



EFCL Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m MST, Hybrid Meeting

In Attendance:

Jenn Parsonage, (Millwoods Ellerslie District), President / Chair (IP)
Giselle General, (Jasper Place District), Vice President Internal (V)
Jon Morgan, (Southwest Henday District), Vice President External (V)
Anita Lunden, (Southeast District), Treasurer (IP)
Kemoh Mansaray (Northwest District), (V)
Thu Parmer, (West Edmonton District) (IP)
Joshua Wolchansky, (Central District) (V)
Morgan Wolf, (118 Avenue District) (IP)

Regrets:

Steven Gaudet

Guests / EFCL Staff:

Candace Housman, Temporary Administrative Assistant and Equipment Rental Coordinator, (V)
Carla Johnson, City of Edmonton, (V)
Colin Johnson, Assistant Director, (IP)
Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, Executive Director, (IP)

Minutes

Marjorie Stefanyk

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

J. Parsonage brought the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. J. Wolchansky delivered the land acknowledgement.





2.0 Welcome and Introductions

J. Parsonage welcomed everyone. L. C-Shpeley introduced C. Housman the new temporary Administrative and Rentals Assistant.

3.0 Review of Agenda

There were no changes or additions made to the agenda.

Motion 2024-02-08-01: Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as written.

J. Wolchansky / G. General

Carried

4.0 Consent Agenda

4.1 Minutes January 11, 2024 Board Minutes and December 5, 2023 RGM Minutes

4.2 Letters

4.3 Associate memberships for approval

Motion 2024-02-08-02: Be it resolved that the consent agenda be approved as written.

K. Mansaray / G. General

Carried

5.0 News from the City (Carla Johnson)

- **Tripartite License Agreement Amendment for Sub-License Process:**
To date 17 Leagues have voted in favour of the amendment. The City will be sending out amending agreements via DocuSign in the coming weeks. Leagues are encouraged to complete the Google Form to confirm whether or not they would like to proceed with this amendment.
- **Neighbourhood Micro and Connection Grants:**
The current intake of applications for these grants closes on February 15, 2024 for programs/events/initiatives occurring April 1 to June 30, 2024. A maximum of one application per grant per group will be accepted. The next intake for initiatives occurring July 1 - September 30, 2024 will be April 1 - May 15, 2024.

6.0 Board Education - History of Insurance and the EFCL



L. C-Shpeley provided a brief history of the Community League Insurance Program from the 1980's to the current relationship with NFP focussing on the process used to gather information from members.

The Board went **in camera** at 6:22 pm, and came out of camera at 7:00 pm.

Motion 2024-02-08-03: Be it resolved that the EFCL Board supports a Request for Proposal process for the Community League Insurance Program Broker.

T. Parmer / M. Wolf

Carried

Motion 2024-02-08-04: Be it resolved that the EFCL Board tasks the organization to gather a focus group comprised of member leagues and EFCL Board and staff representatives, to support the entire lifecycle of RFP of the process.

J. Morgan / K. Mansaray

Carried

7.0 Finance Committee

L.C-Shpeley and A. Lunden presented two motions.

Motion 2024-02-08-05: Be it resolved that the Finance, Audit and Funding Committee recommend that the EFCL Board accept the unaudited 2023 Income Statement and Balance Sheet Financial statements with the following updates to be completed - to the analysis of the 50/50 revenue and the reallocation of the Anti-Racism training from Board training to professional fees.

M. Wolf / J. Morgan

Carried

Motion 2024-02-08-06: Be it resolved that the Finance, Audit and Funding Committee recommend that the EFCL Board transfer \$15,000 to Strategic Planning and use the remaining 2023 profit towards the Reserve for 2024.

J. Wolchansky / G. General

Carried

Anticipated funds will be deposited into the Reserve Account Funds available for Strategic Planning for the Board. Work will begin with Metrix Auditors for 2023.

8.0 Board Development and Nominations Committee

8.1 Resignation of Leslie Olsen

8.2 Membership Engagement Working Group



The Committee met on February 1, 2024 to discuss the new Policy Development Framework, the Membership Engagement Working Group (MEWG), and the resignation from the Board of L. Olsen. Her decision not to run for a second term resulted in a vacancy for a Board member on the Recreation Development Committee. L. C-Shpeley put out a call for Board members to consider volunteering for this position. T. Parmer volunteered. The new bylaws allow for the Board to specifically create working groups on issues of interest to Community Leagues. The Committee recommended that the Board establish a Membership Engagement Working Group. This group requires 1-2 Board members, one of whom will act as chair. L. C-Shpeley reviewed the Terms of Reference for a membership. J. Parsonage agreed to act as chair for the first meeting.

Motion 2024-02-08-07: Be it resolved that the Membership Engagement Working Group is established and the Terms of Reference are approved.

