



Winter General Meeting

DATE: **February 9, 2023**

Approved Minutes

EFCL Winter General Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2023, held virtually via Zoom

Opportunities Fair: 5:30-6:20pm; meeting: 6:30-8:30pm

Voting Community League Representatives

District A

Baturyn, Tricia Stettner
Big Lake District, Whitney Corbett
Calder, Jesse Watson
Carlisle, Krista Hennigar
Cumberland/Oxford, Shahab Marzhoughi
Kensington, Gilles Losier
Wellington Park, Rod Hunter

District B

Belvedere, Alana Prockiw
Delwood, Carol Dragich Bishop
Evansdale, Cora Gagne
Kilkenny, Amanda Donald
Rosslyn, Kathy McIvor

District C

Clareview South, Nicole Wetsch
Fraser, Liz Kalisvaart

District D

Aldergrove, Jonathan Woelber
Belmead, Liz Woodruff
Callingwood-Lymburn, Kathy Kammermayer
Willowby, Debbie Plant

District E

Canora, Anthony Lovell
Crestwood, Cheryl Lorincz
Elmwood, Brent Oliver
McQueen, Ken Eerkes
West Meadowlark, Bill Williams
Lynnwood, Dustin Sims

District F

Boyle Street, Karen Jackson
Dovercourt, Laura Shewchuk
Inglewood, Binita Khadka
McCauley, Corine Demas
Oliver, Robyn Paches
Woodcroft, Arlene Huhn

District G

Spruce Avenue, Amanda Felix
Beverley Heights, Tracey Hirtle
Eastwood, Rahul Sharma
Parkdale/Cromdale, Kristina Palmer
Montrose, Scott Griffin

District H

Oak Hills, Robert Agostinis
Riverbend, Miep Raedschelders
Terwillegar, Ryan Barber
The Ridge, Jim Bradshaw

District I

Belgravia, Michael Cohen
Grandview, Sam Mikes
Lansdowne, Rosanna Anderson
Lendrum, Carolyn Fenrich
Argyll, Dave Trautman
Parkallen, Bev Zubot
Pleasantview, Linda Chow-Turner
Strathcona, Emily Graca/Maureen Duguay
Queen Alexandra, Andriko Lozowy
Laurier Heights, Christine- McCourt-Reid

District J

Fulton Place, Miles Berry

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Kenilworth, Irene Wood
Avonmore, Anita Lunden

District K

Blue Quill, Olivia Fata
Chappelle, Stephen Gibson
Erminskine, Kent McMullin
Heritage Point, Leanne Coombs

Yellowbird, Michael Karpow

District L

Summerside/Horizon, Gregory Miskie
Woodvale, Jacqueline Travis

General/Non-Voting Community League Members

District A

Big Lake, Angeline Hudema
Calder, Allison Grasso
Kensington, Kimberley Berg
Wellington Park, Brenda Kennedy

District B

Evandale, David Gagne

District E

Elmwood, Jeremy Kroeker

District F

McCauley, Regan Gee
Oliver, Cindy Bugiak

District G

Bellevue, Brian Finley
Elmwood Park, AudreyLynn Fluet
Parkdale/Cromdale, Constance Brissenden
Spruce Avenue, Ashley Belbeck

District H

District I

Parkdale/Cromdale, Suzanne Cherdarchuk

District J

Avonmore, Bryan Whited
Forest Terrace Heights, Sonya MacQueen
Kenilworth, Rebecca Stushnoff
Twin Parks, Patrick McMann

District K

Blue Quill, Leslie Hierath
Greenfield, Shauna Madsen
Heritage Point, Jon Morgan
Oliver, Cindy Bugiak

District L

Ellerslie, Dotun Aderoju
Horizon, Donna Molloy
Lakewood, Lovena Satdero
Leefield, Jacky Patterson
Woodvale, Bruce Petterson

Guests

Michael Janz, City Councillor, Ward papastew
Andrew Knack, City Councillor, Ward Nakota Isga
Shelley Kwong, City of Edmonton
Alicia Slusarchuk, City of Edmonton
Diana Spangler, Parent Education for Exceptional Children
Christian Fotang, U of A Students' Union
Sharif Haji, Africa Centre
Marla Holland, Foodie Delights
Laura, Realtime STENOvations

