November we had our annual fundraiser recital at the N.L. College. We auctioned off baked goods and anything else that people brought and raised \$500. Then we donated it to the PRN Festival of the Arts for scholarships.

On March 9, we had a recital at the Cultural Center. This is where we used our grant from last year. On April 6-8, we entered our students in the annual PRN Festival of the Arts for adjudication. On June 8, we had our year-end recital at the college.

In May we had some students write theory exams and in June some of them entered practical exams through the Royal Conservatory of Toronto.

We had a successful year in that we saw our students work hard and a lot of the time, we see them grow up right in front of our eyes. Year after year they are able to play more difficult pieces and we see them mature.

Northern Lights Youth Choir – Jen Giesbrecht – (presented by Sabrina)

The Northern Lights Youth Choir had a great 2013/14 season with about 60 singers registered over the course of the year between the ages of 6 and 18 years old.

Highlights included our Christmas and Spring Concerts as well as community performances at Peace Villa, the CDC Talent Show and the local Performing Arts Festival.

We are looking forward to launching their 2014/15 season at the end of the current month and are anticipating a busy fall as they rehearse for their various community and Christmas performances. We also anticipate launching a third choral program in addition to our current two in order to accommodate requests for a group for 4-6 year olds. The generosity of the City of FSJ through the FSJ Arts Council grants continues to allow us to offer our programs at a very affordable rate for local

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families and we appreciate all the wonderful support and promotional advantages that come with being Arts Council members.

Flying Colours Artists– Miep Burgerjon - Oct 22nd is our AGM. We have had a couple of formal workshops. Drawing workshop, etching on copper and aluminum. Used our own expertise within the group to give workshops. Print press and sonar box purchased with grant money is heavily used. Many participated in Juried Art Show and "View of the Peace"

Northern Winds Community Band – Sabrina Brooks - 2nd year – growing at slow rate –tried with small groups as well as bigger groups – did a show at the Lido – will be teaming with NPC Choir, Handel's Messiah – will be doing Remembrance Day for Peace Villa, will do CDC Talent Show – show in the spring. It is for 18 and up, need about 3 years playing experience – have between 15 and 20.

North Peace Community Choir – Rachel Casponi -rehearsed at Central School – now at NPCC on Tuesdays from 7-9pm – big show is Handel's Messiah.

Fort St John Film Society – first show on Monday – 100 people showed up for 1st film of the season. – 2nd film on Sept 29th - Boyhood 20th October – huge deal bringing in – January will have "100 year old man climbed out the window and disappeared". Megan went to the short film festial in Grande Prairie and they are interested in touring and testing by coming to FSJ in the spring. Trying for the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, so council members can attend. Buy tickets at door \$12, flex passes 5 entries for \$50 buy at the door.

Fort St John Country Quilters – Anita Anderson - 50 quilts donated to various organizations. Golden bag award – challenge members to – scrap happy university– encourage to use scraps – change of venue from NPCC – held a raffle and used money to buy more fabric and batting to make care quilts. Brought in 2 teachers from Grande Prairie and Pritchart. Upcoming year – moved to the Salvation Army – our numbers are down because very dark – 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month – Workshop in October – Planning for 2016 – 30th Anniversary – Challenge to make a quilt for 2017 for the Alaska Highway. Have around 45 members. Raffle draw date Oct 27th \$2 each

Northern Dance Theatre Society – Trina Davidson – We are a non profit dance group made up of 55+ troupe members and parents. We compete in dance styles such as tap, ballet, jazz, lyrical, variety, contemporary, hip hop and musical theatre. We kicked off the dance year with 2 weeks of summer school where we bring in out-of-town choreographers to teach our dancers new technique. We have a couple workshop weekends as well throughout the year.

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We attend 3 competitions a year. So far we have done 4 concessions (open house for Century 21, Gold Panning, Fall Fair and The Block Party) a safe ride for the CDC and many more to come. Also we do coat checks, Mom's Pantry and numerous other fundraisers. Currently we are selling Mega Lottery tickets, and our senior dancers are selling fresh wreaths and bird feeders for a trip to New York to enhance their dance technique and experience.