J. Wolchansky / G. General

Carried

Motion 2024-02-08-08: Be it resolved that Thu Parmer is appointed to the Recreation development Committee.

M. Wolf / A. Lunden

Carried

Motion 2024-02-08-09: Be it resolved that Jenn Parsonage (Chair) is appointed to the Membership Working Group.

A Lunden / K. Mansaray

Carried

9.0 Policy Development Framework

9.1 Project Plan

Currently EFCL policy is contained in one manual but is either incomplete or out of date. The goals of this project are:

- Outline which policies are approved by the Executive Director, which by the Board, and which policies require a vote by membership.
- Create a firm base of policy and positions from which the EFCL can operate.
- Clarify the role of the Executive Director and the Board.
- Meaningfully engage members on issues affecting Leagues.
- Codify and manage policy appropriately.

The HR Committee, the Board Development and Nominating Committee, and Executive Committee all have roles in overseeing this work. They have reviewed the project plan, which was shared with the Board, and recommend that it be approved.



Motion 2024-02-08-10: Be it resolved that the Policy Development Framework Project is approved.

A.Lunden / K. Mansaray

Carried

10.0 Community Planning and Sustainability Working Group

10.1 Motion for Energy Benchmarking

The Energy Benchmarking Program, introduced in 2021, aims to support Leagues to understand their energy use and lower the operational cost of their facilities, identify and learn from Community Leagues that are the most successful at managing their energy, and provide additional support to Leagues that are struggling with energy costs. The term of collection, originally set at 3 years, needs to be renewed or extended to 5 years and should emphasize communicating to Leagues the value of participating in this program.

Motion 2024-02-08-11: Be it resolved to continue to encourage League participation in the Energy Benchmarking Program on a voluntary basis. Participating Leagues will continue to submit their electricity, natural gas, and water utility usages and associated costs for a period of five years (2024 - 2029).

G. General / J. Wolchansky

Carried

A summer student will be employed to enter data and engaged staff will devote time to promote advantages of participating in this program as well as collecting data. Next steps include approval and implementation in Green League strategic planning.

11.0 Recreation Development Committee - short report from Chair - request for community members

J. Morgan, Chair of the Committee, provided an update from their January 24 meeting. There is much interest in e-sports. Access to some community pools have a problem. There is a possibility of creating soccer teams for physically challenged children. L. C-Shpeley emphasized the need for encouraging more community member participation.

12.0 Reports

12.1 President's Report

- Unveiling of Anti-Racism Statement at Anti-Racism staff meeting.
- Meetings with Salem Alahmad, Alan Heather, Karen Tang, and committee meetings.

12.2 Executive Director's Report





- New initiatives/opportunities: So Nice They Made the Ice, Fundraising webinar.
- Meetings with external stakeholders: SERVUS Credit Union, Macewan University (successful in their bid for the C2U Expo for spring of 2025), Bob Gal, Alan Heather, UDI, Salem Alahmad, Olympus Energy, Ballet Edmonton, Kim Petrin.
- Letter sent to Edmonton Multicultural Coalition requesting funds from the Anti-Racism grant be returned due to not fulfilling commitments in the MOU.
- Presentation, external: prep meeting with UDI.
- Engagement with internal stakeholders: Southwest Henday District meeting, Garneau CL, facilitated townhall meeting at Elmwood Park CL, Anti Racism staff workshop.

L. C-Shpeley asked for volunteers to be interviewed for the Anti Racism video. J. Wolchansky, J. Parsonage, K. Mansaray, and G. General volunteered.

13.0 District Updates

Northwest: Conversation with Athelone CL and the Africa Centre to build an African Multicultural Centre with the fire hall on the same field as the League.

Northeast: Appears to be consensus that skate tags are not really needed.

West Jasper: District meeting planned for end of February; NRC is encouraging Leagues to be more connected/involved with Jasper Place district BIA for broad discussion on Stony Plain Road, encampments, social services concentration, etc.; some Leagues offering movie events; lots of re-building of rinks because of weather fluctuation; impact of LRT construction continues.

Central: Renaming of Oliver neighbourhood; Westmount rezoning application for 124 St.; riverbank - North Saskatchewan River flood mapping over the next 30 years.

118 Avenue: More Revite money for 118; stakeholders to meet soon to rebrand the Avenue District; Elmwood Park applied for a CLIP grant for joint greenhouse project with Uof A.

Southwest Henday: At the Heritage Point AGM J. Morgan was elected president for another year; 8 Leagues attended the Southwest Henday District meeting; SWAC meeting was held and Leagues in Whitemud were encouraged to nominate a rep for the EFCL Board.

Southeast: Many Family Day events planned; meeting with Mayor Sohi on February 24. Issues to be raised include aging League infrastructure, impact of District Plan, 3 supportive housing in the area, Saskatchewan River flood plan; need for new District Rep by June AGM; Leagues on the Line with LRT stations planning a joint event in June.