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Ray Vigneau, Hockey Edmonton
Kevin Schulthies
Riyaz Sharan

EFCL Board

Jenn Parsonage, President (District L)
Jon Morgan, VP External (District K)
Anita Lunden Treasurer (District J)
Giselle General VP Internal (District E)
Kemoh Mansary (District A)

Morgan Wolf (District G)
Lesli Olsen (District I)
Bert Richards (District H)
Steven Gaudet (District C)
Joshua Wolchansky (District F)

EFCL Staff

Laura Cunningham-Shpeley
Sandra Johnston (minutes)
Colin Johnson
Juanita Gnanapragasam
Tara Cerhit
Darlene Dudley
Kim Tanasichuk

Tim Querengesser
Jennie Gurnett
Michael Barnard
Victor Olayioye
Jonathan Lawrence
Priya Harinath





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1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m by EFCL President and Chair Jenn Parsonage.

2.0 Land Acknowledgement

J. Parsonage, EFCL President (District L Representative), welcomed everyone and commented that the EFCL board and staff recognizes and appreciates League members' enormous contributions to making Edmonton's communities vibrant, safe, and welcoming for all. She commented that the EFCL board and staff are working to create new opportunities for its League membership so they can continue this important work. She thanked everyone for attending and requested that any general members in attendance from Leagues without a voting member present to identify themselves in the chat for quorum and voting purposes.

She noted the meeting was being recorded, and introduced EFCL Board Member and Treasurer Anita Lunden (District J) who performed the Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement.

3.0 Welcome and President's Message

J. Parsonage noted that February is Black History Month, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black Canadians. She introduced Mr. Kemoh Mansaray, Board Chair of the Africa Centre, to describe the work of the Africa Centre, and explore how Community Leagues can collaborate and connect with the Africa Centre to build new relationships and invite new Community League members.

K. Masnaray spoke about the fundamental role Leagues play in integration, and the potential partnerships that can be made between Community Leagues across the city, and the many community-based organisations the Africa Centre supports. He encouraged League leaders to reach out to under-served and under-represented populations to help ensure these Edmontonians feel welcome and seen within their Leagues.

J. Parsonage then went on to comment how during the provincial election season, we seem to encounter an "us versus them" rhetoric that tends to divide communities into groups based on political interests. She noted that Leagues stand as a place where all Edmontonians, regardless of their politics, can join together in the interest of building Community by having conversations, and moving forward in the spirit of cooperation and neighbourliness. She recommended staying focused on community issues that matter vs. political issues. This way Leagues can continue to affect change at the community level to help make neighbourhoods and communities the best they can be. She commented that the EFCL looks forward to growth





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as an organization, board growth with new and returning board members, and growth as a movement. On the agenda is discussion about an EFCL Bylaw Renewal project, as well as priorities for the EFCL for 2023.

On behalf of the EFCL, J. Parsonage welcomed Councillor Michael Janz (Ward Papastew) and Councillor Andrew Knack (Ward Nakota Isga). She acknowledged the EFCL Board Members who serve as their EFCL District Representatives, reiterating that the board members are elected by the Community Leagues that make up each District and the elections later on the agenda would ideally fill the remaining vacancies on the EFCL Board. She then welcomed Shelley Kwong, a Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator from City of Edmonton Community Services, who would be assisting with the District election.

Lastly she thanked the EFCL staff who work so hard to support Leagues across the city, led by our Executive Director Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, and who organize the on-line EFCL General Meetings. Lastly, she thanked the presenters who attended the on-line Opportunities Fair that preceded the meeting.

4.0 Greetings From the City of Edmonton

EFCL Vice President External, Jon Morgan (District K) introduced Councillor Michael Janz (Ward Papastew). Councillor Janz thanked Community League leaders for all their hard work and emphasized that now more than ever, the work of Community League volunteers as League ambassadors across the city is vital. He reported that City Council budget deliberations had just voted to renew investment in the EFCL's anti-racism work, totalling three EFCL packages being supported by the City budget. He commented it was a very difficult budget for many of the city's nonprofits, and that the EFCL's requests based on the proven work it does on small budgets were generally supported. He encouraged all League members to review the budget document in detail. He suggested that Leagues and EFCL Districts consider reaching out to their City Councillor to organize a "Budget 101" session. Lastly, he commented briefly on the misinformation that is being spread primarily via social media about the "15 Minute City" concept, and that League ambassadors are needed more than ever to help dispel these types of negative and completely inaccurate conspiracies that can take on a life of their own.

