



**Zorra Caledonian Society
Combined Meeting – Sept 17, 2018
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”

Attendance:

Directors - Gord MacKay (President), Helen Dowd (Past President), Jennifer Moodie (Secretary), Peter Fleming (Treasurer), Laura Green, Geoff Innes, Steve MacDonald, Jack Matheson, Alan Normand, Angus Thomson

Regrets - Kevin Fraser (Vice President), Ron Marshall, Jim & Katherine Grieve

Members - Sandra Alyea, Keith Matheson, Jim Walton, Grant Innes, Maddie Van Egdom

Coordinator - Holly MacDonald

Call to Order – President Gord MacKay called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Roll Call was “What surprised you/caught you off guard about the 2018 July 1 EHG?”

Members shared positive points of view:

- the “show” and the entertainment value of the EHG was outstanding
- parking worked out quite well
- despite 40 degree heat, no first aid calls were required
- winning pipe bands marched into play at the beer gardens at end of day

To be improved upon:

- pipers seemed to crop and practice/compete “everywhere” which was a distraction to things like the church service, tram route and the treasurer’s office
 - due to the heat and participants cancelling, rugby just left without telling anyone
 - the size of the grounds were deceptively large and vacant because of the wide open spaces
 - a few patrons left when they found out that the washroom facilities were porta-potties
 - even with GPS and very large signage, it was surprising how many people had to search for the entrances.
 - despite the space, certain areas such as the dance tent area were super crowded
 - overall the vendors were very disappointed with their layout
 - volunteers felt isolated and as our numbers dwindle, there is no longer a chance to enjoy the show
 - the foot traffic flow was surprising and was unpredictable – due to the heat people stayed all along the large spruce trees for shade and shelter from the heat
 - suggested we turn the dance stage (E-W) and use the covered area that would remain for a seating area for “come and go” spectators.
 - drinking on the grounds outside of the licensed area and smoking on the grounds when it is not allowed at all!
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-pipers playing through O Canada for both the morning and afternoon performances was in poor taste and we received multiple complaints.

-Angus developed a system to know who paid or not, just throw a programme on their dash
All of the above should be taken into account when making design decisions for next year!

Approval of the Agenda

One item was added (request for funds from the W.C.I. student excursion to Taiwan)

Agenda approved as amended **M/S – Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting – May 28, 2018 approved M/S Carried.

Correspondence

Twp of Zorra - A volunteer and senior's appreciation breakfast is being held on Friday September 28, 2018 at the EZCC. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP by the deadline.

In Memorium - A donation was made to Knox United Church Memorial Fund in memory of Jim Caddy who allowed visitors to the Embro Highland Games to park in his pasture field for 25 years.

ZHPPS Graduation – Michael Newman won the ZCS perseverance award presented by President Gord MacKay at the ZHPPS graduation this past June.

Coordinator's Report (May, June, July & Aug)

Report was approved **M/S Carried**

Treasurer's Report

Attendance revenue was significantly down from budget (\$ 28K from \$ 40K estimated). The gate receipts showed 1455 guests in 2018 down from 2136 in 2017. Some expenses are still to come in (porta-potties). The budget was very accurate and everyone is to be commended for keeping within it. Pipe bands remain our biggest expense and runners' registration fees were down due to much fewer participants. We had no tent rental this year. There was a Paypal problem this year that Peter is following up with. We are sitting at an approx. \$7K- \$ 8K profit before our annual overhead expenses which are budgeted to be \$ 8K (insurance, the new coordinator position, donations etc) so we will most likely be break even for the year. Any GICS's that come due, Peter is renewing. Road Race has to donate a prize to the year-end Run Piker series (two tickets to the dinner theatre and overnight at Mary Ellen Garner's B & B). Jack has to get a plate on the tug of war trophy.
Treasurer's Report approved as circulated – **M/S Carried**

Old Business

- EHG Volunteer Training Night - June 18, 2018

- The turnout was great with over 60 people. Everyone feels that holding this information and training session before the EHG is very useful! An added benefit was getting the opinions of new visitors to the site. Berle Conrad (Heavy Events) suggested we move the beer gardens and Helen got the idea to implement the tram. Jennifer noted that transportation could be added next year to assist those with mobility concerns.



