

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Executive Meeting – Oct 25, 2024
Salmon Arm, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT

President	Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm
Past President	Councillor Aimee Grice, Oliver
Directors	Councillor Isaac Gilbert, Penticton
	Mayor Spencer Coyne, Princeton
	Councillor Stephen Karpuk, Kamloops
	Director Tricia Thorpe, TNRD
	Councillor Gord Lovegrove, Kelowna
	Councillor Keith Thom, Peachland
	Councillor Adam Etchart, Merritt
	Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops
	Councillor Tasha Da Silva, West Kelowna
	General Manager Alison Slater
	SILGA student Alya Van Laer
	SILGA Student Owen Grice

CALL TO ORDER

President Wallace Richmond called the regular board meeting to order at 10:30 am.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Stephen Karpuk THAT:

The agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved/Seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

The draft minutes of the Executive Meeting held on August 23, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

SALMON ARM MAYOR ALAN HARRISON AND CAO ERIN JACKSON

- Thank you to SILGA for representing our region and Salmon Arm
- Focus on building relationships, internally and externally
- The most qualified council member leads committees
- Easy to attract talented staff because of the community amenities and a well working council
- New supportive housing built in partnership with BC Housing and CMHA
- New city shelter – work camp unit (25-30 beds) – 24 hr/365 days open – no more tent encampments in Salmon Arm
 - Salmon Arm charging BC Housing \$1/yr for rent
- Ross St Underpass – project first started in 1988 but wasn't finished until 2023
 - Needed community buy in
 - Needed CPKC to financially get the project off the ground
- West Bay Connector Trail

- 6.5 km joint venture with Adams Lake and Neskonlith bands
- Safe passage into Salmon Arm without walking on the railway tracks
- OCPizza – a way to involve community (yes – bribery) to get feedback on the OCP
- 55+ Games – again another relationship building with community involvement
 - Lots of pride generated in the community and with Salmon Arm City staff
- Licorice Fridays – Mayor hands out licorice to staff and gives staff an opportunity to chat with mayor – human to human

CORRESPONDENCE

1. UBCM letters from Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Housing re: meetings with SILGA board
2. Osoyoos letter to Interior Health re: parking at Kelowna General and Penticton Regional Hospitals

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Spencer Coyne that:

SILGA write a letter to IH CAO Susan Brown echoing Osoyoos' concerns about lack of parking at the hospitals and to start regular meetings with SILGA.

CARRIED

- For out-of-town patients accessing the hospitals, it's very stressful trying to find parking in an unfamiliar location, with poor signage and after driving for hours.
- For staff, it is dangerous to walk in the dark to access their vehicles after a shift.
- Suggestions: better signage – reach out to City staff in Kelowna and Penticton
- SILGA to ask for a meeting with CAO Susan Brown to start the relationship to improve service/help with concerns for our SILGA communities.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Stephen Karpuk THAT:

The correspondence be accepted and filed.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. UBCM SILGA Students – Both are very grateful to SILGA and their respective councils to be able to experience UBCM.
 - Owen Grice, Oliver
 - Trying to get a student group started to educate all students about Indigenous issues, ie Truth and Reconciliation
 - Have community garden at the school – students love getting their “hands dirty” and the produce is used in the cafeteria
 - Alya Van Laer, Kamloops
 - Very excited to meet and talk with the Education Minister to help lobby for a new high school. Because of the support of council members, I felt confident to be able to speak to a minister
 - Takeaways:
 - Everyone is just a person trying to make their communities better

- Learned the most from talking to people in a relaxed environment ie hallway
- Positive relationships with people get things accomplished.
- It's not always going to be easy
- Both students indicated that it's important to have a school champion (teacher) to promote junior council.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024 Resolution Ranking Survey Priorities

- a. Health and Social Development
 - #1 - Funding for Rural and Remote Volunteer Fire Department First Responder
 - #2 - Complex Care and Resolving the Toxic Drug Crisis (tied)
- b. Housing
 - Increased Funding for the Implementation of New Provincial Housing Development Requirements
- c. Community Safety
 - Provincial Support for rebuilding following disasters
- d. Environment
 - Funding for BC's Invasive Mussel Defense Program
- e. Regional Districts
 - Allow RDs to become taxing Authorities
- f. Finance
 - Grant Processing Timelines
- g. Land Use
 - Sustainable Forest Management Practices and Wildfires
- h. Transportation
 - Provincial Highway Construction and Maintenance
- i. Legislative
 - Personal and Defamatory Attacks on Local Government Leaders
- j. Community and Economic Development
 - Economic Resiliency for Tourism Dependent Communities
- k. Selected Issues
 - Provincial Government Water Panel

2. AVICC - Legislative Reform Initiative Meeting

- November 19th is the most popular meeting date

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Report

- As at September 30, 2024 SILGA had \$70,033 in the bank and \$93,059 in the MFA account.
- Interest earned was \$3,385 to date in 2024.
- All members have paid their dues.
- Directors were in receipt of the General Ledger and MFA account reconciliation to September 30, 2024.

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Gord Lovegrove that:

The financial report be received as presented.

CARRIED

2. Merritt Convention

- Theme is Economic and Community Development.
 - Suggestions: Bold ideas for a bright future, Bright ideas, brighter communities, The Future is brighter together, Rising to the challenge
- Presentation proposals – staff researching these and other suggestions:
 - Mining and economic development panel
 - 1st Nations collaboration with Local Governments
 - Sport and or agriculture tourism/ economic development
 - Arts and culture tourism / economic development
 - Legal – bullying / harassment by the public – training modules
 - Specific EA Director topics: water systems, EA economic development opportunities, disaster recovery, food security, agro plastic recovery
- Sponsorships
 - More than 70 letters sent out to potential sponsors. Good response to date
 - Interest in getting a couple of trailers in the parking lot
- Want to showcase Merritt at the convention through tours/free trade show booths at registration with local artists

3. Fall Educational session infrastructure deficits update

- Largest turnout of an educational session SILGA has hosted. Have 66 registered in total

4. Staff Update

- The General Manager will be retiring at the end of 2024. GM has offered to train replacement.
- Job posting ready to go out

Moved/Seconded by Gord Lovegrove / Bill Sarai that:

SILGA send out the job posting for the replacement for the General Manager

CARRIED

Next meeting: Friday January 17, at the TNRD or Merritt

Moved/Seconded Gord Lovegrove/ Adam Etchart that:

At 1:40 pm the SILGA Executive Meeting of October 25, 2024 be adjourned.

CARRIED

Alison Slater
General Manager