J. Parsonage thanked Councillor Janz and introduced Sandra Johnston, EFCL Board Development Advisor, to review the rules of engagement for voting and housekeeping regarding the meeting proceedings. She advised only the League voting members could ask questions or speak to motions, and move or second a motion by raising their virtual hand to be identified by the Chair for the minutes. Voting on motions was by show of virtual hands, except for board member elections which is done using Menti.com as required. She provided the directions for





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obtaining close captioning subtitles and advised the public chat would be left open during the meeting. S. Johnson confirmed that the required quorum of 20% (33 Leagues) was met with at least 41 Leagues in attendance at last count.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion 23-02-09-01: That the agenda be approved with the following changes:

- Removal of elections for Districts C, J, and L which were completed prior to the general meeting.
- Addition of Items A, B, and D of the Notice of Motion from Parkallen Community League as follows:
 - A. Revive the EFCL Planning and Development Committee with one member from each EFCL District appointed by the EFCL Board upon recommendation from Leagues in their District, pending review of candidates for real or perceived conflict of interest
 - B. Review and update conflict of interest guidelines to reflect the Province of Alberta's guidelines
 - D. Organize workshops on residential zones of most interest to Leagues, (for example, RS zone, RSF zone, RM zone) to equip for advice level engagement on the final draft of the proposed Zoning Bylaw to be held in September 2023.

Prince Charles (C. Schriner) / Lynnwood (D. Sim)

Carried

It was reported that Stephen Gaudet was re-elected in District C, Anita Lunden was re-elected in District J, and Jenn Parsonage was re-elected in District L prior to the Winter General Meeting.

6.0 Approval of Fall General Meeting Minutes held October 20, 2022

Motion 23-02-09-02: That the minutes of the EFCL Fall General Meeting held on October 20, 2022 be approved as corrected.

Oliver (R. Paches) / Terwillegar (R. Barber)

Carried

7.0 Elections in Districts A, D, F, and K





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EFCL VP Internal Giselle General opened the EFCL elections with a quote from *Edmonton's Urban Villages*, by Ron Kuban as follows: *"The success of Edmonton's Community League Movement is primarily a credit to countless volunteers. Their vision, caring spirit, commitment and effort have made a difference and improved the life of their fellow citizens."*

She welcomed Shelley Kwong from City of Edmonton Neighbourhood Services to conduct the EFCL elections. S. Johnston advised that Districts F and K had quorums present. Districts A and D did not meet quorum.

District F Election

Joshua Wolchansky was nominated by the Nomination Committee to represent District F. There were 3 calls for nominations. J. Wolchansky spoke briefly about his involvement with the Oliver League and his interest in representing District F on the EFCL Board. As there were no other nominees, Joshua was acclaimed as the EFCL District F Representative.

District K Election

Jon Morgan (incumbent) self-nominated as the Representative for District K. He spoke briefly about his interest in continuing to represent District K on the EFCL Board. There were three calls for nominations. As there were no other nominees, J. Morgan was acclaimed District K Representative for another term.

It was noted that Kemoh Mansaray (Baturyn) was previously appointed to the board as Representative for District A. The appointment still requires an election by a quorum of Leagues in District A (a quorum was not present at the meeting). J. Parsonage also reminded the membership that the EFCL District Representative board member position for District D was yet unfilled and that anyone with interest should contact the EFCL office.

8.0 Presentation and Question Period: Proposed Amendments to EFCL Board, Redistricting and General

J. Parsonage reviewed that a federation is "a formal, enduring, coalition of largely independent non-profit groups established to realise such advantages as coordination of activities, development of collective strategies, and sharing of facilities or resources". The EFCL is directed through its membership attending these general meetings, and by an elected board of directors. Both processes are defined by the EFCL Bylaws which are the EFCL's contract with its member Leagues. It is therefore critical Leagues participate in any bylaw amendments.





