



**Zorra Caledonian Society  
Director's Meeting – Sept 18, 2017  
Minutes  
7:00 pm @ Embro Legion**

“The Zorra Caledonian Society is a volunteer community organization formed in 1937 to recognize the Scottish heritage of the Village of Embro and the Township of Zorra”

In attendance: Helen Dowd, Jim Walton, Laura Green, Alan Norman, Ron Marshall, Jim Knudsen, Steve MacDonald, Jen Moodie. Arriving later were Kevin Fraser & Jim Grieve

Regrets: Peter Fleming and Brian McMaster

**Roll Call** – The roll call took place during the General Meeting at 8:30 pm

**Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda for the September 18<sup>th</sup> Directors' Meeting approved. ***M/S - Carried***

**Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting – June 19, 2017 *Approved, M/S - Carried***

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was circulated in advance and will be discussed during the General Meeting at 8:30 pm

**Old Business**

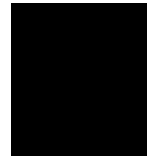
- **EHG Volunteer Training Night - June 19, 2017**

- o Suggestion that ZCS make it an annual event
- o Gives a more professional/organized impression
- o Groups really worked together and used the time for planning
- o Great social time
- o People enjoyed the door prizes

***Motion to Continue M/S - Carried***

- **80<sup>th</sup> Embro Highland Games – July 1, 2017**

- o PDF of 2017 EHG Handbook was sent out (July 20<sup>th</sup>) for all members to read
- o The work that our President Helen Dowd put into the creation of this Handbook was greatly appreciated
- o So much work! All is set for years to come
- o Sets a bench mark and foundation for the future
- o From the Canada 150 Historical Area,
  - Motion for us to compensate \$200 for the damages to a donated antique spinning wheel. ***M/S - Carried***



- Missing antique item from Robert & Barb McIntosh. This item was taken by someone at the early stages of set-up when the area was not being attended.  
Requires action
- Flags – A meeting was held on July 7<sup>th</sup> with Peter, Jim W. Ron and Keith. Ron gave Keith back all of the unopened flags to return to London. Approximately \$1200.00 worth of new flags were installed on the posts and are still there as of September 18, 2017. Helen suggested that Warren and Keith approach a) the TWP to fund or b) the Embo BIA, c) the community groups in Embro could share the cost of the flags. Ron Marshall suggested that perhaps some of the \$ 2,500 of the remaining Canada 150 monies to go towards this project? Steven MacDonald will inquire.
- **President's Party – July 9, 2017**
  - Weather and timing was very good. People seemed to really like the catering instead of the potluck format.
  - Thank you Helen for hosting!
- **NEW Caledonian Scottish Open (Golf Event - date was to be Sept 9, 2017)**
  - Many thanks to everyone who signed up, but the event had to be cancelled as we had 14 enroll and we needed 40-60 people to attend.
  - Suggestions for next year: begin promoting it earlier; longer lead time; extend our email list outside of the members; include a BBQ only price; more signage (south of town) Motion to try again next year. *M/S - Carried*
- **Site Review for 2018**
  - EZCC Soccer Field has been slow to be finished; will it even be useable for 2018?
  - There are concerns that the soccer field is not coming along very quickly. We have heard that the grounds will probably be in the same state next year as they were this year!! If they do get grass planted, the surface will not be useable.
  - It was mentioned that although we had made many compromises and concessions this year at the EZCC, that we were actually charged \$ 500 more in rent. Helen explained that the rates we were charged this year were the posted rates from 2013 that are on the website (a copy was later sent to the Board). We did receive \$500 from the Zorra Canada 150 funds so we are no worse off. We will be less naive next year. She did mention that we were quoted \$ 30/hour for security and that she was not willing to pay anymore so sent a letter stating that. (we were first billed 2.5x that rate and then 1.5x the rate).
  - A suggestion has come forward to also look at Outdoor Farm Show property (it has hydro, perimeter fencing, and many permanent “open” structures, country setting (with a pond) yet is close to Woodstock with 41,000 residents).
  - They University of Guelph restricts the facility to “agriculture events” only. But with all of our cattle, sheep, horses etc it may be worth asking if we qualify.
  - Questions arose around the “nostalgia component” and the idea of the Games leaving Embro



- Motion to dispatch a “Site Investigation Committee” (Kevin Fraser, Jim Walton, Steve MacDonald, Helen Dowd) to the Outdoor Farm Show and other locals. **M/S – Carried**
  
- **Outstanding Records/Business being held by Previous Secretary**
  - We went over the action plan to retrieve old minutes and ZCS material from the previous secretary? (old minutes, old journals, materials to archive, historical publications) and Kevin Fraser is going to ask Warren McKay for the 15 years of records
  - If we can get our resources together, the people at the Oxford Archives will take care of everything for us.
  - Wendy Marshall will be retrieving our records from the Embro Library and giving them to Steve to add to the “pile”, they need to make space for the renovations.
  - Laura has 20 years of dancer programs and participant lists she can bring to us.
  - Jim Knudsen will ask Dianne and Rollie Rutherford if they have any old records in storage at their house.
  
