



## **Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee**

### **MINUTES**

A meeting of the Stratfords of the World (SOTW) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.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 Finkelstein, Linda Hawken, Councillor Geza Wordofa, Susan Kummer

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

**Absent:** Kathy Hill

#### **1. Call to Order**

Joan Ayton, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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**

The minutes from the April 25, 2024 meeting will be listed on the next agenda for consideration.

#### **4. Update from Council Committee Coordinator**

Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator addressed the Committee and thanked members for all the work they do with the SOTW Committee and stated the City is grateful that they take the time out of their busy lives to help their community.

Ms. Trotter informed members that moving forward, in her new role as the Council Committee Coordinator, twice per year she will be drafting a report to Council updating them on what all the Advisory Committees are working on. For SOTW, she will be updating Council on all the plans the Committee is working on to prepare for the upcoming New Zealand Reunion in 2025. The City will also be doing spotlights on Advisory Committee's, which will be posted on social media. It will be an opportunity to highlight what the Committees are working on. For example, when the New Zealand Reunion is over, this would be a great opportunity to post an update and some photos from the trip.

#### **5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

##### **5.1 2025 New Zealand Reunion Plans (January 8-15, 2025)**

Joan Ayton provided the following updates on the 2025 Reunion:

- a registration form has now been received from New Zealand for attending delegates to fill out;
  - nine people registered to date;
  - the Tim Taylor Lounge has been booked for June 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. for a meeting with people interested in attending the reunion and to provide updates on the latest reunion plans and the two proposed tours;
  - a minimum of ten people are required for each of the tours for them to proceed;
- \* Councillor Wordofa now present at the meeting at 10:09 a.m.
- there will be a zoom meeting held tomorrow night (May 31, 2024) to update everyone on reunion plans;
  - members are to meet at the Rotary Complex on June 9, 2024 shortly after 1:00 p.m. to set up for the New Zealand reunion information session;
  - Ms. Ayton will bring juice and cookies for the event.

**Motion by** Wayne Whitehorn

**Seconded by** Linda Hawken

**THAT the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$100.00 to purchase refreshments for the June 9, 2024 New Zealand reunion information session. Carried**

Ken Clarke informed the members that it will cost \$85.00 to mail the flags to New Zealand, plus the cost of the Canadian flag. Vicky Trotter noted that this falls within the amount of the motion the Committee passed at their last meeting and he can proceed to send the package.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Stratfords of the World Reserves Memo**

Ms. Trotter reviewed the memo regarding that status of the SOTW reserves which was included with the agenda package that members received. The memo outlines how the reserve now works for all the Advisory Committees. The unused budget funds the City allocates to Advisory Committees each year are held as a whole for all Advisory Committees and may be used if Committees request additional funds throughout the year over and above their approved operating budget. When SOTW is once again hosting the reunion here in Stratford, the committee would request a larger operating budget from the City for that particular year.

If any members have any further questions regarding how the reserve fund is now held moving forward, please reach out to Ms. Trotter or the Director of Corporate Services.

Ken Clarke inquired if Ms. Trotter could find out from Finance what the total budget was for SOTW for 2023 and how much of that budget the Committee used to host the reunion. Ms. Ayton noted that there were funds that were still being held from the original date to host the reunion in 2020 that were added to the Committee's request from the City for a \$10,000.00 budget in 2023. With the 2020 funds, the \$10,000.00 budget for 2023 and registration fees collected, Ms. Ayton estimates there was approximately \$40,000.00 for a total budget for the reunion. The total cost of the reunion was approximately \$20,000.00, which was largely covered by the registration fees collected from the delegates who attended.

Councillor Wordofa inquired if holding a community meal in the future to raise funds for the reunion would be an option.

Ms. Ayton stated that as members of SOTW, they understand that visiting the other Stratfords for the reunions is funded by the individuals attending, members or not. She inquired if, as representatives of SOTW with duties to

perform while away attending reunions, could a request to cover some of the costs associated with attending the reunion be considered. Ms. Trotter will inquire with Finance about this possibility.

Joyce Mohr also inquired if there would be any way to assist with funding for people who might not be able to afford attending the other Stratford reunions. A type of subsidy to assist with the cost of travelling to a reunion. Members recognize that travelling to other Stratfords can be cost prohibitive for a lot of people, especially when trying to encourage younger people or groups to attend. Wayne Whitehorn suggested approaching local secondary schools well in advance of upcoming reunions to inquire if choirs or bands would be interested in the trip. Ms. Trotter will inquire about fundraising for this type of subsidy and if the City would be able to assist with a subsidy.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SOTW Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

## **8. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Ken Clarke

**Seconded by** Barbara Finkelstein

**THAT the May 30, 2024 Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Start Time: 10:00 A.M.

End Time: 10:36 A.M.