

FRIENDS OF THE EASTERN SLOPES ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Innisfail Legion Auditorium  
1:00 pm February 17, 2018

**A. Meeting called to order 1:10 pm by Larry Frischke**

**B. Introductions of director's present.** Missing were Nick Smith, Mandy and Bill Dunn, Jeff Blish, Tyler Hirsche Quorum (45) established

**C. Approval of Agenda by Murray Few, 2nd by Glenda VanVlaanderen**

**D. Minutes of the 2017 AGM were read by Laurel Reid. Approved by Tyler Holinsky, 2nd by Sue Comfort**

**E. Business arising from the 2017 AGM Minutes -** Duane Papke advised that there was no pipe acquired last year but there should be more this spring.

**F. Financial Report was presented by Arlene Stevenson for both 2016 and 2017. Ralph Jensen approved the Financial Reports and 2nd by Duane Papke.**

**G. Membership Report was presented by Suzanne Comfort.** It was reported that we had 628 members for 2017. For 2018 prior to the current day sales were 43 members.

**H. President's Report -** Larry reported that we had a good year. Most things are covered later in the agenda, but he would like to take this opportunity to thank all the directors and members that came to assist and participate in the various events again this year making the Association a success.. He advised that it had been frustrating due to the projects that were put on hold with Parks Canada.

**I. Other Business**

**(a) Parks Canada Report**

**Bill Hunt, Resource Conservation Manager, Parks Canada -** gave an update on the Bison Project advising there were 10 calves and all cows bred again. They will be putting radio collars on the cows and ear tags on the calves this spring. He also thanked Friends of the Eastern Slopes for their continued work on the campgrounds and their help with the 100 year party that was held this year.

**Rick Smith, Ya Ha Tinda Ranch Manager -** gave an update on the road construction. He advised they will be putting in a turn around after the bridge for people who miss the campground. They are happy with the new road and all looks great. In mid April they will be continuing with cleanup and seeding. They will start road grading and deficiency repairs will be done. Guard rails will be installed on the corners on the top of the hills as well as after the bridge on the way to the Ranch. Gates will be installed after the bridge in case of closure.

Duane Papke requested cutting of some trees on the bank as they hit the trailers . Rick agreed to assess this at the spring cleanup for the Bighorn campground.

Rick also advised that bison will be available at the ranch for anyone who would like to introduce their horses to them.

**(b) Report on the Future of the Bighorn Backcountry -** There have been several meetings throughout Alberta regarding the Bighorn Backcountry and we are asking everyone to make sure their voice is heard. Send letters to Allison and Rachel stating your opinion is all we can do. This organization has been 20 years with the objective of educating for the wise use of the Backcountry and being able to pass it on to our children and our children's children to utilize as we have. Larry stated this at the meetings he has gone to but we need to get our voices heard. Most of the support for the closure is from the City people who think they are protecting their water as that is what they have been told.

We will not be putting a lot into the campgrounds until we find out more as to whether we will still be looking after them.

Duane advised that he has seen the same years prior and it did not proceed.

**(c) Reports on 2017 Projects and Events**

**(i)** FOESA Annual AGM & Banquet - We had a sold out crowd and generated 4800.00 profit.

**(ii)** Bison Homecoming Celebration - was held in Banff & Sundre and was a good informative evening

**(iii)** The Mane Event - Booth booked again for 2018 in same location. 80 memberships with 2500 revenue and is good for getting our name out there.

**(iv)** Seven Mile Campground Work Bee - 4th loop was upgraded and gravel spread. Fallen trees were cut up and disposed of. Thanks to Larry and his family for all their help each year as when they are camping out there they are busy cleaning up and building picnic tables etc.

**(v)** Bighorn/Eagle Creek Spring Cleanup - we had 8 members as well as directors attend. Highlines were cleaned and repaired as well as one manger was disinfected due to a horse having strangles.

**(vi)** Cutoff Creek Work Bee - need to make more room in some of the highline spots as trees are too close to get in with machines. Picnic tables are needed and 150 yards of gravel was spread.

