

Loni Beach Residents' Association
Annual General Meeting 2009
Minutes

The AGM of the LBRA was held on Saturday, July 25, 2009 at 10:30 am in the New Horizons Centre in Loni Beach.

Memberships were available at the door, and attendees were asked to sign in. Those in attendance noted on attached. Approximately 50 people attended.

Leanne Squair, the President of the LBRA, welcomed members to the meeting. She thanked those who helped by providing coffee and treats, and those who issued memberships at the door. She noted that the agenda was posted at the podium. She also welcomed those who would be addressing the members: Ross Bailey, RM Councillor from the RM of Gimli, Andy Blicq and Wally Johannson who are doing an historical survey of Gimli (including Loni Beach); and Cliff Carefoot from the Gimli Yacht Club. Leanne also welcomed Glen Brooks, RM Councillor, who was attending as a resident.

Joan McConnell, LBRA Secretary, reviewed the minutes from the LBRA 2008 AGM. The minutes were accepted by the members.

Leanne thanked all those who have helped with LBRA activities. She noted that

- Trash or Treasure Day would be August 8 & 9. She reminded members not to discard large appliances or furniture, as they would not be picked up after the weekend.
- The Dorothy Goldberg Yates Memorial Garbage Event would be held on August 1 & 2, with judging taking place on August 3. She thanked Salin Guttormson for organizing events. Salin noted that these events would likely be publicized in the Interlake Spectator.
- A community barbeque would be held in the future, most likely at the 2010 AGM..
- Community gardening provided compost pails for those who wished to contribute; although at this time all pails had been distributed, some might be available in through the RM officere
- The Manitoba Municipal Board considered the sewer proposal at a meeting in early June. Individuals who presented to or corresponded with the Board received a letter stating that the Board saw no reason **not** to proceed.
- All residents should be encouraged to be involved in the community and the LBRA. Al Millar endorsed this statement.

Treasurer's Report: Ron Dorman was not able to be present, so Leanne reported that the LBRA has approximately \$2600.

Leanne introduced Andy Blicq and Wally Johannson and invited them to speak. Wally and Andy are conducting an historical audit of Gimli, including Loni Beach. They brought with them many photographs of Gimli, which were displayed throughout the meeting room. Wally said that he had inventoried over 100 sites (buildings that had not changed from their original construction). He continues to search out such buildings and invited members to advise him of any that he might not have seen yet. He noted that he and Andy are interpreting this information, and as a result, are starting a construction survey. He reported that Art Kilgour gave him a voters list from 1936, which Wally was using to help establish ownership of these sites. Wally said that he had presented to RM Council that Loni Beach be designated as a "character community", which recognizes its uniqueness. He noted that this does not place any restrictions on cottage ownership or renovation. He noted that he hopes to develop a plaque program to recognize heritage sites, which would be done in consultation with the owners of properties. Wally also noted that he is developing two tours, one local and one rural. He thanked the many levels of government that supported this work.

Andy Blicq noted that his historical interest was piqued by his father in law, "the most historic sight in Loni Beach." Andy spoke about the construction study he is conducting – looking at cottage plans, provided by Al Miller, who developed and designed them. . He noted valuable information supplied by Lorna Tergeson (a 1931 survey plan). He urged anyone who has anything to contribute – construction plans, photos, memoirs, stamped lumbar from construction, to let him know.

Leanne thanked both Wally and Andy for their presentation, and the wonderful display that they set up. She then invited Cliff Carefoot from the Gimli Yacht Club to speak.

Cliff spoke of his love of sailing. He enthusiastically invited members to consider sailing lessons for their children and grandchildren, as well as for themselves. He outlined the youth sailing program, and noted that the courses are very popular. This popularity, and some additional funding, permitted an extra week of classes to be added. He distributed information about these many programs.

Leanne thanked Cliff for his interesting presentation, and then introduced Councillor Ross Bailey from the RM of Gimli. Ross presented updates from the municipality.

