



# Special General Meeting

**April 6, 2023**

Approved Minutes

EFCL Special General Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 2023, Held Virtually via ZOOM

6:30-8:30pm

**Voting Representatives of Community League Members in Attendance**

**District A**

Baturyn, Paul Peterson  
Baturyn, Tricia Stetner  
Kensington, Krystal Beltsky  
Wellington Park, Rod Hunter

**District B**

Belvedere, B. D. Wilson  
Delwood, Carol Bishop  
Kilkenny, Amanda Donald  
Rosslyn, Greg Hilker

**District C**

Evergreen, Amy London  
Fraser, Liz Kalisvaart  
Homesteader, Gunda Murray  
South Clareview, Nicole Wetsch

**District D**

Aldergrove, Jonathan Woelber  
Hamptons, Magilton  
Rio Terrace, Andrew Olsen

**District E**

Canora, Tony Lovell  
Crestwood, Cheryl Lorincz  
Jasper Park, Byron Kwasnitza  
Lynnwood, Dustin Sim  
McQueen, Ken Erkes  
Meadowlark, Megan Mendez  
North Glenora, Christopher Hyde  
Parkview, Sarah Hirst  
West Meadowlark, Greg Jober

**District F**

Dovercourt, Laura Shewchuk  
Oliver, Imran Ahmad

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Prince Charles, Cindy Schriener  
Westmount, Dara Green  
Woodcroft, Ruth Lysak

## District G

Belleview, Brian Finley  
Beverly Heights, Chris Keeler  
Parkdale/Cromdale, Kristina Palmer  
Westwood, Roisin Hawkswell

## District H

Brookview, Kyle Fodchuk  
Riverbend, Miep Raedschelders

## District I

Allendale, Mayja Embleton  
Argyll, Dave Trautman  
Belgravia, Michael Cohen  
Garneau, Steph Neufeld  
Grandview Heights, Laurie Clifford  
Lansdowne, Rosanna Anderson  
Lendrum, Carolyn Fenrich  
Malmo, Ken Hemmerling  
Parkallen, Cukkey Schweger  
Ritchie, Ian McKellar  
Strathcona Centre, John de Haan

## District J

Avonmore, Bryan Whited  
Fulton Place, Miles Berry  
Kenilworth, Irene Wood  
Ottewell, Corinne Olson

## District K

Blue Quill, Bernard Llanos

Ermineskin, Kent McMullin  
Greenfield, Amanda Baros  
Heritage Point, Yuan Zuo

## District L

Burnewood, Kristen Kuefler  
Ellerslie, Christine Lim  
Knottwood, Chantell Barone  
Meadows, Suzanne MacKinnon  
North Milbourne, Stuart Greers  
Woodvale, Jacqueline Travis

## General/Non-Voting Community League Members in Attendance

Allendale, Anthony Owolabi  
Aspen Gardens, Tom Barker  
Grandview Heights, Gabriela Iordache  
Grandview Heights, Lori Kraus  
Homesteader, Chelsey Roshko  
Lynnwood, Jocelyn Bamford  
North Glenora, Cathie Monson  
Parkallen, Heather Wright  
Parkallen, Jan Hardstaff  
Riverdale, Eric Gormly  
Southwood, Greta Gerstner  
Strathcona Centre, Maureen Duguay  
Wellington Park, Brenda Kennedy

## EFCL Board

Jenn Parsonage, President/Chair,  
(District L)  
Giselle General, Vice President Internal,  
(District E)  
Jon Morgan, Vice President External,  
(District K)

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**Kemoh Mansaray, (District A)**  
**Steven Gaudet, (District C)**  
**Joshua Wolchansky, (District F)**  
**Bert Richards, (District H)**  
**Lesli Olsen, (District I)**

**Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, Executive Director**  
**Sandra Johnston, Board Development Advisor**  
**Colin Johnson, Deputy Executive Director**

**EFCL Staff**

**Marjorie Stefanyk, Recording Secretary**

**1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jenn Parsonage at 6:40 p.m.

**2.0 Land Acknowledgement**

Lesli Olsen of District I delivered the land acknowledgement.

**3.0 Welcome and Introductions**

J. Parsonage welcomed everyone with the reminder that EFCL Bylaws require membership approval of the yearly budget. She added that one of the purposes of this meeting was to supply more financial information to the membership. The other was to discuss three new motions put forward by Parkallen Community League.

She introduced the current EFCL District Representatives, and acknowledged the hard work of the EFCL staff in organizing the Special General Meeting.

