

RFA NS Workshop and AGM  
Friday, May 18, 2018  
10:00am – 2:00pm  
Holiday Inn Truro

Call to order: 10:09am by Paul MacDonald

Meeting formally started with a welcome speech by incumbent President Paul MacDonald. Highlighted the aspects of the session. Acknowledged the departure of Past President, Luc Brisson for his years of service.

**Presentation:** Racism and Signage in Arenas presented by Paul MacDonald

- Racism is not a popular topic, but exists everywhere. RFA needs to be at the fore front of the discussion.
- Signage needs to portray a safe environment. Needs to embrace all aspects of society including accessibility, nationality, creed. Signage declares discrimination of any sort is not tolerated and will be addressed by the facility.
- RFA should be advocating for signage to reflect this perspective. Not just in arena's but in all community recreation centres.
- As an industry, and leaders of facility management, we need to pave the way for encouraging inclusion in our centres, and eliminating racism within our centres
- RFA could possibly be an association to advocate for action on this front. Paul encourages members who are interested, the Board would support and help drive the program.
  - Will add this topic to the Board meeting agenda in July to move forward on

**Presentation:** No-fee Ice Project by Bill Schurman

- Bill presented on Amherst's unique approach on addressing a reduction in ice time usage at the Amherst arena by offering ice bookings at no cost
- This approach was not done without research. Process began in 1977, with many studies conducted and researched to defend this approach; all the information is available through the Town of Amherst website.
- Amherst offers many facilities to the citizens at no cost. Services are offered free of charge (ie – trails, and tennis courts are offered at no charge).
- This idea does not fit every facility or municipality. It was a way Amherst could maximize facility use of the arena. (33% of community is below the poverty line, substantial portion of the community considered unhealthy, or in need of physical activity to maintain a healthy lifestyle)
- In the 2016/17 budget, the Amherst Arena ice time was experiencing declining numbers with reduced registrations in figure skating and minor hockey causing a lower demand in ice time.

- Amherst does not charge youth for gym time or other facility use, why charge for youth ice time?
  - Initiative to become the most healthy/active community in NS
  - The access to free ice is conditional – Associations booking the free ice time had to adjust their enrollment fees to reflect the reduced cost to them to run their programs, and the rentals cannot charge admission to their events if given free ice
  - Amherst saw an increase in tournament bookings, and the profile of the community within the first year of the program.
- It was identified early in the project by the Town of Amherst this initiative needed to be an investment in the community, and lead by example to highlight the need for access to healthy living. By doing so, they did not seek government assistance to offset the fiscal impact by the loss in revenue.
  - They did ask the NS Government to assist with the evaluation of the program, which is now being conducted by Dalhousie
  - Town of Amherst has absorbed the full cost of the program, despite majority of users of the program come from the County
    - It is not passed on to the county for the cost of other services (trails, tennis courts, etc) why would it be done with ice
    - May approach them when the time comes to build a new facility
  - Worked out to 3% budget loss in ice time revenue (\$60,000)
    - Works for arenas with ice time availability
- Both skating club and minor hockey in Amherst saw as high as 20% increase in enrollment
- 82% of community felt the budgetary sacrifice was acceptable given the outcome
- Amherst.ca provides all the studies and surveys on the program
- Ice allocation policy is based on last years ice usage, and promotes growth. Current enrollment does not mandate more teams, but current teams are getting more ice time, and the teams are becoming more successful
  - Despite cost of living/inflation increases, the programs will remain the most affordable in the region. These groups continue to be able to do additional fund raising.
- Have seen increases in concessions and advertising revenue as a result
  - Increased disposable income available in the community – seen increased revenues through out the community and business's as more people active in the community
- Did not get a lot of initial uptake (late launching the program), but anticipate increased numbers in years to come.
- Has resulted in increased exposure to the community

**Round Table:** Open discussion round table with Max Chauvin (Dartmouth Sportsplex), Graham Nesbitt (Ontario Recreation Facilities Association – ORFA) and Paul D’Eon (Nova Scotia Lifesaving Society – NSLS)

- A round table discussion on building renovation/construction and the value of having an operator presence in the discussions took place.
- The traditional market for life guards (15-18yrs) is diminishing and need to explore alternate options. Issue lies with the traditional wage model for these positions. Life guards are typically paid minimum wage, despite extensive nationally recognised training requirements needed to do the job in a potentially highly dangerous environment. By contrast, dryland instructors are typically paid \$30+/hr to work in a relatively safe environment
- In an ever changing community landscape, it is pivotal for Recreation facilities to remain adaptable, compatible and habitable in order to remain relevant and valued pieces of infrastructure in our communities.

