

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: October 14, 2025

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Meeting called to order by: Captain Martin at 6:41pm

IN ATTENDANCE

Patrick Veenstra, Thomas Francis, Kylin Culhane, Jody Swanson, Phyllis Kelly, Kristi Gignac, Brad Martin. Absent: Gordon Van Es.

Prayer: Gary Gairdner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

No motion to approve previous minutes – postponed to next meeting.

REPORTS

Captain's Update

- Monitoring and Consultation. We are working with EPCOR to create a team of four. We are looking for another team of four once we are established. With Theo's help (OMG) we are seeing more consultation programs.
- Participated in the City of St Albert Indigenous Relations Framework with Secretary, Youville lead and Elder.
- Requesting the Register of District Citizens. We have completed forms to access the register of names.

Treasurer's Update

- Updates on finances. Went through the amounts in each account.
- Expenses fluctuate with spending.
- We have invoices for accounting, legal, fees for groups and Council expenses.
- Windbreaker, which is currently handled by the treasurer, but is considering applying for their own nonprofit status.
- Update on contracts. Motion to approve new contracts for Joanne Ladouceur and Dylan Reade by Brad. Seconded by Jody. Motion passed.

Secretary's Update

- Red Willow Dance update.
All classes are running every Monday at JJ Nearing School 6:00-7:30pm.
We currently have 18 students registered for the new year.
Motion to increase instructor fees to 125 per session by Kristi. Seconded by Brad.
Motion passed.
- The District had a table at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event hosted by the City of St Albert. Focus was Metis experience at Residential Schools using the Rupertland mural cards.
- Tea and Bannock in the Library was held at Jensen Lakes with a very positive turnout.
- Attended the Indigenous Library meeting with the Yellowhead Reginal Library board to talk about the Tea and Bannock program and encourage participation in other District area public libraries.
- Elders and St Albert District Councillors participated in Metis Historical talks hosted by the Museum and the Senior's Center.
- Greater St Albert Catholic School Indigenous Advisory meeting – discussion around the Star Spirit Lodge at Morinville High School, and new initiatives for the year.
- Technology update and moving forward. We are meeting with IT Partners to coordinate either a transfer of the existing domain (emails, website, cloud storage) to the District or if unable to complete that, starting a new one. We have met with a tech guru to discuss what are needs might be. We also met with the previous technology person for support in getting passwords and domain names.
- Policy manual for councillors created. Motion to approve Policy 1 to 8 made by Patrick. Seconded by Thomas. Motion passed. Policy manual will be made public once we have more policies.

Council updates

- Gordon has an interest in the trades and is looking into harvesting programs. He has donated a hide for future use.
- Thomas hopes to get out into community with a focus on youth programming and is looking to connect with the schools.
- Jody update on Women's program. There are 18 active participants. We are continuing with the existing contract set up by the previous Local with the culture teacher for 6 more classes (Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 13 and Mar 27). Jody is working with Natalie for final dates. Anyone who wishes to join the group to let Jody know. The hide tanning camp was held over three different weekends. This was separate from the original women's group. They may not get to smoking the hide.
- Kylin update on the Logo Art Contest. Went through the current submission. Deadline extended to Oct. 16.
- Patrick is focusing on job creation in the Heartland and attended a job fair in Sturgeon County to introduce himself and share information about the District.
- Phyllis continues to lead Tea and Bannock programs, is a liaison for the wicehtowin Youville Truthing Initiative project, coordinates the Red Willow Metis Dancers, connections with the City of St Albert, completing the final write up for the Garden program, School District liaison committees, and the role of Secretary.
- Kristi is looking into Tea and Bannock programs in Sherwood Park and connections with Strathcona County, and the role of Treasurer.

Updates:

Windbreaker Running Club

- Canadian Running Magazine wrote a feature. A CBC show is looking at doing a feature with them. Under Armor bought the group clothes and shoes so they can focus their funding toward race costs. There are currently 18 in the group.

Sturgeon River update

- Officially onboarded Herc Rentals.
- Biggest customer is Metis Housing and Metis Urban Housing.
- Currently have 1424 sites
- Focusing on signing up small business over houses for less work load.
- October is the first month where there is actual positive balances.

Wicehtowin Youville Truthing Project update

- The word wicehtowin is Cree for “we are all working together”.
- A table was set up at the City of St Albert National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event on September 30th. People came up to talk about the school and many had family members who attended.
- A sweat ceremony to start the year off in a good way was held Sept 28 and open to any members of the committee and guests.
- Membership in the committee has changed with two resignations and two new committee members invited. A special meeting was held to review the Terms of Relationship to clarify the process for membership.
- The committee is waiting on word for funding for next year. They have funds to spend. To spend the funds they are looking at three different options. First is a conference for community relationships. Secondly, Dylan will be creating a four-part documentary. He has submitted 2300 pieces of documentation to National Center for Truth and Reconciliation. He is the film maker, not the storyteller of the documentary. Third, they are looking at a book about Youville. Discussion in progress with author George Quinn.
- They are continuing to build relationships with neighboring First Nations. They need their voice when the move to the next step of memorialization.
- Survivor support circle meets once a month. They have a sharing circle and story telling. They have Wellness counsellors and support for transportation. They all have stories to share.
- The Youville Residential School was known by many different names. Some documentation comes from journals as well as archives. Joanne shared some quotes gathered as they did their research. There is a lot of information and the committee looks to capture the truth about the school.

Citizen's Representative update

- The Citizen Rep was invited to attend the Council meeting to bring an update but did not attend.

Questions from Citizens in attendance:

All questions must be directed to the Captain as chair of the meeting, not to individual councillors. Any questions posed must be made by Citizens residing in the District. The Captain may request proof of citizenship and address before allowing a question. Questions from other organizations or people may be submitted ahead of time for consideration.

- Question about monitoring list including a particular citizen. The chair responded yes that individual is on the list.
- Question about the September presentation regarding the Needs Assessment and payment for that individual as set by the previous Local. The chair responded yes, the presentation was made and the individual received payment.
- Question about the potential for a Christmas party. The chair said it is uncertain at this time.

NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting will be November 4, 2025 at 6:30pm
- Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm