

# MINUTES: ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS, DIRECTORS MEETING

*Sunday, April 10, 2022 10:30 a.m.*

Held at the CRLC Club premises - #13 3650 – 19 Street NE, Calgary, AB & Virtual via Zoom

**Meeting began at 10:35 a.m.**

## 1. AFRC President's Message:

Brett Jensen (SARHA), summarized his AFRC President's Message noting that due to COVID, events, fundraising and memberships were affected. Therefore he was looking forward to the Calgary Show and May Daze to rejuvenate memberships. He noted some of the new material he would be bringing from Quartzsite for the May Daze auction. He stressed that in order to rejuvenate our memberships, clubs need to be active and accepting of new people. It is important to promote classes and share knowledge. We don't have to be experts, even watching an instructional video together for a class will work.

## 2. Roll Call:

As there were some new Directors present, there was a round table of introductions.

Calgary Faceters Guild ( 1 present in person)

Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club (4 present in person)

Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club (2 present via Zoom)

Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Club (3 present in person and 1 present via Zoom)

Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club (2 present in person)

Southern Alberta Rockhounds Association (3 present in person)

## 3. Consideration of Agenda:

- 6.1. May Daze added to Business Arising from the minutes.
- 10.0 Added New Business as Dale Nielsen (CRLC) suggested we discuss having a Zoom meeting mid-winter.

## 4. In Memorium:

A moment of silence was observed for Mary Ufland (last surviving original member of the CRLC), E. David Blair (long standing member of CRLC), Julius Kovacs (SARHA) and Bea Ganter (LHLG).

## 5. Minutes of 7 November 2021, meeting:

- Under 8.4, Alberta Rockhound Newsletter, Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) noted and Dale Nielsen recalled as well, that Karen-Anne suggested that although we had no newsletter, the minutes should be posted on the website. The minutes were approved with this amendment.

## 6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **6.1 May Daze:** Tony Cave from the host club (LHLG) for May Daze 2022, provided an update on the plans to date for May Daze 2022 that will be held at the hall in Tees, AB (18 km east of Lacombe) from May 20 - 22nd. Anyone who is interested in setting up a display case is to contact Ron Biel.

He raised that they would like to make some changes to the past schedule in that they would like to hold the AGM on Saturday evening and the Auction on Sunday morning. Following some discussion, Tony Cave moved: **That the AGM be moved from Sunday at 10 am to Saturday at 7 pm for 2022 and that the Auction begin Sunday at 10 am.** Seconded by Doug Schatz (LHLG), Carried unanimously.

John Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) as Treasurer and responsible for the auction, suggested that Heads and Tails could be held during the AGM. He noted that Silver Cove had donated a piece of Indonesian Agatized Coral for the Heads & Tails. He also encouraged Directors to approach their clubs for donations for the AFRC donated lots. Both these and the lots of Lacombe would be auctioned off before the 200 general lots.

It was also discussed that the AFRC Lifetime Achievement Award be presented to Ed and Pauline Zeschuk at the AGM .

Tony Cave (LHLG) noted that finalized plans for May Daze will be e-mailed to the clubs and it will also be posted on the AFRC website.

- **6.2 Archives, Historical Documentation:** Following from previous discussions on the topic and sharing information, Directors were to gather from their clubs on this topic, Jonathan Legg (SARHA) started off by noting that there was talk in the past to possibly purchase a scanner to digitize historical records. He originally thought a suitable scanner would cost close to \$800, but through research he learned one could be purchased for about \$300. It was noted that the most time consuming aspect of such a project is the time taken to determine what to scan.

Dale Nielsen (CRLC) noted that most of their records are already in digital form so they have no need for a scanner. She then raised the question as to whether or not AFRC's Bylaws were on the website. Following some discussion after determining the most recent AFRC bylaws were not on the website, Dale Nielsen made the following motion: **That the AFRC Bylaws be posted on the AFRC website indicating the date of the Bylaws.** Seconded by Tony Cave (LHLG) Carried; two opposed.

Doug Schatz (LHLG) wondered what digital storage space AFRC currently has and what is our file limit. He noted that he has lots of AFRC newsletters digitized starting from the 1969 Fossil Trails.

Jonathan Legg (SARHA) raised the question about website security and discussion followed. There is the need to decide what information should be shared on the website and what should be stored separately for members. There was concern especially about sharing financial information.

Dale Nielsen (CRLC) noted that most historical information can eventually be shared with the public.

Directors from both the MHRLC and SARHA noted that there was little interest by their clubs to digitize their records.

Dale Nielsen (CRLC) expressed concern for the need for more volunteers. She noted too that, with COVID, their membership had gone from 300 down to about 175 members.

Michelle Morin (ETLC) also expressed concern for the need for more volunteers to help with Administrative duties. They are interested in digitizing records but their interest at the moment is to keep their club going. Two individuals offered to help with collecting and compiling records and they have a large hard drive to store informaton, but this project has been stalled. They will be approaching Pauline and Ed to see what records they have.

It was decided to table further discussion re digitizing records to the next meeting and keep as an ongoing topic.

## 7. Correspondence:

Brett Jensen, President, noted that the AFRC received correspondence to ask if we were in support or against Ammolite being adopted as the official gemstone of Alberta. Brett noted that he submitted a reply to Tyrell Museum that the AFRC was supportive. Ammolite has since been approved as Alberta's Official Gemstone.

## 8. Committee Reports:

- **8.1 Treasurer's Report:** As there is a legal requirement for the Treasurer to give a hard copy printout of the **Bank Statements** since the last meeting to the Executive, John Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) provided them for the period of 7 November, 2021 to 10 April, 2022. He kept a copy and gave a copy to the President and Vice-President. He noted that most membership dues have been paid and he will follow-up with those who have not yet paid. Following, John Cherwonogrodzky **Moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.** Seconded by Michelle Morin. Carried.

John Cherwonogrodzky noted that he would be renewing Director's insurance soon and that he would update the list of Director's and as requested would take Judy off the list.

As an aside regarding the website, it was mentioned by Tony Cave (LHLG) that it would be helpful as a way to increase membership, to forward him information to keep the website updated. He also noted a way to promote our clubs is to attend Silver Cove events. In addition, he said that personal e-mails should not be posted, rather a general e-mail for the club's contact person.

- **8.2 Custodian and Librarian Report, Traveling Memento:** Doug Schatz (LHLG) reported that he has the Traveling Memento and he thought the Signs and Banner are in Leduc.

It was also noted the Calgary has the travelling library and it will be passed on at May Daze.

- **8.3 GMFC Report:** Brett Jensen, GMFC President, noted that the organization is hanging together by a thread. The GMFC Treasurer has had family demands due to health issues, therefore Brett was going to make a valiant effort to get someone from BC to join to help with the Administrative duties. He explained that the GMFC is basically clubs from western Canada. He said more AFRC reps are needed as well. He noted that last year they did not even host a Zoom meeting, so they did not meet the legal requirements of the Bylaws.

On a positive note, the CRLC had two recipients of GMFC scholarships. Ben Zuidema and Aidan Ogilvie each received \$500 scholarships.

- **8.4: Alberta Rockhound News:** Brett noted that there is no editor at present. He said the newsletter basically consisted of the minutes, the President's Message, notes and submitted articles.

Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) noted that they received a call from someone interested in selling equipment and she wondered if there was a way to advertise this now that there was no newsletter. It was suggested that the seller could bring their equipment to May

Daze to sell in the auction or to Tailgate. Other options are Facebook and Kijiji. Dale Nielson (CRLC) noted online auctions on Facebook but there are pros and cons.

- **8.5: AFRC Rejuvenation:** Ideas were shared to encourage rejuvenation as follows:  
Ask at the AGM if anyone is interested in volunteering to be the editor for the newsletter.

