

**GLOUCESTER EMERGENCY FOOD CUPBOARD:**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Chair, Don Collar (List appended)

Introduction:

Don Collar welcomed everyone, thanking everyone for their contributions.

Gwen Bouchard welcomed everyone. She thanked special guests: Tim Tierney, Helen from the City, Pastor Jeff (was inspired by last year's guest speaker to start a good food market at their church and was so successful looking at satellite sites based on the model), Board members, Resource Center representative, Caring and Sharing guest, volunteers, Pine Grove Association member, Member of Parliament (attending later), and noted regrets.

Gwen introduced special guest Michel Belanger retiring from Colonel By, a "force" that had spearheaded many fund-raising initiatives at the school for the GEFC and others (Relay of Life). His teachings to students: Be the citizens of today and tomorrow.

Lion's Club presentation:

Don introduced the Lion's Club representatives, noting service clubs are another important part of our community. The gentlemen presented a cheque for \$3000 as proceeds from the Magical Village.

Guest speaker:

Gwen introduced guest speaker Irene Cameron, Carson Grove Principal.

Irene thanked volunteers at GEFC for their efforts especially as it helped the children in their community. She began with explaining all schools are different, but because the schools in the area she is speaking about are lower-income, disadvantaged and quite a number are in our catchment area, these schools have children and families that especially struggle. Her group works to help them through various programs. As a principal she is constantly learning.

She spoke about the living environment of the children she works with: infestations, sewage spills and mold improperly cleaned up, cost savings cause bus drop off / pick up problems. As a result, she doesn't do fundraisers but does grant proposals instead.

Ms. Cameron pointed out that poverty affects children's learning and that they need support, nutrition and hope.

Nutrition through breakfast club models: cadillac (paid coordinator, hot and cold meals); second (no hot meals, variety of cold, fruits); 3rd model (volunteer, interruptions, granola bar and juice box, yogurt). Stigmatization is a concern: all children able to participate and keep track of number through variety of ways (without names, not in separate area).

Hope: need it to be successful. Help transition children that are changing to next school so they will fit in with other children from different (higher) SES; learning mannerisms, etc. They are always looking for opportunities for these children to experience everyday experiences of other children. She thanked everyone for all their help; it encourages success. Don thanked her for her presentation.

Minutes:

Don asked for a motion to accept the minutes from AGM 2014. A motion was made by Ann Frederking to accept the 2014 AGM minutes, seconded by Jim Bogues. The motion was carried.

Annual Report and Executive Coordinator's Report:

Don introduced Gwen to discuss the Annual Report.

Gwen spoke to how we can be so focused on our own lives that we don't notice the bigger picture; how small things make a difference and are so needed. She asked that everyone consider this as they go through the report.

There was an increase in seniors and family size throughout 2014, speaking to a real need for our service and thanked everyone for their support.

Treasurer's Report:

Don introduced Jim Bogues to present the Treasurer's Report for 2014.

Jim brought our attention to "Qualified Opinion" paragraph, noting that we are in good standing.

Balance sheet: He explained unrestricted and internally restricted funds. The former is for purchases every day, the latter in case of emergency.

Statement of Operations: Most notable difference was in expenditures; spent less on food in 2014 over 2013; larger number of large food drives necessitating fewer purchases. Our goal, as directed by the Board, is to not bring in more revenue than what we require to operate. In 2014, because we spent less, we ended in a slight surplus.

Financial Statements:

A motion was made to accept the financial statements as presented by Jim Bagues, seconded by Vern Greenshields. The motion was carried.

A motion was made to reappoint auditors by Ann Frederking, seconded by Colin Webster. The motion was carried..

Presentation from MMP Royal Galipeau:

Don introduced Royal Galipeau.

Mr. Galipeau began by congratulating Jim on balancing the books, making it easy. He thanked Tim Tierney for his hard work. He commented that he was humbled by what he was asked to do tonight: recognize Valerie Hall's contributions and retirement, noting he was unlikely to catch up to all the many volunteer hours. After 24 years of dedicated work, he and the GEFC thanked her for all her efforts. Valerie was presented a certificate of special recognition from the Prime Minister's office.

Mr. Galipeau commented that the volunteerism at the GEFC was an inspiration for the entire community, noting the organization doesn't only help the have nots, but society as a whole. He noted the various generations present in the room. Seeing this and the summer student program he commented on the development of social skills and leadership abilities and the transfer of experience and knowledge and skills to young people make them end up being better citizens which was why he stepped in and supported the summer student program for GEFC.

Election of Directors:

Don read the list of Board members standing for another term as well as the list of members up for election.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Jenner and Mark Cimon to accept the slate of Directors as presented. The motion was carried.

Recognition of GEFC Volunteers:

Gwen introduced the volunteers recognized for their 1 year, 5 year, and 15 year service to the community.

Closing:

Don closed the meeting, noting that 22000 people were served this past year as a result of this community that showed interest and concern for their neighbours. He thanked everyone for faithful support and service in helping those that often go unnoticed.

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Marjorie Gardner, seconded by Tim Comerford. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm for refreshments.