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She advised that at the EFCL Fall General Meeting in October, feedback was collected regarding how best to reorganize the EFCL Districts and Board, compiled, and shared this evening. The goal is to collect membership feedback on the proposals, make necessary changes, and provide a full document for the membership to vote on at the June AGM.

The members of the Bylaw Renewal and Redistricting Committee were identified as J. Parsonage (EFCL President and District L), Leslie Olsen (District I), A. Lunden (Treasurer and District J) and Past EFCL President Ryan Barber (former District H Representative), supported by L. Cunningham-Shpeley (EFCL Executive Director) and EFCL Board Development Advisor Sandra Johnston.

Bylaws and District Boundaries - proposed changes

Committee member and past president R. Barber provided background and context regarding the proposed changes and what factors had led to re-examination of the EFCL's bylaws and district boundaries. He advised that as a democratic organization, having all areas represented is essential. The EFCL had a hard time filling all District Representative positions in the past, with large areas in the city without representation on the EFCL Board. The EFCL Board tried many ways to fill vacant positions including outreach to the Area Councils, Community groups, and peer networks. It became apparent over time the current system is too restrictive and outdated, causing willing potential Board members who would bring diverse experiences and skills to the Board to be turned away because they reside in a District already represented.

Some districts have been vacant of an EFCL Representative for so long, the Leagues within them aren't aware what a District Representative is, or what the EFCL does. The Board has been looking at how to balance District representation, with the need for specific skills and diverse thinking. The goal is that eager board volunteers need not be turned away and all of the regions of the city are represented at the board table. It strengthens policy, communication, and bonds on common interests that propel the Community League movement forward.

Edmonton Neighbourhoods have also grown and evolved, with several new Leagues being formed. This has created an uneven distribution of Leagues among Districts, with the fewest number (7) in District C, and the largest number (19) in District D. EFCL Districts have the potential to be powerful avenues for Leagues to share resources and work together on common goals, but there was a feeling that our current District system was not facilitating this.

EFCL Board - proposed changes

Board member L. Olsen (District I) then described proposed changes to the board composition and elections. She reported that in breakout rooms at the EFCL Fall General Meeting, Leagues





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reported seeing value in district meetings. District meetings led by EFCL Board members have fostered relationship building and collaboration between district Leagues around facility usage, rink management, as well as interest in coordinating programming to ensure complimentary offerings in a geographical area. Leagues also understood the need to augment the voices of District Representatives with non geographically-based members.

Currently, the EFCL board's size is prescribed by the number of Districts (12). The proposed language caps the board size at 17, made up of a maximum of 14 District Representatives, and up to three members at large. This will allow for the creation of new Districts as new Leagues continue to form, and ensure a relatively equal number per district across the city. District Representatives will be elected just as they are now. Members at Large will be elected by the EFCL membership at a general meeting.

S. Johnson then reviewed in detail the proposed changes to Articles 6 and 7 of the EFCL Bylaws in detail as in the meeting package.

Regarding the proposed new districts, J. Parsonage advised that currently, many EFCL districts are aligned with already established City Area Councils. Alternatively, the EFCL districts could be aligned with the City Wards. The EFCL board believes aligning with the City Plan Districts provides the most powerful representation of Leagues. Leagues are the places where neighbours gather, and using the City Plan districts facilitates what we need to advocate for. With the City Plan, the City will shift from neighbourhood planning to district planning. The City will make many decisions, from building recreation amenities to determining transit, based on these City Plan Districts. The City Plan Districts will play a fundamental role in organising how Leagues and their members must participate in and engage many local matters.

In order to determine the new proposed EFCL districts, a map was created of the City Plan Districts over the Community Leagues, and some of the planning districts were combined into EFCL districts in order to help even the number of Leagues in each District. 15 City Plan districts, some with no or very few Leagues, became 11 EFCL Districts. Ellerslie and Millwoods were combined into one District, Horse Hill and Northeast into one District, and South Henday, West Henday and Rabbit Hill into one district. As new Leagues emerge in these areas, rebalancing may again be required in the future.

