



Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratfords of the World (SOTW) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: Joan Ayton – Chair Presiding, June Wells, Ken Clarke, Wayne Whitehorn, Joyce Mohr, Barbara Finklestein, Linda Hawken, Kathy Hill, Councillor Geza Wordofa

Staff Present: Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Susan Kummer

1. Call to Order

Joan Ayton, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgment and Moment of Silent Reflection

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Barbara Finklestein

Seconded by Linda Hawken

THAT the minutes from the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee meeting dated February 22, 2024, be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 2025 New Zealand Reunion Plans (January 8-15, 2025)

Joan Ayton provided the following updates on the 2025 Reunion:

- no new updates from New Zealand organizers have been received;
- an e-mail newsletter has been sent to all interested delegates to inquire about numbers attending New Zealand and also who might be interested in participating in a group tour. To date (17) responses have been received with (7) stating they will be attending and (4) stating they might attend. Most people who responded indicated that they would like to participate in a group tour. The tour company has (8) hotel rooms on hold and pre-booked at all locations on the tour. Confirmation of participation in the tour is required by July 1, 2024;
- delegates will be requested submit their registrations by August 1, 2024, as the registrations and fees are due to New Zealand by September 1, 2024;
- Stratford Connecticut, USA has indicated they are not interested in travelling with other Stratfords;
- the committee will reach out to the UK, Australia and PEI delegates to inquire if they would like to join the tour;
- Ken Clarke will purchase a Canadian flag to add to the flags from the 2023 reunion and the committee will ship them to New Zealand for the 2025 reunion;

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Barbara Finklestein

THAT the Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$150.00 from their 2024 budget to purchase a Canadian flag and to ship all the flags to the New Zealand Reunion organizers for the 2025 Reunion. Carried

Linda Hawken has the Stratford, Ontario tea towels available for purchase. They are \$15.00 each if anyone wishes to order some to take to New Zealand as a gift for hosts. She would need approximately a month to get the towels printed.

The open house was successful with 40-50 people in attendance and approximately 35 people interested in going to New Zealand. Ken Clarke will contact the local secondary schools to share information with students who might be interested in participating.

Joan Ayton and Kathy Hill were invited to participate in a radio interview with a Stratford Upon Avon radio station to discuss the reunions with other Stratfords. The interview is posted on the UK Facebook page;

5. New Business

5.1 Advisory Committee Budget Memo and Working Group Memo

Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator, introduced herself and explained her role as it relates to SOTW. She will be attending the SOTW meetings and work as a liaison between the Committee, staff and Council. Additionally, she will be a resource to assist members with their recommendations to Council, budget questions, event plans and any other items that may arise.

All Advisory Committees have received a memo regarding their budgets and reminding members to have their projects and event plans set by their June meetings. This will ensure that budget funds can be paid out by the end of the year.

Ms. Trotter reviewed the working group memo that was sent to the chairs of each Advisory Committee explaining that any working groups formed to work on special projects or events must be made up of Council-appointed committee members only. Staff is working on a policy regarding volunteers and will keep members informed when this is complete.

Joan Ayton inquired about the SOTW budget and the reserve funds that the Committee had previously saved for reunions, questioning if the funds in a reserve or are they no longer available for the committee to use. Ms. Trotter will discuss the budget and previous reserve with Finance staff and report back.

Joan Ayton stated that the committee would require further funds for the remaining of 2024 should there be no reserve funds available. SOTW would like to host one or two more open houses with delegates interested in attending the New Zealand reunion in 2025.

Motion by Kathy Hill

Seconded by June Wells

THAT the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee requests, in addition to their approved 2024 budget of \$800.00, an additional \$500.00 from Stratford Council, to assist with expenses relating to hosting information sessions for the January 2025 New Zealand Stratfords of the World Reunion. Carried

Joan Ayton inquired when Council is going to approve applications for appointments to the committee, which are now almost six months past. Vicky

Trotter stated that she is assisting with this project as part of her new role and will be working with the City Clerk and staff to move this forward for all committees and boards with vacancies and re-appointments. Ms. Ayton inquired if Councillor Wordofa could possibly assist with getting this issue taken care of as soon as possible.

Councillor Wordofa inquired if applying for grant funds would be a consideration for the SOTW committee. Staff indicated that if there were any applicable grants that members hear about to let staff know and they can research and possibly apply. Committee members would not be able to apply on behalf of the Advisory Committee. Members agreed that a grant application opportunity would be more applicable closer to hosting another reunion here and will keep it in mind closer to the event.

5.2 SOTW Garden

Ken Clarke inquired if the SOTW garden will be planted again this year. It is the committee's understanding that Community Services staff will continue to plant in the garden. Joan Ayton will contact Susan Kummer to inquire if she has any plants from the reunion left that she was planning on planting. Staff will confirm with Quin Malott, Cemetery Manager, Parks & Forestry Manager.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SOTW Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Linda Hawken

THAT the April 25, 2024 Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 2:01 P.M.

End Time: 3:03 P.M.