



EFCL Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm MST,

Hybrid Meeting at Jerry Forbes Centre and via Zoom

In Attendance:

Jenn Parsonage, (Millwoods Ellerslie District), President / Chair (IP)
Giselle General, (Jasper Place District), Vice President Internal (IP)
Jon Morgan, (Southwest Henday District), Vice President External (Z)
Steven Gaudet, (Northeast District) Treasurer (IP)
Anita Lunden, (Southeast District) (IP)
Steph Neufeld, (Scona District) (Z)

Regrets:

Kemoh Mansaray, (Northwest District)
Morgan Wolf, (118 Avenue District)
Thu Parmer, (West Edmonton District)
Joshua Wolchansky, (Central District)

Guests / EFCL Staff:

Anastasia Arabia, Observer, Strathearn CL (IP)
Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, Executive Director (IP)
Cheryl Fix, Observer, Yellowbird CL (Z)
Colin Johnson, Deputy Executive Director (IP)
Sandra Johnston, Board Development Advisor (Z)
Pieter de Vos, Strategic Planning Consultant (Z)
Sian Svendsen, Neighbourhood Services, COE (Z)
Darryl Tapper, Observer, Aspen Gardens (Z)
James Thompson, COE (Z)

Minutes

Bekah Marcellus (IP)





1.0 Land Acknowledgement

J. Parsonage brought the meeting to order at 6:07 and invited everyone to introduce themselves and delivered the land acknowledgment.

2.0 Welcome and Introductions

J. Parsonage welcomed everyone.

3.0 Review of Agenda

There were no changes or additions made to the agenda.

Motion 2024-10-10-01: Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as written.

S. Gaudet / A. Lunden

Carried

4.0 Consent Agenda

4.1 Minutes September 12 Board Minutes

4.2 Letters- Letter from Terwillegar CL

4.3 Anti Racism Grant Final Report

Motion: 2024-10-10-02: Be it resolved that the consent agenda be approved as written.

G. General / S. Gaudet

Carried

5.0 News from the City

Sian Svendsen from Neighbourhood Services updated the board regarding a number of programs including getting active, waste and recycling news, the upcoming Halloween costume swap, smoke alarms and fire safety for homes, and tips for maintaining ice rinks including upcoming ice making workshop at Belvedere. Additionally, City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Police Service are holding an information session regarding Increasing awareness around problem properties. Lastly, the city is looking for feedback on Vision Zero and the 40km speed limit from residents who use specific roads.

During the period for questions, there was a concern raised regarding community assisted snow removal grants and issues of liability. S. Svendsen responded that there is an upcoming information session to discuss details including this question.



5.1 Update on Community League Operating Grant funding formula

James Thompson updated the board regarding changes to award calculation. Currently, the base is \$4900 and is population based. As this is not consistent with other grants, an increase to \$6400 is being recommended, as is the creation of a new scoring system. The City has been tasked with ensuring consistency between different grants, and bringing the program in line with auditor recommendations. Right now CLOG is very different from other operating grants and its current form would likely raise concerns by the auditors. The goal is to increase accountability and equity while keeping the process simple, and develop a formula that can be easily described and implemented. There are two options under consideration with different bases.

There were a number of examples of what the changes in funding would look like for some Leagues, and J. Thompson offered the disclaimer that the projections were based on numbers provided by Leagues and he had noticed a few errors in the self reported information.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the changes in funding which fall into three main categories.

- Firstly, there was concern regarding Leagues with large sources of income in addition to CLOG and that it is uncommon for grants to not take other funding sources into account. One suggestion was subtracting those funds from the CLOG amount that a League would be eligible for.
- Secondly, ensuring a clear distinction regarding eligible and ineligible expenses, for example a for profit childcare centre would not be eligible but patching holes and upkeep would be.
- Lastly, there was a large concern over how drastic the change in funding would be for some Leagues. An idea of spreading the decrease over 2 years by having a higher minimum for the first year was suggested. Additionally, there is flexibility in how the scoring is weighted, for instance population can be weighted more heavily. J. Thompson also clarified that for the 10 Leagues that would have the largest drop, most of them have been getting more than 100% of their operating expenses and all 10 have significant unrestricted reserves that could cover several years of their expenses without anything from the City.

According to J. Thompson, the timeline for this change would likely be 2026. In the meantime, attendees discussed that it may be helpful to understand the current discrepancies to get an accurate picture of where Leagues are now. Lastly, there was a suggestion that Leagues with facilities and those without be considered as two separate groups as a way to “compare apples to apples.”

6.0 Strategic Plan

Pieter de Vos presented the updates to the Strategic Plan. During the last meeting in August,



one of the big topics was the current state of things in Edmonton which greatly impacts Leagues and the work of EFCL. These include population growth which impacts city budgets, the lack of provincial funding, and the increase in diversity with this growth and how Leagues engage a more diverse population. Additionally, there was a focus on affordability issues such as food and housing insecurity putting pressure on Edmonotonians and families and the importance of leagues providing affordable and accessible programs. He also acknowledged concerns around social isolation and mental health, shifts in volunteerism and growing social vulnerability.

All this led to a series of objectives and priorities including; the importance of advocating for vibrant and inclusive communities, helping leagues address diversity, accessibility, and how to engage underserved demographics eg. youth, renters, newcomers. In light of social issues EFCL is developing an idea of the role Leagues play in creating gathering places and hosting conversations on issues of concern. Lastly, he addressed the capacity issues of Leagues and the need to invest in the capacity of EFCL and provide enhanced supports to Leagues to increase effectiveness and resiliency. P. de Vos also added sustainability to the conversation after last meeting, and City of Edmonton being listed as a key player. The Vision portion was changed to an Impact Statement to focus on the plan being realistic with measurable goals. The next step will be talking to EFCL staff to develop metrics.

After brief conversation, about the use of both “community” and “neighbourhood” in the plan, the word “neighbourhood” was settled on with the understanding that neighbourhoods were the actual structure of the system with communities within them.

L. Cunningham-Shpeley was asked to show this to the City of Edmonton. It was also suggested that this plan could help with making the case for more funding.

7.0 Board Education- Community League Infrastructure Assessments- VIDEO

For the sake of time this was left for people to watch on their own.

8.0 Human Resources Committee

8.1 In Camera Discussion

Came back at 7:30

Motion: 2024-10-10-03: BE IT RESOLVED that the EFCL Board supports the suggested adjustments to EFCL salary ranges.

The HR Committee approved the amendments in order for EFCL to remain competitive, and be in line with the Board’s HR Strategy and Compensation Philosophy and with the salary band categories.





9.0 Finance Committee

The budget presented at the September meeting has since been updated. The main changes included:

- Removing the 50/50, since there is poor uptake, takes significant staff time, and competes with leagues running their own 50/50. This would decrease revenue by 18k
- Increased emphasis on crowdfunding.
- Changes to salaries as recommended by the HR Committee.
- This would change the projected surplus to \$18,642 (the previous budget had a surplus \$36,347.72)

Motion: 2024-10-10-04: Motion to approve the 2025 Draft Budget to be presented at the Regular General meeting on November 28th.

A.Lunden / S. Gaudet

Carried

10.0 RGM

10.1 Community League Code of Conduct Consultation Plan

J. Parsonage provided background on how the current Code of Ethics was worked on in 2012 and that EFCL wants a new Code of Conduct. The difference between a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct was clarified, saying that as a board they would sign a professional ethics document, whereas conduct is more for membership and how they interact with each other, stakeholders, etc. There was a question of whether Leagues would have to change their bylaws, but this would only be necessary if they have something that specifically states that they abide by the Code of Ethics.

L. Cunningham-Shpeley then ensured the board understood how the consultation plan would be conducted and that it would be built from the ground up. With regards to consultation with Districts, the Leagues who don't have a Representative would go to VP Internal.

Motion: 2024-10-10-05: Motion to approve the Community League Code of Conduct Project Plan

G. General/S. Gaudet

Carried

10.2 Draft Agenda

J. Parsonage presented the proposed agenda for RGM. It was decided that an update to CLOG would be provided at the RGM and that a fuller discussion could be had in a Special General



Meeting to give this topic the time for discussion it needs. It was suggested that the update highlight the complexity as a reason why it should be on its own in an SGM. Another highlight could be that the current model wouldn't survive an audit as J. Thompson mentioned. It was suggested that perhaps the City could present these issues with a potential audit as well as the issues with the current formula.

J. Parsonage then discussed elections, clarifying what seats were for election and L. Cunningham-Shpeley emphasized that they should try to get as many elections done before the RGM as possible for the sake of time.

Motion: 2024-10-10-06: Motion to approve the RGM draft agenda

A.Lunden / S. Gaudet

Carried

11.0 Board Development and Nominating Committee

11.1 Board Diversity Reporting

J. Parsonage discussed a proposal for a federal bill to measure the diversity of boards of Canadian Charities and that, while EFCL is not a charity, understanding their diversity does match with the organization's goals. She therefore suggested that EFCL look at its board composition yearly. After a question regarding the term "designated groups" used in the proposal, it was clarified that this terminology is considered outdated as it doesn't include a number of marginalized identities, but is a place to start. It was acknowledged that while Districts control who they elect, this information would inform the nominating committee in their search for potential board members.