**(vii)** Ya Ha Tinda Centennial Open House - We provided a concession and information booth. 200 plus people were in attendance and we had a profit of \$700.00

**(viii)** Annual Trail Ride and Poker Rally - 142 riders and 10,500 profit. A nice sunny day and fun was had by all.

**(ix)** Park Warden Alumni Society's Ya Ha Tinda Centennial Celebration - dedicated the plaque and rock and introduced the "Ya Ha Tinda" book by Kathy Calvert. Larry attended and spoke with very interesting people who had spent most of their life out there. FOESA provided and set up their tent and BBQ and as a result received a \$500.00 donation from the Park Warden Alumni.

**(x)** SPOG Day - Attended by Larry, Laurel and Arlene - there is no charge for this trade show being held by the oilfield. It is a good opportunity to talk with people and sell some memberships.

**(xi)** Service Toilets - Panther/Eagle/Bighorn - done by Larry and Capital Pressure while Cutoff/Hummingbird was done by Jeff Blish

**d) Meetings Attended in 2017**

(i) Directors Meetings were held Jan 30, Feb 13, April 18, May 16, June 20, Sept 26 and Nov 28

(ii) Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee Meetings were Feb 2, June 8, Oct 12. Larry reported on the connection of ESRB Rocky and how it is similar to Spog in Sundre having 15-20 years working on pulling all groups together to keep the back country in good standing.

(iii) SPF Meeting - CPAWS - Y2Y - Caroline - Nov 1 - Y2Y was started in the US and is lobbying for a corridor from Yellowstone to Yukon which would effect the Bighorn Backcountry tremendously. Again, please everyone make their voices heard.

(iv) Meeting with Deputy Minister of the Environment/Parks - Rocky Mountain House - Again was dealing with Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Y2Y

**e) Ongoing Projects for 2018** - Larry reported that for 2018 we will again be looking at the Northeast relocation of the Bighorn Campground, completion of Highline project at Hummingbird, Routine maintenance and clean ups at all the campsites. As we do not have contracts for the campgrounds at this time, we will be doing minimal work until we have confirmation FOESA will be looking after them again.

**f) Proposed New Projects for 2018** - ATRA - installation of two Commemorative Picnic Tables for Bighorn and Eagle Creek will be put in this spring,. As well ATRA donated \$5000.00 for trail upgrades.

Seven Mile Flats Campground is waiting for a new memorandum of understanding and we will do all we can to get that and keep this campground open.

**g) Proposed dates for events in 2018**

i) The Mane Event - April 27-29

ii) Seven Mile/Cutoff Work Bee - May 12-13

iii) Spring Clean Up - Bighorn/Eagle Creek - May 26-27

iv) Hummingbird work Bee - June 9

v) Trail Ride and Poker Rally - August 18

**J. Ratify Actions of 2017 Directors** - Motion from Lorn Anderson to ratify the actions of the 2017 Directors. 2nd Duane Papke - All in favour

**K. Appoint Auditors for 2018 Books** - Murray Hagen and Tyler Holinsky were appointed Auditors for the 2018 Books. All in Favor

**L. Set Date for next AGM - February 23, 2019**

**M. Nomination and Election of Directors** - Jeff Blish, Tyler Hirsche, Mandy and Bill Dunn will be stepping down. Sue Comfort will step down but continue to do memberships.

Nomination of Directors were as follows:

Lorn Anderson

Bev Schrader

Stuart Graham

Buddy Gustafson

Chelsea Jensen

call for nominations for directorship from the floor was called by Larry three times. We can have a total of 18 directors - all accepted.

Larry called for nominations for president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary three times. Larry, Linus, Arlene and Laurel will all stay on.

### **Further Business arising before adjournment**

Linus advised he is talking with the 4H club and Sundre Forest Products to put together 50-70 picnic table packages to be put together on site.

Tracy suggested for education that we do video clips (3-5 min each) for promotion and education and post them on facebook and youtube. Glenda advised that the Sundre School has a video program that may be able to help with this project. We will look into same.

Murray Hagel motioned to adjourn. 2nd by Gerald Olson. Meeting adjourned 2:35 pm.