She then introduced Sandra Johnston, Board Development Advisor, who outlined the necessary procedure and requirements for voting. Sandra asked members to identify themselves on Zoom by name and Community League, and reminded everyone that only voting members can ask questions and speak to motions. If a member was a lone representative of a League and had the support of the League Board, they were asked to identify themselves in the chat and their status would be changed to voting member. Motions, voting, and requests to speak on a motion, would be made by the raising of the virtual hand.

**4.0 Quorum and Approval of the Agenda**





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J. Parsonage asked S. Johnston to conduct a quorum count. Quorum was confirmed with a total of 41 voting members, over the required 20 per cent or 33 members.

This being a special general meeting, J. Parsonage reminded everyone that no additions or changes could be made to the agenda, but still required approval. She asked if there were any deletions. None were made.

**Motion 23-04-06-01: Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as written.**

**L. Kalisvaart / Suzanne MacKinnon**

**Carried**

## **5.0 Approval of EFCL Budget 2023**

J. Parsonage outlined the process for discussion and approval of motions following each presentation. A mover and seconder would be required for each motion before any discussion. Only voting members could speak, with one question allowed per League. Further questions could be asked after all Leagues had a chance to speak. This would be followed by a debate and then a vote. This procedure would be followed for each motion.

J. Parsonage spoke briefly on the proposed 2023 Budget, then read a statement prepared by EFCL Board Treasurer, Anita Lunden, which was included in the SGM 2023 Information Package, distributed to all members. The key changes to the budget included the addition of casino funds which would increase revenue, and the adjustment of the General Expenses line resulting in a more accurate reflection of EFCL's commitments. The new 2023 Budget would be very similar to the one presented in February 2023, with a modest surplus of \$3,270 expected. The EFCL Finance Committee will focus on developing new sources of revenue in the coming year and building up the Reserve Fund.

Joshua Wolchansky, representing the Finance, Audit and Funding Committee, spoke briefly on the budget and stressed the need for finding new sources of revenue, inviting the membership to forward suggestions to the Committee.

L. C-Shpeley provided a list of sources of 2023's incoming revenue amounting to \$778,000 including:

- Additional \$200,000 City of Edmonton Operational Grant
- \$413,000 CLIP Fund for the Amenity Assessments work on League Tripartite Land

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- \$175,000 approved City of Edmonton Anti-Racism Grant

She added that a decline in membership as well as overdue membership fees contributed to the decrease in funding. The floor was then opened for questions.

Kent McMullin inquired about steps being taken to build up the Reserve Fund. L. C-Shpeley replied that including the addition of a budget line specifically for the Reserve Fund would be the first step.

Leigh Makarewicz asked what protections were being put in place to rectify gaps and prevent future repetitions. L. C-Shpeley replied that the newly created Finance, Audit and Funding Committee will ensure accountability.

Mayja Embleton wondered why there was no entry in 2022 for Re:Sound fees and questioned whether EFCL was profiting from membership payments. L.C-Shpeley replied that there had been no invoice from Re:Sound for that year. Also, Re:Sound had renegotiated with EFCL during COVID resulting in Leagues paying much less. She reminded everyone that membership had given approval for EFCL to negotiate with and pay fees to Re:Sound on behalf of the membership. A small amount of fees are held back by EFCL to cover handling charges.

Kent McMullin asked why there were salary increases of 8 - 10 per cent in spite of the current economic condition. L. C-Shpeley answered that an agreement with the City of Edmonton on with the Anti-Racism Grant required the hiring of extra staff which reflected a salary increase in the budget.

With no further questions, J. Parsonage presented the motion for approval of the 2023 Budget.

**Motion 5.1: Be it resolved that the 2023 Budget is approved. This shall also include spending approvals in principle, at levels consistent with the 2023 budget, for early 2024 until such time that the 2024 budget is passed.**

**Joshua Wolchansky / Miles Berry**

J. Parsonage then opened the floor for debate. With no replies, she then asked for a vote by show of hands. The **motion was carried.**





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## 5.2 Motion Parkallen Community League

***BE IT RESOLVED that a recruitment process for the EFCL Planning & Sustainability Working Group, a Committee of the EFCL Board, include:***

***a. Nomination of candidates by a League or a group of Leagues from each District which are communicated to other Leagues in the District to ensure transparency.***

***b. Prior to appointment by the Board, nominees shall be vetted by the Board for conflict of interest by way of membership, employment, or other close association with planning & development industry groups.***

### Culley Schwegwer-Bell / Michael Cohen

Parkallen originally presented four motions at the WGM on February 9, 2023. The EFCL met with Parkallen on March 1 and March 6 to provide an update and discuss the motions. Based on information provided by EFCL, Parkallen decided to rescind these motions on March 10, and replaced them with the amended motions under discussion at today's Special General Meeting.