- **81st Embro Highland Games – July 1, 2018**
 - o DRAFT 2018 EHG Handbook was distributed and was reviewed section by section at the September meeting. It will conclude in October with the submission of the missing reports. President Gord asked everyone to ensure they include names, phone numbers and contacts for vendors, clans and outside agencies.
- **President's Party – July 8, 2018**
 - o Everyone felt that the President's Party held at the home of President Gord MacKay was a huge success. The weather was more comfortable than the actual day of the Games. Thank you very much to all who attended.
- **Stone Gate Project Update**
 - o As of yet this project is not yet started. The first thing that we need to do is contact the property owner and decide what can/will be done.
- **Finalize the 2018 EHG Medal Project**
 - o Alan and Diane Normand have been working on the designs for the new medals and when discussing the # 1 choice we selected in May, it was suggested that we add "Est 1937" & tweak the thistle to be look more like the traditional Scottish thistle which was done.
 - o Next step – Alan will send to Laura & Helen the image so they can get the medal companies to comment on the ability of it to be transferred to a medal and a cost.
 - o Laura will continue to make arrangements to ensure all the dance trophies get put in the showcase.

New Business

- **Discuss the 2019 EHG location**

Comments regarding the COP:

- Room to grow
- Lots of parking
- Zoning bylaw amendment is approved for 3 years
- The hydro infrastructure is getting old and we had issues when we tried to hook up
- We have more flexibility to meet our needs at the larger site
- Progress is the future and we need to grow with it
- Security is way better at COP.

Comments regarding the Embro Community Centre:

- If Embro is the location, we need more support from the Township
 - We cannot bounce back and forth. We need to make a decision and stick to it.
 - Did we really save more set-up time by moving to COP?
 - Where would the road race take place if the Games leave Embro?.
 - To go forward with the Embro site. We would need to have something in writing to assure that the facility/structures and grounds will support our needs.
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The decision on the location of the 2019 EHG will be made at the October meeting. A notice will go out to the general membership giving notice all members should attend the meeting so they can hear the presentation and vote.

- **Request from Heroes of Zorra** to put our ZCS History Years 1-80 on their website was agreed upon
- **St. Andrew's Night Banquet**
 - o Tickets went on sale tonight (see Holly to purchase and pay - NEW use the floor plan to pick out your exact seats!). Entire tables are being sold this year. Money/ cheques needs to be paid up front but can be post-dated.
 - o Helen will put the poster on the website and send to Cryer Flyer & Village Voice
 - o Holly will send the poster to all the membership electronically
 - o Paper posters were distributed to members to be displayed around the community
 - o AGCO license (was \$ 75 in 2017 now \$150), will go in Gord's name, Helen will apply
 - o Peter was concerned about the sound & AV quote so will chat to Helen and Gord about that offline to see if we can possibly cut something out?
 - o Entertainment – Rev Bill White will be asked by Geoff Innes to say the Grace. Who will do the address for the Haggis? Need to firm up with Sim School, Ingersoll Pipe Band and book Ruth Ross to lead the anthem.
 - o Set-Up Thursday Nov 29 @ 9 am at the EZCC.
- **Annual Educational Night with the Caledonian's**

Doug Fyfe offered to present to us "Scotland in a Nutshell" on Monday November 19, 2018. He will talk about Scotland and show slides. Doors will open at 7 pm, Doug will present 7:30 - 8:30 pm followed by a social time.
- **W.C.I. Student Trip to Taiwan**

Jennifer mentioned that W.C.I. is organizing a trip for senior high school students to visit Taiwan and see the historical sites named after Rev G.L. Mackay. They are looking for funding from the community. A motion was made to have students come and present the purpose and learning goals for the trip. They would need to make connections to Scottish heritage and the Zorra Community. An invitation will be sent to the school to present at the next general meeting - **M/S Carried**

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm