

TIRRA Annual General Meeting Saturday, June 26, 2021, 4:00PM

President Wendy Hinsperger called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM with the following also present:

- Quentin Goodbody, Vice President
- Treasurer and Solid Waste Chairperson, Ernie Hunter
- St. Margaret's Cemetery Chairperson, Suzanne Sarioglu
- Trails Chairperson, Vicki Walker
- Espokes Chairperson, Claire Hess
- Secretary, Lisa Vernon

Absent: Transportation Chairperson, Stu Downey

Wendy Hinsperger welcomed all, including some new faces and related the new Provincial Protocol regarding wearing of masks, personal bubbles and 2 meter spacing.

The Minutes of the TIRRA General Meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020 were approved as found online, moved by Pat Mooney, seconded by Keith Rush, and approved by all members.

TIRRA Executive Committee Reports are online, brief discussions were held on reports as submitted.

<http://www.thetisisland.net/tica-tirra/tirra-reports.htm>

President's Report: Wendy emphasized the TIRRA Partnerships including ThINC plus recognized the tremendous effort from all the Thetis Island Volunteers.

Vicki would encourage all the volunteers, from all Thetis organizations to keep track of their hours going forward: to utilize in applications for grants/funding, if and when appropriate.

Treasurer's Report: Ernie gave a summary of the 2020 posted financials and noted that the garbage fees were much lower because there were less pickups done, then asked for questions.

Vicki asked for confirmation of forthcoming CVRD parcel tax payments. Ernie commented he is to request funds from the CVRD by the end of the year. Although garbage costs pay for themselves due to the user fees recycling costs are paid by property taxes. Ernie was questioned about what to do with the extra funds which were not used in 2020: there was no recycle parcel tax in 2021 and unused funds from 2020 will be considered when setting 2022 taxes.

Mentioned: TIRRA executive approved that TIRRA pay director insurance fees inclusive of St. Margaret's Cemetery, going forward.

Trails: Vicki stated that the trails were not meant for cycling and to please remind cyclists and guests. Vicki also mentioned the private path signs and removal/replacement being done by volunteers. TIRRA received a response from the Provincial Government regarding the tax exemption status of the trails. The letter stated it is not decided whether the tax-free status will remain.

Espokes: Claire stated the committee reviewed the guidelines, and they will remain the same.

Transportation: Done by Wendy in Stu's absence. Stu has been working with BC Ferries and the TIPC (Community Dock) to investigate safety improvements and supporting funding.

Dave Reay asked if we could explore adding native names to the street signs, such as has been done in Chemainus.

Cemetery: Suzanne recognized the amount of work done by Gurk, Norm, Charlie, and Ron for the gates. Suzanne suggested that after this, her last year as chair, the position be split to 2 people (1 admin, 1 labor). There is also a water shortage and Suzanne asked for any ideas: some ideas shared for Suzanne to pursue.

Solid Waste: Ernie said it was a quiet year, not much new. Startup on recycling dependent on Provincial restrictions. There was work done by summer student hires to assess whether recycle could start during restrictions, but our rigorous thorough methods are part of the reasons why the recycle has not started up. Discussions held on how recycle currently operates, whether current systems and processes are appropriate or require any changes.

Paul Duncan brought forth a motion to review operations of the garbage and recycle program on Thetis Island, for sharing with both the Executive and Community Members at the next members meeting. Patrick Mooney seconded. Twelve voted in favor and 7 were opposed. Paul volunteered to take on the review.

Discussion about the review ensued; lots of ideas to consider, compliments, concerns, etc.

Lynne Smith, CVRD Area G Director said the Recycle Referendum created a Service Bylaw and further CVRD information assistance may be required to assist with the review Paul is undertaking.

Wendy commented on the employees and volunteers it takes to run it. Wendy thanked Paul and said Ernie will be in touch.

Ferries: Keith Rush attended a FAC meeting in January 2020 to focus on the Ferry terminal, particularly Chemainus then Covid caused a disruption in communication. We have a new Superintendent, Captain Jan Brockhausen and a new Senior Master Andriy Kovtun. They will review current performance versus changes that could be made in scheduling. Patrick encouraged islanders to call with comments and suggestions, rather than using the comment cards. Keith said we should expect a larger ferry eventually, which will assist Thetis and our Penelakut neighbours.

ThINC: Ann Eriksson thanked the TIRRA Board and introduced Charlotte Fesnoux.

Ann gave the background on the Composting program proposed, under the Youth Summer employment program: looking for Thetis Island solution to efficiently utilize organics to improve island soil for farmers and homeowners who garden. Studies have shown that 20% of garbage is food waste. We don't know if this is the case on Thetis, but if we can reduce garbage weight costs and concurrently improve soil health, this would be a win-win.

Ann motioned that TIRRA support and give time to ThINC for the Compost Project. Vicki seconded.

Lots of discussion ensued. The motion was not related to funding, but was an agreement that TIRRA should work with the youth and ThINC on ideas and solutions. The motion was approved by majority.

Ann motioned that TIRRA participate and fund \$3,500. (\$2,000 of which is salary). Gurk Sarioglu seconded.

Patrick asked about using parcel tax funds for this funding request; Lynne advised this would contravene the Discussion ensued about current methods, the proposed program, and expected outcomes. Vicki proposed to amend the motion to "up to" \$3,500. Motion re-proposed as originally stated. Vote held. Motion not approved.

Ernie motioned \$500 in assistance be provided by TIRRA for this youth driven compost project. Patrick seconded.

Approved by members.

TIRRA Executive 2021: All executive indicated they would stand for another term, and there were no nominations/challenges from the floor.

President: Wendy Hinsperger

Vice President: Quentin Goodbody

Treasurer: Ernie Hunter

Secretary: Lisa Vernon

Solid Waste: Ernie Hunter

Transportation: Stu Downey

Cemetery: Suzanne Sarioglu (stand for 1 year before retirement)

Trails: Vicki Walker

eSPOKES: Claire Hess

Wendy adjourned the meeting at 5:47 PM