J. Parsonage invited the voting representative for Parkallen Community League, C. Schweger-Bell, to speak on Motion 5.2 (a and b) with a time limit of three minutes. C. Schweger-Bell stated that Parkallen still has concerns about transparency in the recruitment process and would like to see the involvement of all Leagues in each District. They would also like to see all new Planning and Sustainability Working Group members nominated for consideration by the Board be vetted for conflict of interest. The motions and the rationale for proposing them, as well as an in depth presentation was also included in the SGM package.

In response, and in addition to the information provided by EFCL in the SGM package, J. Parsonage stated that the newly formed EFCL Community Planning Sustainability Working Group includes:

- 11 members geographically spread across the City
- Four members at large
- Two EFCL Board members, one being the Chair





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- Balance of Planning and Energy transition and knowledge

The recruitment process includes two application forms: individual and League, with advisors compiling the applications. The Board Development and Nominating Committee vets and makes recommendations to the EFCL Board for appointment.

J. Parsonage then introduced Giselle General, EFCL Vice President Internal, to reply to the motion. G. General confirmed that nominations are made by Leagues. EFCL cannot reveal the names of those who apply because they are volunteering only, not running for election. If, and when, they are accepted, then their names can be released. This is in compliance with the Alberta employment law.

J. Parsonage then opened the floor for discussion, reminding everyone that only one question per League could be taken. There were several questions including in the chat.

**Ruth Lysak-Martyrkiw(Chat):** What conflict of interest details will the EFCL be vetting for the Community Planning Sustainability Working Group?

**Answer: (S. Johnston):** This is addressed in the questionnaire, “Are you employed or otherwise involved in the Sustainability or Planning Sector? If so, in what capacity?”

**Suzanne MacKinnon (Chat):** I’m confused about three motions first withdrawn and then three more motions. Not just three, not six, but multiple parts. What other options are there for a single Community League to action their ideas other than through this parliamentary option?

**Answer: (L. C-Shpeley):** Go through your District Representative who can advise and guide you.

**Dave from Argyle:** Was the original Community Planning Group dissolved and a new one created?

**Answer: (J. Parsonage):** The group was recreated. The past committee was dissolved and this is a recreated group.

**Bryan Whited:** In light of the fact that EFCL has satisfactorily addressed Parkallen’s concerns, why should the motion proceed?





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**Answer: (C. Shweger-Bell):** Parkallen feels that the application questionnaire is not complete as there is no mention of whether or not the applicant is involved in development or in the building sector. Questions are not complete enough. It should be more specific.

**Laura Shewchuk (Chat):** Doesn't it seem contradictory that we want people who have interest in planning and in climate change and probably have some kind of expertise to share with the EFCL but that might be considered conflict of interest?

**Answer: (L.C-Speley):** We have great people in our city that wear a lot of hats, and I think the role that we've always played and we've always encouraged Leagues is at any point you sit on a committee where you believe you have a conflict of interest, that you have something to gain from a decision that is being made, that you recuse yourself.

**S. Johnston** addressed a Point of Order raised by **Mayja Embleton** regarding whether when voting for Motion 5.2, could 5.2 a and 5.2 b be voted on at the same time or will they be split out and voted on separately. S. Johnston answered that Parkallen presented "a" and "b" under one motion so it would be voted on together.

**Leigh Makarewicz:** I just wanted to clarify for myself that with the process that you say is in place currently you would have to make an application personally and your local Community League would have to support that application. Does that mean the Community League from which you reside in or any Community League can support somebody going forward?

**Answer (J. Parsonage):** It would be the League in which you reside in which you would be getting support, similar to the way that currently with board members it would be. We would want to make sure that their League is okay with you going ahead.

**Leigh Makarewicz:** So you would represent that area specifically. I'm just trying to see how it is parsed out in the 11 positions.

**Answer (J. Parsonage):** So essentially we would have a representative from each district. Individuals from a district would put their name forward. But we would want to make sure they are members in good standing with their League, that everything is good on the League side. That way we are not getting rogue applicants.

**Leigh Makarewicz:** And there couldn't be a conglomerate of people from a specific area or otherwise?

**Answer (L. C-Shpeley):** Right. That's what we are aiming for. One person from each







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district. They just won't be voted in by the district in the same way a board member is voted in by the district.

**Culley Shweger-Bell:** On a point of order, is Jan Hardstaff from my neighbourhood allowed to help support answering questions?

**Answer (J. Parsonage):** No it is the voting members and the individual representing the League officially that does the speaking.

**Culley Shweger-Bell:** No that's okay. We just did have a question that came up in regards after our motions were put forward and that in the Terms of Reference for this new Planning and Sustainability Working Group, it calls this an ad hoc working group. I'm just wondering if this is the same as the Committee and why it is called a working group as opposed to a committee?

**Answer (S. Johnston):** Because we are now in the process of bylaw renewal and right now we only have committees. That's why it is identified as a Working Group which is an ad hoc committee of the Board. But we are writing working groups into the new bylaws. So, in order not to have to change this later on, we've called it, for now, a working group, which is made under the bylaws as a committee. But in the new bylaws it will be a working group, so that's why we've named it as we have.

**John de Haan:** I just want clarification. There was mention we could not publicize the names of the nominees. Who is privy to the names of nominees and who isn't? It sounds like the Board of the EFCL is, but not the members. And this is for nominees to a sub-committee for the EFCL. I'm puzzled as to the distinction and as to the reasoning behind that.

**Answer (S. Johnston):** The applicant fills out an application. This goes to the EFCL Board for purposes of making a decision. The Community League fills out their nomination. It goes to complete the application. The EFCL Board is making a decision on who to put on the Committee. They have to know who has applied. But this motion, as we read it, says that the EFCL would have to tell all the other Leagues who has applied to be on the Committee before we've even put them on the Committee. Now, just like employers can't tell the world who has applied for a job, we can't tell everyone who has applied to be on a Committee until they're on the Committee. It is unlawful to do so.

**John de Haan:** I get what you're saying about the employees, but I'm thinking about

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nominations that, for instance, we run within our own Board. We would have no problem communicating nominations to our membership at the AGM for instance. I don't see the distinction.

**Answer (Colin Johnson):** In the update to Labour Standards and the Employment Standards Code, all people who do work for an organization are classified as workers. Under that is employees, who are paid workers, and volunteers who are referred to as unpaid workers. Because these volunteers aren't being elected, they're being selected much as you would an employee. They are considered workers for that purpose, so we have to treat their privacy in the same way. Whereas, if a Nominations Committee is putting someone forward for election, that is a different process and they don't fall under that worker's clause.

**Laura Shewchuk (Chat):** Did I hear correctly that this nominee needs to be on the Board of the League? We can't get other volunteer members to be nominated?

**Answer (S. Johnston):** No we do not mean the person needs to be on a Community League Board. But they need to be nominated by their home Community League Board.

**Liz Kalisvaart:** This is just for Parkallen. So, if the application form was to notate if you are involved in development at all and if applicants agree to have their names be known at a certain point in time, I don't know, whatever that vetting process looks like, would that satisfy what you are looking for?

**Answer (C. Shweger-Bell):** There are two parts to our motion, so, yes, we would like those things added to the application form. That would improve it, certainly. But the really important part of our motion is particularly that anyone on the Board be vetted for conflict of interest. Our next motion is in regards to that, so we would want to make sure that conflict of interest includes not just financial issues and that it includes if someone is in development or building, that that is noted. If they already are part of a board that is a stakeholder group with the City, we'd like to know that.

**Comment (S. Johnston):** No one can give you permission to break the law.

The language we chose on the "Are you employed or otherwise involved in a sustainability or planning sector, if so, what capacity?" We will be checking for development, people involved in development in that question. And if we don't get the information from an applicant that we need to answer that question, we will be reaching out to them to get more





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information. Just because it doesn't say specifically do you work for a builder or do you work for a developer, we believe we are gathering all the information, and more, in that wording.

J. Parsonage opened the floor for debate.

**Miles Berry (Chat):** Would you turn away a community member nominee who is involved in social housing development projects?

**Answer (L. C-Shpeley):** That is a great point, Miles, and that is why we kept it really broad around planning and energy transition. I think the development industry is broad and so is the energy transition industry, so we need to have people give us that information. Then we look at the whole application. We look at what the League has recommended as well. Those are the pieces we will use with the Board and the Nominating Committee as well.

**C. Shweger-Bell:** I believe that question was directed to Parkallen.

**Answer (S. Johnston):** You were able to talk at the beginning when you spoke to your motion. We are going to hold the rules of one speaker per round. You, as the mover, get an additional chance to speak after everybody else is done.

**J. Parsonage:** Now we're debating on the merits of the motion. So it is less about questions and more about voicing your League's opinion on this motion.

**Suzanne MacKinnon:** I am someone who has served on the Planning Committee and probably three different evolutions over the last number of years and in different roles. So I have to admit I'm fundamentally confused by what problem is trying to be solved, because we have always had difficulty getting people interested in serving on this committee or working group in the first place. And representation has never been a requirement or a thing. My experience is if someone was overly interested in one thing, they didn't last very long on the committee. They didn't fit in. They got subtle or obvious feedback that what they were contributing wasn't welcome. So, I don't understand what problem is being solved, and I'm probably signaling what I'll be voting on this motion.

Seeing nothing in the way of further debate, J Parsonage asked for a vote by show of hands.

**The motion was defeated.**

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## **5.3 Motion (Parkallen Community League)**

***BE IT RESOLVED that the EFCL review and update their 2002-11 Conflict of Interest Policy Statement to reflect their Code of Conduct.***

**Culley Schwegwer-Bell / Michael Cohen**

The voting member from Parkallen was invited to move their motion and speak to it with a time limit of three minutes. C. Schweger-Bell stated that EFCL had shared their Code of Conduct and 2002-2011 Conflict of Interest Guidelines with Parkallen. While fully supporting the former, Parkallen would like to see the Conflict of Interest Policy Statement better aligned to the Code of Conduct to effectively mitigate the risk of any conflict of conduct or private advantage. While EFCL plans to review their policies following the completion of their Bylaws projected for the fall of 2023, Parkallen would like to see this done at an earlier date.

Following the presentation, J. Parsonage added that, while Parkallen was quoting EFCL's Code of Conduct, there was a missing sentence which states: "The objective of the following guidelines in the procedures section is to permit EFCL to manage potential conflicts of interest successfully when they do occur."

Lesli Olsen, Representative for District I, was invited to respond. A policy refresh is planned to begin in the fall of 2023 which will see a significant overhaul of EFCL Policy as well as the way policy is made. Some work has already been initiated, however a lot of Board and Staff time is being spent on bylaw renewal, and until that work is completed, there is not much capacity to undertake a policy refresh. So the Board doesn't see the need for this motion as it is directing the Board to complete work already underway.

J. Parsonage then opened the floor to questions. As there were none, she opened the floor to debate. With no interest shown, the question was called.

**The motion was defeated.**

## **5.4 Motion (Parkallen Community League)**





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***BE IT RESOLVED that EFCL, with the support of League volunteers, organize engagement workshop(s) in Spring 2023 on the second Draft of the Zoning Bylaw and in fall 2023 on the final draft.***

**Culley Schwegwer-Bell / Kent McMullin**

The voting member from Parkallen was invited to move their motion and speak to it with a limit of three minutes. C. Schwegwer-Bell said that Parkallen believes it is important for Leagues to understand the implication of the proposed Zoning Bylaw and to be informed, equipped and engaged. Potentially EFCL could coordinate advocacy efforts of Leagues or support an asset-based community development approach that would help Leagues and Districts to support one another.

Jon Morgan, EFCL's Vice President External was invited to respond to Motion 5.4 with regard to zoning bylaw workshops. A workshop was held on March 28. There were 41 people registered, with 25 attending. EFCL is responsive to member needs for workshops as long as there is a demand from Leagues and EFCL has available resources. There is a concern about the precedent of members passing motions committing EFCL to workshops for which there may not be a demand or resources available.

The floor was opened to questions and debate.

**Byron Kwasnitza (Chat):** Motion 5.4. As we have seen tonight, in many cases individuals are unable to participate in EFCL sponsored workshops or meetings due to other commitments. An additional date, or dates, would be valuable to ensure maximum participation by League representatives.

**Bryan Whited:** While I'm all for workshops and I'm all for engagement, there has been a tremendous amount of workshops the City has held and I think that you mentioned the EFCL hadn't done a whole lot. But the City has done a huge amount and plus there's been multiple public hearings. And so it's kind of too late anyway. There's already been a tremendous amount and the feedback was used in the way it was used.

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**Mayja Embleton:** I'm not going to support this motion for three reasons, two already mentioned. The precedent of forcing you guys to have workshops that may or may not have people that want to go to them. Also, I'm not sure that there will be one consistent viewpoint on something like the zoning bylaw. When Parkallen presented it they seemed to indicate that all communities would feel the same way and we could present that to the City and I don't think that's true. So I'm not sure that we do speak as one voice. There are plenty of ways to participate on the City website for each community individually.

With no further questions or comments, the members were called on to vote by a show of digital hands. **The motion was defeated.**

J. Parsonage thanked Parkallen for putting forth their motions and wished everyone a goodnight.

## **6.0 Termination**

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