J. Parsonage referred to the map in the meeting package and described in detail the proposed changes of the new EFCL Districts. She noted that the existing EFCL District Representatives would continue to represent their new Districts, except in South West Henday where two current Representatives live – Bert Richards as the current district H representative, and Jon Morgan as





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the current district K representative. If all the changes are passed and new bylaws come into effect after approval by Corporate Registries, EFCL Vice President J. Morgan has volunteered to run as a Board Member at Large.

The proposed changes will mean that some EFCL Districts will no longer be aligned with Area Councils. It has sometimes been convenient to hold District and Area Council meetings on the same evening. EFCL Board believes there is value in EFCL Districts meeting separate from Area Councils. Leagues report finding value in District meetings to discuss issues specific to Leagues that don't appear on Area Council agendas such as maintaining an accessible hall and recreation amenities. District Meetings also foster connection between League board members and greater sharing of ideas and resources between neighbouring Leagues, EFCL Board members and staff.

S. Johnston then reviewed the new proposed Districts Article 5 in detail as per the meeting package.

General Meetings - Proposed Changes

The EFCL re-examined the value and the cost of holding three general meetings a year, with the goal being better timing of financial procedures (budget approval and presentation of financial statements) to allow for appropriate controls, transparency, and more efficient planning. It is about efficiency, and valuing your time without sacrificing critical conversation at EFCL general meetings.

A. Lunden reported that in early January, the EFCL sent out a survey asking Leagues about the EFCL General meetings. There were close to 30 responses with the most common reasons people attended general meetings was to understand the EFCL's financial position, to hear updates from the EFCL about upcoming projects and initiatives, and to provide feedback and direction to the organisation. Respondents were more interested in meeting with their fellow District Leagues more frequently at District Meetings, in order to share information, network, and reduce the number of EFCL General meetings. 75% of respondents said they would attend an online general meeting.

Reducing EFCL general meetings from three to two annually, will eliminate the need every year to make an additional motion to approve spending by the organization for the first two months of the next year. With only two General meetings per year vs. three, our AGM in June and a November General Meeting will provide enough time to connect on important topics, and the new budget can be put forward in November for the next calendar year. For any significant





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increases or changes to the budget, a special meeting can be called. Here is the link to proposed general meeting changes

J. Parsonage asked if there were questions or comments.

Q: (R. Agostinis, Oak Hills CL): How will this affect the Area Councils? (paraphrased)

A: L. Cunningham-Shpeley: It does not affect operations of the Area Councils directly as they are separate organisations. We plan to meet with them to talk through it.

Q: (L. Shewchuck, Dovercourt CL) What was the context around why Blatchford was placed in the Eastern 118 (east) vs. the Central (west)? It is proposed to be quite large.

A: L. Cunningham-Shpeley: We followed the City Plan Districts and that is where Blatchford is placed in the City Plan. I am curious as to why it was placed there.

L. Shewchuk Thanks I guess my question is for the City then.

There were no further questions. J. Parsonage asked that the membership review in detail the information provided in the Winter General Meeting information package under Agenda Item 8.0 and provide any feedback to their District Representative. Membership will be voting on the bylaws at the annual general meeting in June.

9.0 Plans and Priorities of the EFCL for 2023

L. Cunningham-Shpeley commented that each year, the EFCL identifies plans and priorities that it will focus on and work towards. For 2023, they are as follows:

- 1) With Council's recent approval of our Service Package budget requests, we will:
 - a) Continue the work of the *Service Innovation Pilot Program*. The increase of \$200,000 to our operating budget to support the Online Learning portal, the mentorship programs, and Community activation work will ensure the progress continues connecting and being a hub for resources and information for Leagues.
 - b) Begin the *Tripartite Amenity Assessment* work. The City is allowing the EFCL to use up to \$413,000 in 2023 from the *Community League Infrastructure program (CLIP)* to cover the costs of the *Community League Infrastructure Database*, hire an employee, and perform almost \$300,000 of amenity assessments on various Community Leagues.