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- **History/Our Records – Outstanding Items...**
  - Presidents’ Accounts missing from 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (Year 1-75 is done now need to catch up to 80<sup>th</sup>). These past Presidents are currently working on completing these
  - Ron reports that we are down to only 6 medals to hand out to past presidents. These people will be invited to St Andrews Night and/or the AGM
  - Database of Members with the year they started, portfolio and any OVSA recognition is being created now for moving forward

## **New Business**

- **Draft of 2018 Embro Highland Games Schedule**
  - Reason for beginning these discussions now – to begin confirming arrangements so plans can start earlier for better pricing etc. and to secure the groups we want to work with (as opposed to them being booked and we have to find others we are not familiar with)
  - Amendments were made to this year’s schedule (trying to make it 10% better) but keeping the majority of things the same year after year instead of re-inventing the wheel every year
  - 2018 Suggested Editions
    - Rather than a regular bar, make it a craft beer style-event using local breweries (and wines) from Oxford/ Elgin/ Perth & Huron etc.
    - Steed Standard Transport Limited promoted Prostate Cancer’s national June campaign called “Plaid for Dad” – offered to bring in a tractor trailer.



- Road Race – if they hire OPP again, we should book them for 8 hours and not four – having a second security company (with 3 individuals) proved challenging and we learned they charge time and a half for a stat holiday!
- Kilted Yoga – something for the morning with the large green space – could add sheep for even more of a tie in!

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#### - **Volunteers Recruitment Strategy for 2018**

- It became apparent we have a major concern when it comes to actually “hosting” (boots on the Ground) the Games as we no longer have enough volunteers to do this (well) anymore while at the same time we increase the number of attractions...
  - Number of volunteers for Set-up and Tear down is on the decline,
  - Many key people are wearing one, two or three “hats”,
  - Some volunteers are getting older and past serving the public,
  - Some volunteers did not attend the volunteer training night so were out in the dark (and it showed),
  - Key committee people were off doing other things (parking cars, lining up dancers)
  - Grounds pointed out it is un-hygienic to have people wear other people’s shirts (which we have done since 2011) need to move to purchase (or have a company donate) volunteer shirts (Gold sponsor logos on back?) that volunteers wear and then keep afterwards.

***Motion to set up a committee to research Volunteer Recruitment ideas to deal with all of the above and report back to the Board. M/S- Carried***

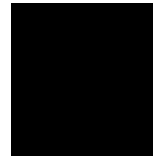
***Volunteers for the Recruitment Committee: Holly MacDonald, Angus Thomson***

#### - **Bereavement Policy**

- When a former (or current) Board member passes, and/or their spouse/partner a donation will be made in the amount of \$100 on behalf of the Society, to an organization specified by the family. ***M/S - Carried***

#### - **Stationary**

- Generic Note Cards - approval of the 2017 edition of our generic note card to be used for thank yous, invites etc by all members of the Society. The 2017 edition has the tartan repeated on the back page as well as the official description of the colours/meaning to basically self-promote and use up a blank space to further “tell our story”. ***M/S - Carried***
- Return address Stamp – due to the poor design on the current pre-printed ones it is recommend we purchase these to put over it. 30 are \$ 1.60 ***M/S Carried***
- ZCS Letterhead is at the Grieve’s if anyone need it



- **Medals**
  - This item was deferred due to time and that there is still a supply on hand, so it is not an urgent matter.
- **Memberships & Renewals**
  - Memberships: there was a suggestion that we sell memberships at the V & V tent on July 1<sup>st</sup> ( in which case the membership would be good for 18 month – for the first year only) ***M/S – Carried***
- **Update from Zorra TWP Canada 150 meeting Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM (Steve)**
  - Steve MacDonald reports that after all of the receipts come in the Township still has \$2,500.00 remaining. They held discussion around what to do with the remaining funds. (ie; split it among the Community groups; roll it forward to support cultural initiatives in the future) Discussions will resume at the next meeting. Motion was made that Steve MacDonald bring the suggestion to the Township that \$1,200.00 be put towards the outstanding flag invoice.

**FEO (Festival Events of Ontario) has put out a call to Festival coordinators to apply to come and speak to the success of their events. Helen will submit an application to the FEO on our behalf.**

**Action: Submit a blurb to the magazine “Celtic Life” about the success of our Games**

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm to break out for social time before the General Meeting at 8:30 pm