We are also affiliated with the upcoming show of "The Nutcracker". Our most recent show was at the Zombie Walk which we have been a part of for the last couple of years. We had some of our dancers as well as some parents and other kids do a little dance at the end. We do three recitals and a day of entertaining the schools and a couple other little shows throughout the year.

FSJ Dance Society – The Move Dance Centre – Kelly Nabseth – We did a one week summer school 1st week in July following the holiday – 3 out-of-town teachers – ballet, jazz, contemporary (not usual dance style) when the girls work on their new choreography for the upcoming year. Just started up dance this week.

Hosting part of the Comedy Fest at the Legion, show starts Thursday, September 18th at 8 pm, two great comedians for \$20.

We do the Ladies Day Out November 8 & 9 @ NPSS 10 am – 4pm each day \$3 admission 12 & under free, better, new location, increase in tables from approx. 80 to 120 for vendors.

Christmas Recital for the first time this year November 23rd at NPCC. Trying to host a Gala at the Lido (February 14) for Valentine's Day, catered meal with comedian and possibly a live musical act.

NEAT - Karen Mason Bennett & Susan McGarvey – doing a lot of art programming under the environmental auspice. We have programming on Pro-D days at the Church beside the Neat Office and Whole Wheat & Honey. New member of the Arts Council.

Tapping in to Talent – looking for people who can play, sing, dance – performing at Patch Java at the Hospital.

Stage North – "Sherlock Holmes" in October and "Pride and Prejudice" in February, new shows at the venue on the Bypass Road. Working hard to get the Theatre Festival for May.

North Peace Spinners & Weavers Guild – Rene Giesbrecht (not in attendance – brochure). The NPSW Guild aims to support, promote, educate, and inspire the fibre

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arts, particularly spinning & weaving in the North Peace Region. Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at the Artspost. The Guild seeks to:

- Provide workshops for its members in order to inspire and educate through organizing facilitators from both locally and outside of the region.
- Provide workshops specifically to introduce individuals including children to the fibre arts through the NP Fibre Academy and through school workshops.
- Promote the fibre arts to the general public through participation in public demonstrations.
- Provide regular meetings for the sharing of knowledge, skills & ideas.
- Support members through library resources, the lending of equipment and provision of studio space as available.
- Encourage mentorship by its members.
- Encourage the achievement of the highest standards of excellence in fibre arts through advanced group studies and encouragement of external studies.
- Communicate its activities to the public in the NP region.

Fibre Academy – beginning in the fall, Guild members offer workshops which are open to the general public teaching a variety of fibre arts – spinning, weaving, felting, dyeing.

Fibre Fun – Artspost Thursdays – warped looms available for weaving

Beginner and intermediate weaving study groups

Monthly spinning days @ members homes

Annual weekend Retreat @ Blueberry Camp – several days of great camaraderie and fibre fun!

Christmas Gift Exchange

Natural dyeing gatherings outdoors

Shearing Days @ local farm

North Peace Fall Fair demonstrations

New Business:

2016/2017 – THE FUTURE:

- Art and Health—Hospital Auxiliary Conference 2015
- Provincial Festival-2016
- 40th Anniversary of Stage North
- 50th Anniversary CAC-Northern Arts Conference 2017
- 60th Anniversary of Lido Theatre
- 70th Anniversary of the North Pine Fall Fair
- Alaska Highway 75th – 2017 event registry
- 150 Year of Canadian Confederation
- Year of Youth Travel of Canadian Tourism (CTC)

Call for Nominations –

President – Rosemary Landry

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Vice – President – Megan Singh

Secretary – Connie Surerus

Treasurer – Connie Defosses

Communications Director – Sue Popesku

Director at Large – Margaret May

Director – Tanya Schymko

Director – Anita Anderson

Rosemary has asked that we adopt a motion accepting these people as members by acclamation.

Signing authority – Not changing, same person as president, treasurer and director at large.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM.