



Arrowsmith Residents Association (ARA)

Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: June 10, 2025

Time: 7:01 PM

Location: Heritage Hall, Coombs Fairgrounds, 1014 Ford Rd., Coombs

Chair: Miranda Scott

Recording Secretary: Holly Heppner

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Chair Miranda Scott called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
- Noted the increased turnout and community engagement.
- Apologized for the delayed start and explained the confusion around the start time.

2. Introductions

- Miranda introduced herself and provided background in real estate and local community initiatives.
- Attendees introduced themselves, some by not all including James Neden, Dave Neden, Jollean Chantrel, Earl Billingsley, Jane & Maria Martini, Tom Slayer, Brad McLean, Vi Block, John Cox, Dave Barry, Carrie, Jenna, Janet, Holly Heppner and others

3. Clarifying the Purpose of ARA

- Emphasis that ARA is a resident-driven group, not led by Director Leanne Salter.
- ARA aims to represent resident interests and channel communication to the RDN via a formal structure.
- A proposal was raised to define a communication mechanism with the Area Director.
- A motion was suggested to allow the chair to forward ARA correspondence on behalf of residents. [Motion outcome TBD.]

4. Elected Officials at ARA Meetings

- Discussion on whether elected officials should be allowed to attend.
- Some members felt their presence might limit open dialogue.
- Decision deferred to the September meeting pending further research on, other associations' practices.
- Earl Billingsley nominated, Jenna nominated?

Action Item: Investigate the bylaws of other residents' associations regarding elected official attendance.

5. Incorporation and Website

- Name approved for nonprofit registration: *Arrowsmith Residents Association*.
- Website launched featuring meeting minutes, gallery, calendar, and news.
- Feedback and content suggestions are welcomed.

Action Item: Consider fundraising events for community signage and promotional needs.

6. Boundary Study Feedback

- Residents expressed frustration over poor organization and lack of clarity at RDN boundary study meetings.
- Concerns raised about incomplete or misleading map data and lack of informed facilitators.

Action Items:

- Miranda Scott to call Alan Nielsen to request an extension of the community consultation period.
- Bring more RDN survey cards to the June 12 meeting.

7. French Creek School Property

- Historical background and emotional attachment noted.
- Concerns raised about asbestos, repair costs, and lack of transparent business case.
- Suggestion to explore long-term lease as an alternative to purchase.
- Clarification that the referendum is for public input, not a final decision.

Action Item: Prepare a list of questions for the June 12 town hall regarding the school property.

8. Area F Parks and Firehall Review

- Over \$9M spent on Area F parks over five years, mostly in Meadow Woods and Errington.
- Other communities (e.g., Whiskey Creek, Coombs) have been overlooked.
- Firehall operations cost \$1M annually for two administrators after RDN assumed control.
- Residents called for transparency and a review of RDN management practices.

Action Item:

- Brad McArthur to create, a "report card" on parks in Area F, comparing funding and conditions.

9. Fire Services Governance

- Discussion on the challenges faced by Coombs fire society, and issues with RDN oversight.
- Suggested improvements include better documentation, training, and the revival of advisory committees.

10. Final Business

- Motion passed to post the upcoming park report on the ARA website.
- Volunteer call for Treasurer position — no volunteers came forward at this time.
- One member offered to help with deposits as needed.
- Reminder: Next ARA meeting scheduled for September 2025.
- Donations were requested to cover meeting hall costs.

Meeting Adjourned

Time: 8:54pm

Action Items Summary

- Call Alan Nielsen regarding boundary consultation extension.
- Bring more RDN survey cards to the June 12 meeting.
- Investigate other associations' policies on elected officials attending meetings.
- Prepare questions for the June 12 town hall re: French Creek School.
- Brad McArthur to prepare Area F Park funding report card.

