



**Zorra Caledonian Society
Combined Meeting – October 15, 2018
MINUTES
7:00 pm @ Embro Legion**

“The Zorra Caledonian Society is a volunteer community organization formed in 1937 to recognize the Scottish heritage of the Village of Embro and the Township of Zorra”

Attendance:

Directors - Gord MacKay (President), Kevin Fraser (Vice President), Helen Dowd (Past President), Jennifer Moodie (Secretary), Peter Fleming (Treasurer), Laura Green, Geoff Innes, Steve MacDonald, Jack Matheson, Alan Normand, Angus Thomson, Ron Marshall, Jim Grieve

Members - Sandra Alyea, Katherine Grieve, Grant Innes, Anne Innes, Kathy Fraser, Sherry Matheson, Wally Matheson, Jim Knudsen, Bill White, John Langlois, Angie Langlois, Sue Langlois, Diane Normand, Jim Knudsen, Doug Ferguson, Ruth Ross, Kenneth Ulch

Coordinator - Holly MacDonald

Call to Order – President Gord MacKay called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Roll Call “What factors are key for you to decide on the location of the 2019 Highland Games?” was answered by 29 members present.

Members shared their opinions about their belief of where next year’s Games should be. Many, almost all, members noted the challenge of limited parking at the EZCC as well as the less than accommodating managerial staff who were previously employed at that site. Many felt that the continued difficulty to recruit volunteers is a real concern for our future. On the one hand, some members talk of the flexibility and convenience of the COP and the opportunities for growth and expansion at such a vast location. On the other hand, many voices echoed that perhaps growing our Games is not necessary if we are so limited by space, volunteer commitment and sustainability. A few members mentioned the intimacy and familiarity of community of the Games staying in Embro. Others spoke on more of an emotional level and cited feelings of heritage, legacy and pride of community.

Approval of the Agenda

M/S Carried

Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting – Sept 17, 2018

M/S Carried

Correspondence

A thank you card was received from the family of Jim Caddy for the contribution that the ZCS made in Jim’s memory to Knox United Church Memorial Fund.

Coordinator’s Report

Holly presented her report from September showing three hours. She is mostly focusing on St. Andrew’s Night Banquet ticket sales. **M/S Carried**



Treasurer's Report – There are still a few outstanding receipts from Highland dance and Mr. Pinch. So far, the income from the Games was \$61,915 and the expenses are at \$45,883. We were very successful at staying within our predicted budgets. Attendance at the Games was significantly down from last year (1455 in 2018 vs 2136 in 2017). The ZCS carries an overhead budget of approx. \$8 K annually to cover expenses such as insurance, the new coordinator position, donations etc. and therefore we will probably break even for the year.

M/S Carried

Old Business

The following committee reports were reviewed.

Pipe Bands

Seven pipe bands competed this year (down from ten in 2017) however expenses were up \$ 500 over last year. Pipe bands continue to be the largest expense for the Games.

Clans and Concessions

The heat and the location of vendors affected the sales this year. Clans were very happy with their location and the shade it provided.

Dog Agility

Some difficulty in getting commitment and we are never sure who or when they will show up. Proper fencing is proven to be a very important factor- learning experience
Recommendation for next year is to book earlier.

Rugby

This was the first time we tried having Rugby at the Games. Many teams did not show up due to the extreme heat. The group will get better organized for next year and would like to continue as they believe it can grow into something much bigger.

Sponsorship

Jim & Katherine Grieve have looked after this each year since 2012 and it is a steady contributor to the Games. We would not break even each year without the local support!

This concludes the review of the 2018 EHG Handbook.

Motion to accept the reports as presented.

M/S Carried.

New Business

Discussion around the location of the 2019 EHG



Canada's Outdoor Park

Pro's

- Rental Includes six buildings in close proximity with lots of options
- Saved the cost of renting tents in 2018 (\$1000- \$1500 in savings)
- 2 sets of bleachers, benches, love seats, chairs supplied by COP
- Helpful staff (Before, during and after the Games)
- Gates for Livestock & Boundary Rope are there and supplied at no additional cost.
- Hop on – Hop off Wagons supplied and seating (which worked very well)
- Garbage cans & Dumpster supplied
- Cost was \$ 3000 in 2018 (\$1,000 for 3 year rezoning fee, \$1000 up front and a \$ 1.00 per paid entrant)
- Lots of parking (could be enhanced in 2019 with rows lettered or numbered)
- Directed participants to “their own” parking areas (pipe bands, rugby, tug of war, dancers)
- Tug of war enjoyed the closer proximity to Woodstock for hotels and restaurants
- Level, flat parking for our guests.
- One Gate is easier to manage for our volunteers
- Despite a hand full of people boycotting the event on Facebook Holly did not hear a single complaint about the new location throughout the day
- Dancers liked having a covered shelter outdoors, three garden sheds provided an area for a change room
- Visitor & Volunteer Service “remarkable day – great location”
- Pipe Bands – were happy with location and separate shaded area we provided so they could rest between performances
- Clans – location and layout was a big plus
- Sheep Handling & Dog Agility – lots of space at the new site, almost too many options
- Scottish Dogs on parade – ring was nicely fenced and a good size, trees provided welcomed shade
- Heavy Events – good sized field, lots of parking
- Bar – site worked well, people liked to go outside and drink beer and watch events.
- No requirement to hire security (this was a \$ 1,800 cost at EZCC as it is mandated and July 1 it is 2.5 regular time)
- Livestock Displays – coverall worked well, gates supplied by COP, water, shade and airflow worked well
- Layout provided cattle separation for new health regulations
- Site worked well for animal trailer drop off and pick up and provided enough room to park trailers on site
- Customer Feedback – survey's filled out the day of the Games were positive about the move