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- 2) Assuming the EFCL's application for the COE Anti-Racism grant is approved by Council for \$175,000, the EFCL will partner with four other non-profit organizations and work with six to eight Leagues across the city. The goal will be to create learning that goes beyond anti-racism training, focusing on Leagues becoming intercultural spaces that welcome diversity and navigate differences. An art-based approach will be used.
- 3) The EFCL is updating its bylaws to bring greater structure to the district model of Leagues. The Bylaw Review Committee meets regularly to bring forward updates to the membership at each general meeting.
- 4) Settling into the new office space at the Jerry Forbes Centre at 12122 68 Street. The Jerry Forbes Centre is 93,000 sq.ft. of shared space designed for the administration of non-profit organizations, and training staff and volunteers for outreach into the Community. The Centre's non-profit partners have access to individual offices, shared workspaces, meeting rooms, a classroom, event spaces, storage, common kitchen areas and 170 parking stalls. This new location will provide the EFCL with a high quality office space, reduce operational costs, and support relationship building with other non-profit organizations.
- 5) The EFCL signed a *Collaborative Relationship Agreement* with the City's Neighbourhood Services department, in fall 2022. This agreement outlines how we will work together to support Community Leagues. A joint work plan will be created and communicated to Leagues regarding who to approach for information and support.
- 6) Determining a new approach to the *Community League Operating Grant* formula for Leagues using recommendations from the City of Edmonton audit and feedback from Leagues. Currently, the Operating Grant is a base amount plus a per capita amount. Other factors need to be considered including the League's amenities. A survey will be sent to Leagues in Q1 regarding the formula considerations. We will work with the City of Edmonton to create recommendations for the EFCL Board and membership to consider.

10.0 Decision Items

10.1 Approval of EFCL Budget 2023

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EFCL Treasurer, A. Lunden, thanked L. Cunningham-Shpeley and the EFCL staff for preparing the EFCL's budget submission requests to City Council. She commented it was a challenging budget year for Edmonton City Council and for non-profits, and that the EFCL is grateful for the EFCL funding requests City Council approved. They include a total increase of \$778,000 to the EFCL's overall operating budget for 2023 as follows:

- An additional \$200,000 for the annual City of Edmonton operating grant (Expanded Community League Supports Service Package)
- An additional \$413,000 for the Amenity Assessments work on League Tripartite land
- \$165,000 approved by City Council for Anti-Racism project grant funding

The EFCL will use these funds in the following ways:

- Funding for two new positions (hire an *Infrastructure and Amenities Advisor*, and an *Anti Racism Grant Coordinator*)
- Continued and enhanced funding for EFCL's *Online Learning and Mentorship Program* for Community Leagues, as well as *the Community League Infrastructure Dashboard*
- Continued support for the equipment rental program
- Funding to support up to 25 Leagues with *Licensed Land Audit Assessments* of their facilities and amenities.

The EFCL also has several long term sponsors that have renewed and enhanced their commitments including SERVUS Credit Union, NFP Insurance Brokerage, and Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP.

A. Lunden added that the EFCL continues to grow new partnerships with many city sport and event organizations, such as Free Play for Kids, Freewill Shakespeare, ESports of Alberta, Edmonton Elks, Edmonton Stingers and KDays. These organizations are interested in creating great experiences for Edmontonians through partnering with Community Leagues.

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It was reported that with the EFCL's move to the Jerry Forbes Centre in December, office operating expenses should be cut by nearly half, with the shared non-profit space providing great opportunities for collaborations with other non-profits and staff learning.

A. Lunden concluded her report advising the 2023 EFCL budget would be very close to balanced. Needing to access the EFCL's reserve funds is not anticipated due to retained earnings brought forward into the 2022 EFCL budget (refer to the [Audited Financial statements for 2021](#)).

J. Parsonage asked if there were questions about the budget from the membership.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin) A point of clarification and a question. The green column in the says budgeted for 2022 - is that the budget for 2022 or the actuals? If the actuals, it should be re-categorized so that it's a comparison.

A: L. Cunningham-Shpeley: That column is what was approved last year at the Winter General Meeting.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin) Do we have a budget of what was actually spent last year to compare to what you plan to spend this year? 2022 actuals compared to 2023 budgeted?

A: L. Cunningham-Shpeley: The board has seen the actuals up the Q3 and we're still finalizing the annual numbers. We've been working with the board so they are well aware that we are quite close for the year, but, no, we don't have it ready to present to the membership.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin): So we would vote on this in June when we are voting on the other matters?

