



# Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratfords of the World (SOTW) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., in the Hall Meeting Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

**Committee Members Present:** Joan Ayton – Chair Presiding, June Wells, Ken Clarke, Joyce Mohr, Susan Kummer, Kathy Hill, Barbara Finkelstein, Linda Hawken

**Staff Present:** Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Councillor Geza Wordofa, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator

### 1. Call to Order

Joan Ayton, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 2:00 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** Kathy Hill

**Seconded by** Susan Kummer

**THAT the minutes from the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee meeting dated September 24, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried**

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

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

Joan Ayton provided the following updates on the upcoming Reunion in New Zealand:

- There are (14) Ontario delegates, (3) PEI delegates, (4) Australia delegates, (4) UK delegates and (5) Connecticut delegates;
- There is an itinerary and it is the same one originally issued;
- New Zealand organizers have reached out to delegates to offer helicopter rides as part of their visit. This would be an additional cost if delegates choose to participate;
- The names of host families have not been shared as of yet. Organizers stated that they would have the list distributed by the end of November;
- As per the e-mail from Vicky Trotter, members will be reimbursed the cost of their registration, even if their terms were not renewed;
- New Zealand has requested that the visiting Stratfords do not bring gifts or make donations as part of their visit. Arrangements have been made for Mayor Ritsma to write a letter for members to take with them;
- Ken Clarke noted that during the last New Zealand Reunion, all the Stratfords planted trees. He has a photo from when the tree was originally planted and will try and take another picture of the tree during this visit;
- There will be a final information session held on December 10, 2024 for delegates attending;

**Motion by** Susan Kummer

**Seconded by** June Wells

**THAT the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee spends \$307.20 for refreshments at the December 10, 2024 Reunion information session. Carried**

Ken Clarke suggested that perhaps they could inquire if the City could fly the SOTW flag while members are away at the New Zealand Reunion.

**Motion by** Ken Clarke

**Seconded by** Linda Hawken

**THAT The Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee requests that the Stratfords of the World flag be flown at Stratford City Hall during the week of the New Zealand Reunion (January 8-15, 2025). Carried**

Joan Ayton has the flag and will drop it off at City Hall.

Members discussed the possibility of SOTW assisting with fundraisers in the future to help the committee get additional exposure.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Update on Committee Appointments**

Joan Ayton reported that she has re-submitted her application for the committee. Staff has assured her that applications will be going to Council on the December 16, 2025 meeting. Members have submitted letters of support to be included in the re-appointment consideration. Members will also e-mail Council members on behalf of Ms. Ayton. If re-elected, Ms. Ayton has requested staff include in their report that she remains chair of the committee until elections are held. Alternatively, Ms. Ayton would like to hold a meeting before the Reunion to do elections.

Members noted it was disheartening to hear Councillors at the meeting state that they do not know what the City's SOTW Committee does. Ken Clarke suggested that SOTW could do a presentation to Council to let them know what the committee does. Joan Ayton stated that after all the work the committee did hosting the 2023 reunion here, Council should already know what they do.

Members understand that if new citizens applied for the two vacancies that they would have been appointed, however there were no other applications received. Perhaps in this situation Council could have granted an exemption for the two renewals, as was the case for other committee appointments.

Kathy Hill suggested that the Committee could do a write up of their visit to the New Zealand Reunion once they are back and provide it to Council for their information.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SOTW Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

**7. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Ken Clarke

**Seconded by** Kathy Hill

**THAT the November 28, 2024 Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Start Time: 2:00 P.M.

End Time: 2:55 P.M.