Michelle Morin (ETLC) noted they see lots of interest in rock hounding activities such as gold panning excursions. Therefore she is wondering if clubs could collaborate on this. Brett Jensen (SARHA) noted that their club is willing to invite other club members. They are hoping to have a field trip once a month in the summer and they will share their schedule, but they will not share publicly. Michelle Morin noted that they would only pass on the information to their members.

As Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC) noted that they will have a speaker from Police Point, Michelle Morin wondered if the presentation could be shared via Zoom. Michelle noted they had a presenter on Western Ethiopian Opals.

Ways to share resources will continue as an ongoing item.

## **9.0 On-Going Business:**

- **9.1 Archives, documents, files – storage, access, potential loss of history:**  
As discussed in 6.2, there was no additional discussion. Further discussion tabled until the next meeting.

**10. New Business:** The item added to the agenda regarding a Zoom meeting mid winter was not discussed.

**11.0 AFRC Lifetime Achievement Award:** The award will be presented at May Daze. Michelle Morin (ETLC) will contact Pauline and Ed Zeschuk to see if they will attend. The LHLG club is open to having the presentation made anytime during the weekend.

Brett Zeschuk asked those present to think about future recipients. He also reminded the Directors that in addition to the GMFC Undergraduate Scholarship, there is also an Honourary Scholarship Award that can be awarded in recognition for outstanding contributions to the field of Earth Sciences. The recipient is able to make a donation to a post-secondary institution of their choice.

## **12. Announcement of Club Events:**

- **Lethridge (SARHA):** Brett Jensen noted that they currently have 24 members and people come to the shop 4 days per week. In addition to members, they are struggling with their website. No one is dedicated to it. In addition, their new Treasurer is leaving. On a positive note, due to the casino they do every three years, they are good with funds. They plan to do one field trip per month with the first in May likely being a trip to Grassy Lake to look for Amber.

Their Tailgate will be the second weekend of September.

They have had a few classes; one on using cactus juice as an epoxy and one on flint knapping.

- **Calgary Faceters Guild (CFG):** Mark Williams noted that they currently have 8 members.

Their new member is Brian Olson from Maple Creek, SK. They will have some members on hand to demonstrate at the Calgary Show in May. They are working on getting the correct names on the website and obtaining a generic e-mail address for contacts. They are also pairing down their archived material and going strictly digital. They are trying to get down to a few boxes of hardcopies.

- **Lacombe Handicraft and Lapidary Guild (LHLG):** They would be happy to have individuals offer demonstrations at May Daze, so anyone interested is to contact Ron Biel. They will announce that next year May Daze will be in Lethbridge. Brett added that it will be held in Diamond City.

- **Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club (CRLC):** It was noted that their online auction in February was well received. Their Annual show is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>. Directors were encouraged to take copies of the cards that advertise their show to distribute at their clubs. They will be holding an Artisan Show on November 5, 2022.

It was noted that two of their members are on the wait list for auction lots: Barry Rogers and Adam Lagace.

They recently held their first in-person meeting since COVID and 35 were present in addition to 6 kids. In addition 8 to 12 attended online and the topic was BC Jade. In total they currently have 179 memberships.

Their next meeting will be a live auction of donated material. The meeting will be the second Friday of May.

- **Medicine Hat Rock and Lapidary Club (MHRLC):** The only upcoming events planned is the Sign Unveiling for the Rock Learning Circle at Police Point Park. No sale or BBQ is planned for this summer.

- **Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club (ETLC):** They noted that they have a number of activities planned as follows:

- Rock picking at an acreage of a friend of the club. They let members come and pick at a cost of \$2 per pound. No date had been set yet, but likely the end of May.
- Gold panning. No date set yet.
- Club auction of donated materials.
- Annual potluck in June and Tailgate sessions
- Participating in the Silver Cove Show
- Working on updating their website as well as Facebook and Instagram.

As an aside, they noted that the Rock and Gem store in Edmonton has closed.

**13. Adjournment:** 12:54 pm