A: Yes. You would have the audited financial statements for the June meeting.

Q: How do we know what to plan for next year when we don't know what was spent this year?

A: A. Lunden: If I may interject - that is part of my job and the role of the board. We meet quarterly to look at where we are in spending, vs. what we proposed to spend. We have done a year-end review. If we were to prepared something now





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to present it would just not be accurate at this time. The next motion is to prepare our audited financial statements. Laura, her staff, and the board, work very hard to stay within the budget because we don't have a lot of extra funds. I'm sorry but their just not ready because what we would be presenting would be incomplete at this time, but if you would accept our word that we will be very close to last year's budget. There a number of new costs due to being in a new facility. We also have new funding from the City for new projects. So the two budgets are not really directly comparable either.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin): But then this budget should be amended so that it meets your fiscal year. You are asking us to vote on something when we have no idea what you've spent and what the comparisons are year-over-year. You've got a budget for 2022, but you could be way under or over. You are asking us to vote on it with a bit of fiduciary duty but we have no back up to know the comparison.

A: L. Cunningham-Spheley: We do have the 2021 audited financial statements and Anita referred to the retained earnings from 2021. I hear your Kent, and I guess you need to trust that the Board has reviewed the budget, and have been updated on the budget quarterly and they know where we are at.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin): I'm uncomfortable with this. I dont think it's proper business practice. The other question I have is on page 22 where benefits have gone up \$24,000 from what was budgeted in 2022, to \$30,000 for 2023. Can you explain the large increase?

A: C. Johnson (EFCL): I prepared that. That is largely due to categorisation, and how our benefits were calculated. They were previously being reported into another category in error, and they have been re-allocated. There is an increase this year over last of around 8%, due to the inflationary cost of our benefits renewal.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin): Okay. That would be another reason why I would want to see what the actuals were. Thank you.

A. Lunden noted that the EFCL operates on a budget for the first two months every year that has not been approved by the membership. This issue is being addressed by the proposed changes going forward. She advised that currently, spending in January and February of the following year has to be approved with the stipulation that spending will be consistent with precedence.





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Motion 23-02-09-03: That the EFCL 2023 budget be approved. This shall also include spending approvals in principle, at levels consistent with the 2023 budget, for early 2024 until such time as the 2024 budget is passed.

A. Lunden (EFCL Treasurer) / D. Sims (Lynnwood)

It was clarified that the EFCL fiscal year (January through December) is different from the EFCL membership year.

Q: L. Shewchuck (Dovercourt) When you were showing us some of the Bylaw improvements and how the general meetings would change, that would mean in the November prior to the year we would be approving the budget. Is that the intended fix then? That will alleviate some of this issue then, that we're in a year without a (approved) budget?

A: S. Johnston: Precisely. You would be approving the budget in the November meeting before the budget year starting January 1st.

Q: S. Mikes (Grandview): I would be interested to know if the gentleman who spoke early would vote against the budget, and if so, would that be to the benefit or detriment of the EFCL being able to function. I'm wondering if he has anything additional to say considering the concerns he had raised.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin): I've worked in organisations that have dealt with these issues and their budgets have gone for 8 to 18 months so that they align on a proper fiscal budget year so that there's an actual accounting. It's not that we don't trust (the EFCL board). It's just following proper procedures. I am not an accountant, but involved on enough boards and committees to know that proper accounting practices need to be followed and to me, this would not be one where there is no comparison of the previous year's expenses to the next year's budget.

A: L. Cunningham-Shpeley: Thank you Kent and I do appreciate that. One major concern is that if the budget is not approved this evening, how will we continue to run the operations of the organization.

Q: K. McMullin (Ermineskin): I would be comfortable with an interim budget until such time as the actuals are presented.





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Further discussion ensued. Voting Members from two additional Leagues expressed they would also be in favour of passing an interim budget at a Special meeting.

S. Johnston clarified that the EFCL Bylaws state that a budget had to be passed that evening. It was possible an interim budget could be passed until the June general meeting.