Canada's Outdoor Park

Con's

- Signage was an issue as people were unsure of what entrance to use (GPS took them to the main gate but we were not using that one).
- Children's crafts – the space was not ideal, in the middle of a walkway, people came in seeking shade
- Forgot to allow seating and space for spectators at Highland dance.
- History – could find more interest in a busier spot
- Time to Set-up – was a learning process so took longer this year than it would in 2019, this



- includes volunteers standing around, next year would be better!
- Time to take down – went smoothly as a lot of items stayed on site – dance stage, picnic tables and planks (too many) were brought from Embro so had to be returned.
- Sponsors – late decision on site (March 9) made it hard to approach new businesses
- Aging demographics in our Society, need to recruit younger help and more volunteers to keep the Games going – need to reduce the work load for set-up/take down.
- Further to drive for volunteers from the Embro area

Embro Zorra Community Centre

Pro's

- More intimate feeling than COP
- Air conditioned hall can be used as a cooling centre
- REAL washrooms
- More physical spaces/rooms
- Games have always been held in Embro
- New recreation director in Embro that may be more open to working collaboratively with us
- Bar already there (fridge, freezers, sink)

Embro Zorra Community Centre

Con's

- Need to get a permeant liquor license at the EZCC (SOP fees have now doubled PER occasion (\$150 per application from \$ 75))
- Four gates are a problem – we cannot handle it with a shrinking volunteer base.
- Lack of parking a MAJOR Issue – would need to rely on other private or publicly owned spaces to cover the overflow (Caddy's field, Public Works Yard, Matheson Park? Angus looked into a mini shuttle bus is \$ 625 + HST or \$ 706.25 for 8 hours.
- Costly security (our bill was \$ 1,800 in 2017 but we only would pay \$ 1,200 of it as we were not told it would be 2.5 regular time.)
- Lack of shade in the middle of the grounds (COP had that), as the shade is around the perimeter (could we reconfigure our layout to address that?)
- Tug of war field was removed as part of the new soccer field project, would need to find another space
- Aging demographics in our Society, need to recruit younger help and more volunteers to keep the Games going - need to reduce the work load for set-up/take down.
- Need more accessible parking

Call for the Vote

A motion was made to hold the vote to determine the location of the 2019 EHG by secret ballot.

M/S Carried.

Results from the Vote

20 votes to move back to Embro.

9 votes to stay at Canada's Outdoor Park.

President MacKay announced that the 2019 EHG will take place at the Embro Zorra Community Centre and that he would look after booking the facility in the morning.



St. Andrew's Night Banquet

- Tickets sales are going well –we are half sold out.
- We are looking for someone to address the haggis
- AGCO, Sound & AV - Gord to address faulty EZCC equipment noted last year to staff so we can try and avoid renting sound equipment this year to compensate.
- Set-Up Thursday Nov 29 @ 9 am at the EZCC.

Annual Educational Night with the Caledonian's (Monday November 19, 2018)

Doug Fyfe will present "Scotland in a Nutshell". The evening will begin at 7:00pm and Doug will present 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Social time to follow. There is no charge to attend.

WCI Presentation:

- Two WCI students made a presentation to the Society about their trip to Taiwan. They are asking for financial aid and support from the ZCS to help send students to Taiwan for a 10 day trip during their March Break (March 7-16, 2019). The girls, Rachel and Shelby, did a fine presentation about the bonds and sharing opportunities that an intercultural trip like this has to offer. They will have the chance to see the original settlement of Rev Leslie McKay and the monuments and buildings in his name. There is even an opportunity for member of the ZCS to accompany the students on the trip. There is an understanding that the students will also come to the 2019 Highland Games and have a display there from their trip.

Motion to donate \$1000.00 towards the trip.

M/S Carried

Motion that the WCI Taiwan students would help at the St. Andrew's Night Banquet by

- providing the coat check area (will set up a display and keep all their tips),
- help clear tables to expedite the program starting in a timely manner,
- put away tables and chairs at the conclusion of the night.

M/S Carried.

There will not be another regular meeting until January 2019 but looking ahead at key dates....

2019 Save the Date...

- **Feb 25** – Annual General Meeting
- **April 6** – National Tartan Day
- **June 1** – Caledonian Scottish Open
- **July 1** – Embro Highland Games (82nd)
- **Nov 29** – St. Andrew's Night Banquet (83rd)

Motion to adjourn at 9:19 pm

M/S Carried