Millwoods/Ellerslie: Safety meetings to be held: Ridgewood focusing on extortion of home builders and Meadows on personal safety; some insurance difficulty with the adjustors for



having claims approved; skate tags: most rinks do not look for them and any League membership is good at any rink.

15.0 Blatchford Update - Currently in conversations with Blatchford - tabled until March.

16.0 Statement on Behalf of EFCL Regarding “Preserving Choices for Children”

In response to the policy statements presented by the provincial government on February 1, the EFCL prepared a statement and recommended to the Board it be made public. It consisted of three paragraphs and J. Parsonage invited the Board to comment and make suggestions on the content. It was recommended that the EFCL support a statement identifying that Leagues will be welcoming community places for all Edmontonians. After much discussion, it was decided to approve the statement in principle with minor revisions to be made and to be shared on the EFCL Social Media channels.

Motion 24-02-08-12: Be it resolved that the proposed statement with minor revisions be made public on the EFCL Social Media channels. A separate message will be sent to member Leagues referencing the code of ethics.

We stand in solidarity with 2SLGBTQ+ Edmontonians and their allies who are concerned that recent policy announcements in the province of Alberta make them feel unwelcome. We want to assure them that Edmonton’s Community Leagues are and will continue to be a place where transgender community members can feel welcome, safe, supported and listened to.

It is in this spirit that we urge the provincial government to listen to the voices of the people telling them their proposed policy will adversely affect an already marginalized group — voices including healthcare professionals, children’s advocates, teachers and, above all, the 2SLGBTQ+ community. If our goal is to truly help members of the 2SLGBTQ+ **our** community, our first step should be working to understand what the members of that community need, and the issues they face. We feel it’s clear from the public response that this has not been the case.

We want to reaffirm our commitment to providing a safe and welcoming place for all Edmontonians by encouraging anyone in (the 2SLGBTQ+) our community — from students to support groups, families to allies — searching for a safe space to gather to reach out to the EFCL. We would be happy to support you in finding League facilities in your neighbourhood that will allow you to come together and support your community.

J. Wolchansky / G. General

Carried

The statement will be posted on February 9, 2024.

17.0 EFCL Position on Public Spaces Bylaw





The Public Spaces Bylaw is going to Council on February 14. EFCL feels that parts of this bylaw seek to target individuals who are engaged in acts of survival and have drafted a letter to Council for the Board's consideration. It focuses on the fact that these spaces currently provide people a place to be if they have nowhere else to go and that prior to this Bylaw passing, there should be consideration given to the available public spaces that are currently during all seasons for all Edmontonians. Their recommendation was that the EFCL and Leagues have a role to play in working with the City to identify public spaces that can be made readily available during all seasons. J. Parsonage invited feedback from Board members. It was agreed that the letter, with some amendments, be sent to Council. As well, it was decided that Board representatives be present at City Hall on February 14 to speak to their concern.

Motion 24-02-08-13: Be it resolved that the EFCL send this letter to Council and speak on February 14 articulating our concern for the approach of restricting access in public spaces prior to identifying other solutions that are available.

J. Wolchansky / G. General

Carried

EFCL comment on Public Safety Bylaw 240202

"We at the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues would like to express our concern with the proposed Public Safety Bylaw and ask council to delay its implementation until greater strides can be taken to ensure all Edmontonians have adequate access to safe places to be at all times of day and in any weather.

We echo the concerns outlined in the What We Heard report about feeling safe and welcome in public spaces, and agree that providing these kinds of spaces should be among the City's highest priorities. However, we also share the public's clearly stated concern that, without the necessary support to provide the city's most vulnerable with equally safe and welcoming places to be, the bylaw as outlined will only serve to adversely affect them — while, crucially, having a limited impact on the public spaces we are seeking to make safer and more inviting.

As the administration's own report notes, "bylaws do not help people out of vulnerable circumstances ... a key solution to managing undesirable behaviour includes providing support for people." The most vulnerable among us are not seeking to use public space to make others feel uncomfortable or unwelcome; they are using public space because they have nowhere else to go. We do not feel it is appropriate to punish them for our failure to provide desirable alternatives, and would like to see more of those alternatives explored before going further down this road.

In light of that, the EFCL would like to reiterate to the City our commitment to provide safe and





welcoming public spaces for people. We have a role to play in this discourse and would like the City to work with us to recognize this. It is both our responsibility and our desire to be more involved in the conversation about providing these spaces to people, so that all Edmontonians can get the most out of the public space we all share.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.”

L. C-Shpeley and J. Morgan will attend the February 14 Council meeting along with any other Board members who wish to attend.

The meeting terminated at 9:04 pm MST.