After further discussion, S. Mikes moved an amendment to the original motion. He provided the rationale for his amendment advising that the timeline for approving an interim budget would either be June (at the Annual General Meeting) or sooner at a possible Special General Meeting. He proposed that the budget issue be included on the agenda of a Special General meeting, as well as Parkallen's motions.

L. Cunningham-Shpeley confirmed that the year-end audited financials would be completed and available very soon, and Parkallen's Motions would be addressed then as well.

Amendment to Motion 23-02-09-04: To add the words, "Interim" before budget, to remove the wording about the next fiscal year and to add the words, "be approved until the next general meeting".

Grandview (S. Mikes) / Woodcroft (A. Huhn) Carried

A vote was then held on the amended motion.

That the EFCL 2023 interim budget be approved until the next general meeting.

A. Lunden (EFCL Treasurer) / D. Sims (Lynnwood) Carried

10.2 Approval of Curtis Friesen, Metrix Group, as Auditors

EFCL Treasurer A. Lunden reviewed that Metrix Group accounting firm has been the EFCL's Auditors for many years and has a very good understanding of the organization and of nonprofit accounting. She advised in light of recent changes to the EFCL's finance staff, the EFCL Board would recommend maintaining





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consistency with its choice of Auditor. J. Parsonage asked if there were any questions. As there were none, a vote was held and the motion passed.

Motion 23-02-09-05: That the EFCL membership approve the appointment of Curtis Friesen of Metrix Group as the auditor for the 2022 EFCL audit.

A. Lunden (EFCL Treasurer) / Grandview (S. Mikes)

Carried

11.0 Community League Day September 16, 2023

EFCL Executive Director L. Cunningham-Shpeley reported that the goal of Community League Day held annually in September, is for people to attend League events in their neighbourhoods and to connect with their local Community League. The event intends to bring neighbours together, build relationships with new and existing League members, attract new Community League memberships, and new volunteers. The EFCL wishes to continue this city-wide event as it facilitates brand-building and provides consistent support for Leagues that plan annual Community League Day events.

In 2023, the EFCL will:

- Host a 50/50 raffle that can help drive new people across the city to Leagues
- Offer consistent, branded communications, marketing graphics, and templates, to promote Community League events in an expanded city-wide advertising campaign
- Offer a toolkit regarding how to prepare for, greet, and connect with neighbours that attend
- Create an online map that will improve the searchability of League events city-wide in September whereby users can locate their Community League and read about the Community League Day event it is hosting

There were no questions. It was noted any questions can be directed to EFCL office staff.

12.0 Notices of motion

J. Parsonage redirected the membership to Parkallen's proposed Notices of Motion added to the agenda at the beginning of meeting (refer Item 5.0 - Approval of Agenda).

It was clarified that the Notices of Motion would be voted on at the next general meeting. This opportunity for further questions about the Notices of Motion.





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Q: S. Mikes (Grandview) noted that a Special General meeting can be called at the discretion of the EFCL President per the EFCL Bylaws. He suggested that as the next scheduled general meeting wasn't until June, that a Special General meeting be called to address Parkallen's Notices of Motion in a timely fashion.

J. Parsonage asked if she could respond to the suggestion to hold a Special General Meeting after the upcoming regular EFCL Board meeting where the Terms of Reference of the Planning and Development Committee would be reviewed.

B. Zubot (Parkallen): In response to an earlier request to hear from the President of Parkallen Community League, Suzanne Cherdarchuk, regarding Parkallen's Notices of Motion, B. Zubot read S. Cherdarchuk's comments as follows: *"The necessity to have a Planning and Development Committee revived is so that genuine involvement and advisement by Community members can be given to the City's Urban Planning Committee and Council before final public engagement is heard in the fall. We do not need further input from experts, builders, developers, planners and architects". We need the voices of the residents who live in communities across the city."*

J. Parsonage thanked B. Zubot for relaying Parkallen's comments.

13.0 Termination

J. Parsonage thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting. Reaching the end of the agenda, she announced the conclusion of the EFCL Winter General Meeting at 8:56p.m.

Next General Meetings:

- **Annual General Meeting: June 13, 2023**
- **Fall General Meeting: November 7, 2023**

APPROVED June 13, 2023 Annual General Meeting