**Key Note:** Martin Anderson – NSCC Strait Campus Power Engineer (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) Instructor

- Changes to the R2 examination course are on the way to address issues with passing the exam by the participants
- 4<sup>th</sup> Class standard engineer is Red Seal across the country. Arena’s will still require the R2 ticket in Nova Scotia.
- More people are familiar with their equipment allows a better ability to detect and resolve problematic issues before they arise. Closed unit systems requiring minimal access open the door to potential issues that result in system replacements opposed to simple repairs.

## Annual General Meeting

Call to order: 1:11pm by incumbent President Paul MacDonald

Approval of past minutes

- The last AGM was held in September 2016 at the (then) Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth. For several reasons which the Board identified, the AGM was postponed from 2017 to align more with the requirements with our Non-Profit affiliation. At the last AGM, the past secretary resigned from RFA, and did not forward the minutes from the meeting. She has since moved on, and did not keep her records from her time with RFA. As a result, RFA does not have minutes from the last AGM.

Presentation of the Annual Report

- The annual report was presented by Executive Director, Brittany Hunter for review and approval by the membership.
  - **Motion** – To approve the annual report on the status of RFA as presented to the membership.
    - Motioned – Bud MacInnis    Seconded – Max Chauvin

- The financial Report was presented by Executive Director, Brittany Hunter for review and approval by the membership. Paul MacDonald advised the members Klea Jokic (whom was unable to attend due to professional obligations) was appointed Treasurer on the Board this past Winter. The Board had been without a Treasurer since November 2016 when the past Treasurer withdrew from the position.
  - **Motion** – To approve the financial report on the status of RFA as presented to the membership.
    - Motioned – Luc Brisson      Seconded – Paul Taljaard

### By-Law Changes

- Upon her appointment in January 2017, Executive Director Brittany Hunter began re-establishing RFA. In this process, it was advised to the Board a review of RFA's current by-laws needed to be completed and updated to reflect the Associations goals and objectives. The Board hired Max Chauvin to review and re-write the by-laws of the association to conform to current standards. The proposed by-laws were reviewed by the Board, and were sent to the members via email prior to the General Meeting for each member to review.
  - **Motion:** RFA formally accepts and adopts the new bylaws as presented.
    - Motioned – Paula Davis      Seconded – Kevin Bennet

### Board Election

- Due to the date change of the AGM, all positions on the Board are now due for election. To prevent this from occurring again in the future, the term lengths of the Board positions have been staggered for this election period only. Moving forward, all successive elections will be for 2-year term positions.
- The voting credentials were presented; of the members present, it was confirmed sufficient numbers were present for quorum and the official voting delegates were identified.
- Elected Board members:
  - President: Paul MacDonald
    - Incumbent – Unopposed
    - 2-year term
  - Vice President: Jenni Greencorn
    - nominated by Bud MacInnis from the floor – unopposed
    - 2-year term
  - Secretary: Greg MacIsaac
    - Incumbent – Unopposed
    - 1-year term
  - Treasurer: Klea Jokic
    - Incumbent - Unopposed
    - 1-year term
  - Past President: Vacant
    - The Past President position has been vacated due to Luc Brisson's departure from RFA.
  - Corp. Rep: Paul Taljaard

- Incumbent - Unopposed
  - 2-year term
- Valley: Kevin Bennett
  - Incumbent - Unopposed
  - 2-year term
- Cape Breton: Paula Davis
  - Incumbent - Unopposed
  - 1-year term
- Central: Shauna Moulton
  - Incumbent - Unopposed
  - 2-year term
- Fundy: Shannon Jarvis
  - Incumbent – Unopposed
  - 2-year term
- Highland: Bud MacInnis
  - Incumbent - Unopposed
  - 1-year term
- South Shore: Vacant
  - The Board and Executive Director will continue to recruit a representative from the South Shore for this position
  - 2-year term
- Member at Large: Danny Harvieux
  - Incumbent - Unopposed
  - 1-year Term

### Luc Brisson

Luc Brisson has been an active member of RFA for many years, serving many roles in his tenure including that of President. Luc has advised RFA he is stepping down from the Board for RFA effective the AGM. On behalf of the Board and all members of the RFA, Paul MacDonald thanks Luc for his years of service and leadership to the association.

**Adjournment:** 1:29pm – motioned by Kevin B, and Paula D.

### Motions

- To approve the annual report on the status of RFA as presented to the membership.  
Motioned – Bud MacInnis    Seconded – Max Chauvin
- To approve the financial report on the status of RFA as presented to the membership.  
Motioned – Luc Brisson    Seconded – Paul Taljaard

- RFA formally accepts and adopts the new bylaws as presented.  
Motioned – Paula Davis      Seconded – Kevin Bennet