Additionally, it was emphasized that this kind of tracking can show gaps and begin the conversation on how to address them, and if the gaps exist because of something EFCL is or isn't doing. Increasing diversity can help keep people with marginalized identities to feel safe to meaningfully contribute.

Motion: 2024-10-10-07: Motion for EFCL Board to commit to annual reporting on the diversity of its Directors.

G. General / A. Lunden

Carried

11.2 President Evaluation

G. General provided feedback on the President evaluation process. Overall the process worked well with the questions and survey being well done. The largest issue was around timing as summer made it difficult to get people to fill out the survey. As far as next steps, the committee wants to proceed with a board evaluation this year, which would survey board members on the workings of the board.



11.3 Board Member Complaint Policy

J. Parsonage, updated the board on the Board Member Complaint Policy including what steps are included in submitting a complaint, how it would be dealt with, and who the complaint would go through. This is not in response to any current issues, but is part of a larger overhaul of EFCL's policies. To the knowledge of those present, there has never been a formal complaint about any board member.

Motion: 2024-10-10-08: Motion to approve the Board Member Complaint Policy.

S. Gaudet/A. Lunden

Carried

11.4 MEWG Appointments

None at this time. .

12.0 Community Planning and Sustainability Working Group

Steph Neufeld presented on the Draft Housing Policy, stating that they hadn't had as much discussion on it as they wanted during the Tuesday working group as people weren't sure how to comment on it, so it was homework. They have written an affordable housing position which supports an increase in housing including supportive and affordable housing. It also understands that future development has to be informed by mistakes made historically which were often rooted in exclusion of various marginalized groups, and states that EFCL recognizes the complexity and difficulties Leagues face with the housing crisis and what it means for communities across Edmonton. The committee will continue to work on details but this states the position of EFCL and its support of creating more housing. This can also inform the surplus school conversation.

It was clarified that at this time, the motion to be voted on was in regards to the first three paragraphs, and that the committee would flesh out the rest. These paragraphs broadly represent EFCL's position if leagues want to look to them to adopt and inform some of their own positions.

Motion: 2024-10-10-09: BE IT RESOLVED that the EFCL Position and Advocacy Profile of the EFCL Housing Policy Position

A.Lunden / S. Guadet

Carried

13.0 Recreation Development Committee

L. Cunningham-Shpeley updated the board on the potential to consult with the City of Edmonton



Rink Allocation Committee. The outskirts of the city have no rinks and the ones the city currently has are rundown and in need of repair. They have requested to work with EFCL and leagues to create a sprung structure, which allows for higher quality of ice for a longer period of time, in the south of the city to alleviate pressure.

Motion: 2024-10-10-10: BE IT RESOLVED that the EFCL board to support a meeting with the City of Edmonton (Sport Partnership lead) to begin the process of building/establishing a sprung structure in the Millwoods Ellerslie/SW District as a pilot project.

J. Morgan / G. General

Carried

14.0 Reports

J. Parsonage gave the President's Report, and stated that things were running as normal..

15.0 District Updates

15.1 Community Led construction projects

South West Henday: J. Morgan met with SW Henday Presidents and Mayor Sohi regarding the leagues' frustration with the construction process and a request for reduction in red tape.

Motion: 2024-10-10-11: BE IT RESOLVED that the EFCL board invite Community Leagues that have been through the Community Led Construction process to come together so that the EFCL Board and staff can listen and bring recommendations forward to COE.

G. General/A. Lunden

Carried

West Jasper Update: After meeting with Councillor Wright, G. General learned that Digital signs are more feasible now for Leagues. Secondly, developing a shared calendar for programs and events is proving to be challenging as not all leagues use Gmail so there are issues of compatibility if using a Google doc.

Southeast update: There have been issues surrounding supportive housing and its reception by parts of the community. The ravine is also a popular place for them to go, which is an issue with how close it is to the skate park. Leagues were going to organize to officially greet residents of Morning Star but some folks threatened to protest. In light of this, the Leagues decided to postpone as they don't want to invite new residents to an event that puts them in harm's way. There is a desire to put on sessions in partnership with EPS regarding safety to advance the conversation on supportive housing to pave the way for more in future.

16.0 Statement on AGLC Camrose Casino



L. Cunningham-Shpeley presented a statement on the AGLC Camrose Casino situation which emphasized EFCL's disappointment regarding this decision. It also reiterated its critique from the AGLC Charitable Gaming Revue in 2021 on the rural/urban divide where the two are often pitted against one another. EFCL is unable to appeal this decision as they aren't technically a concerned party.

After discussion, some of the wording was changed to urge AGLC to explore the feedback provided in 2021.

Motion: 2024-10-10-12: BE IT RESOLVED that the draft statement on Camrose Casino in principle.

J. Morgan / G. General

Carried

Meeting ended at 9:01pm.