

**Arts Centre for Edson Society
Minutes
December 14, 2011**

PRESENT:

Gean Chouinard, Town of Edson Councillor - geanchouinard@yahoo.ca
Gemma Christie, Living Waters RCSD - gemma.christie@livingwaters.ab.ca
Ron Christie - gemron@telusplanet.net
Shari McDowell - shariforlife@gmail.com
Dave Michie - michie.dave@gmail.com
Peter Taylor - peter.taylor@livingwaters.ab.ca
Douglas Woodhouse - douge@telusplanet.net

Executive Regrets:

Helen Payette - helepaye@gypsd.ca
Robyne Wilock - robyne.wilock@livingwaters.ab.ca

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

1. Agenda

Dave added one item to the agenda: 7.1: Rec Complex.

MOTION: Douglas Woodhouse moved to accept the December 14, 2011 Arts Centre for Edson Society agenda. Motion carried.

2. Minutes

MOTION: Dave Michie moved to accept the October 17, 2011 and September 19, 2011 Arts Centre for Edson Society minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Meeting with Edson Town Council & Fieldhouse Committee, December 6:

Peter, Dave and Shari represented ACES at a special meeting between ACES, the Fieldhouse Committee and Edson Town Council on December 6. In this meeting, which was behind closed doors, Council explained their priorities for the next year that were decided upon at their annual Retreat in November. These priorities included:

- The Hillendale subdivision phase 2; and
- Installation and upgrades to sewer lines in the west part of Edson.

As these two projects are extremely expensive and would mean that the Town would have to borrow money to complete them, there would be no money for ACES or the FC in the near future without completely bankrupting the town.

A further discussion ensued that included:

- Not being able to give a timeline for either project as Council does not know the financial future of the town.
- Complications with the County-Town funding arrangement.

- Continue with preparing architectural drawings to make sure the projects are shovel-ready in case a major grant comes in from the provincial or federal government.
- Perhaps hold off on fundraising as no definite completion date can be given. Perhaps letters of support is a better choice of action.
- Perhaps have ACES and FC work together to ensure both projects go ahead.
- And perhaps the only way to succeed with these projects is to dissolve the Town and amalgamate with Yellowhead County.

At the end of the meeting, Peter proposed the following:

- That ACES and the FC start working together. The FC Chairperson, Carol Knetman, said she would speak to their group at their next meeting on December 7 and let us know (they have not yet advised ACES of their decision).
- When Council approves ACES funding request for more drawings, that ACES finish the drawings and surveys in the next 8-9 months so that ACES is “shovel-ready”. These drawings include geological surveys and engineering reports.
- Examine a different route instead of fundraising, perhaps just letters of support.
- Offer support to Council if an amalgamation does go ahead.

After hearing this report, ACES discussed their next course of action, which will be the following:

- ACES was informed that their funding request had been approved and they could go ahead with their architectural drawings. Peter would then talk to the architect, Gregory McClung, and begin preparations for the next phase of drawings. (Note: there was a miscommunication and this funding has not approved in the 2012 interim budget. There is a possibility it will be included in the final 2012 budget in March. ACES is now communicating with Town officials about the appropriate next course of action.)
- The Fundraising Committee would continue to create their plan, but would hold off starting the official fundraising campaign. Instead, they would begin asking businesses, particularly those in the County, to send letters of support to both Town and County Councils to show they will be financially supportive of the project when the time comes.
- Since the fundraising campaign will not be starting until later than anticipated Peter will contact Dave Schuck, General Manager of The Eagle, to extend the \$25,000 in free advertising that The Eagle has contributed to assist with the campaign.
- Peter, Shari and Gemma would arrange to meet with MLA Robin Campbell sometime in January to update him on our progress.
- Build an endowment fund to hold any possible donations.

4. Releasing the Business Plan

ACES presented the business plan to Edson Town Council on October 18 and Yellowhead County Council on November 8. Both Councils asked questions regarding the plan and then accepted it as information. Edson Town Council agreed to discuss the plan and project at their retreat in November.

5. Releasing Architectural Drawings:

ACES has displayed the updated architectural drawings at numerous locations around Edson. ACES plans to display the drawings in Peers and Evansburg in early 2012.

6. Public Relations:

a. Facebook: The Facebook page has 143 members.

b. ACES Website: Shari will ask Giles Merriot to create a template for ACES to have a website.

7. Recreation Board:

Dave advised ACES that both he and Ron have been appointed to the Edson & District Recreation Society. Dave was appointed as a County representative and Ron was appointed as a Town representative.

8. Secretary Treasurer’s Report: Shari reported that ACES has \$580.03 in the ACES account.

MOTION: Shari McDowell moved that the Secretary Treasurer’s report for the months of June 2011, September 2011, October 2011 and December 2011 be accepted as presented. Gean Chouinard seconded. Motion carried.

9. Next Meeting: 7:00 pm Monday January 11, 2012 in the library at Holy Redeemer High.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Minutes approved on _____.

ACES President (Print)

ACES Secretary Treasurer (Print)

ACES President (Signature)

ACES Secretary Treasurer (Signature)