He first spoke about the sewer proposal. He noted that the RM received approval to borrow for this project. The RM Council will consider this bill – third reading – at their August 5 meeting. Assuming approval, the Council was pondering when to start the project, and was seeking input from residents. No grants were available for this project. He noted that Fall is a good time to start such a project, but if it were started now, it would not be possible to apply for (at least this) future grant.

Ross then advised that the RM was testing road surface material in Loni Beach and the products tested seemed to be improving the road.

He noted that drainage continues to be a concern in the RM, especially this wet year. The “government ditch” is taking the majority of funds currently available. The RM has identified over 200 drainage projects.

Ross mentioned recreation opportunities, and encouraged people to make use of the very reasonably priced fitness centre.

He noted that the RM continues to enforce the “neat and tidy” bylaw.

The RM is trying to establish a basic services package for all residents, so that if certain services were overused, the residents would have to pay. Ross noted that residents are now limited to three cans of garbage and one bag of compost per pickup. He reminded residents that garbage must be in a locked lid can. Residents who need to discard more garbage must purchase a tag for \$1.00 per bag to have that garbage picked up. Residents are also permitted one pass to the landfill per year. Additional passes are \$15.00 per load. Compost drop off can be done at no charge. New compost bins will be available shortly. The RM wants to encourage composting and responsible stewardship of the environment.

Ross spoke about Lake Winnipeg. The RM is working on the drainage problems caused by the dikes. Also, the high level of Lake Winnipeg is a concern. The RM plans to ask the province to instruct Manitoba Hydro to lower the lake level. This level is particularly problematic when the wind blows.

Ross invited questions and comments.

- Difficult to pick up garbage passes when RM office is only open the same time most work,
- Must compost be in clear bags or could it be in orange ones? No – must be able to see what is inside bag.
- Sewer process – this year or next? The RM was prepared to do it now, but will wait if people want to wait

It was noted that if the project is not done now, constructions costs could go up, but if done now, then no additional funding for sure.

Would funding be possible based on the fact that there are permanent residents in Loni Beach? It was thought that this might be possible.

The President of the LBRA asked whether grants would be pursued if the bill were passed after third reading. Yes, but the RM would have to wait for tender.

IT was proposed that the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship be approached for funding.

Members asked about the RM's communication plan with members on this important issue – and what is happening next. While the Councillors' presence at the AGM was greatly appreciated, it was noted that not all residents are members of the LBRA. The RM was urged to put forth its best efforts to contact all residents. One member suggested that a vote be taken at the AGM, whether the sewer should happen this year or next. Ross noted that he was only at the meeting to provide and collect information. Al Millar noted that about 7 years ago, Loni Beach had a thorough investigation of the drainage system. Nothing was done at that time, and roads were not repaired because a sewer system was supposed to be coming. No improvements were done but taxes were not reduced. He was concerned that taxes may rise to support these improvements. He noted that in 2003, he and other volunteers established a task force to examine local improvements, and he noted that they received no help from the RM. He urged the LBRA to take a leadership role in monitoring these improvements, including taxes for Loni Beach that are not directly tied to improvements in Loni Beach.

Ross noted that the RM had two road funds, which together, amounted to \$100,000.

The President indicated that she was willing to work with the RM to draft a letter to all residents, which would provide information on the Municipal Board decision. In response to a question, it was noted that this did not need to be done before the August 5 Council meeting.

Motion: (Gloria Cantor/Betty Searle) to support the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium in the amount of \$300. CARRIED

Motion to accept the slate of nominees for the 2009 – 2010 executive of the LBRA. The officers include:

Leanne Squair, President

Lisa Squair, Past President

Kathy Squair, Treasurer

Joan McConnell, Secretary

Sheilah Redekop, Newsletter Editor

Jeff Mojewski

Pat Dorman

Ken Zulyniak

CARRIED.

Brennan Childs will look at the LBRA website and provide a link to the RM.

The President thanked all for attending, and the meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

Joan McConnell

Secretary

LBRA