

ARROWSMITH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Feb 18, 2025, 7-9 pm, Coombs Fairgrounds, 1014 Ford Rd

1. **Land Acknowledgement** We humbly acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations, home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation
2. **In Attendance** Miranda Sott, Russell Bjornson, Steve Harris, Earl Billingsly, Tony Wood, Jorin Von Conruds, Barbara Harris, Laurel MacNair, Kevin (McEachern?), Allan Shriver, David Karras, David Baird
3. **Opening Comments** Our first meeting with our new name chosen by our community members! We anticipate our association being of great benefit to our community and plan to work alongside other resident associations to collect and distribute information to create an informed and educated community
4. **Our New Name. Poll results:**
 - 1) **Area F Neighbourhoods' Association:** 3
 - 2) **Arrowsmith Neighbourhoods' Association (Area F):** 9
 - 3) **Arrowsmith Residents Association (Area F):** 52
 - 4) **Mountainside Neighbourhoods' Association (Area F):** 18Arrowsmith Residents Association (Area F) wins by a landslide!
5. **Creation of meeting rules.** The group adopted the following rules to allow for efficient, productive meetings:
 - a) Ask people to speak 'through the chair'. This means putting your hand up if you want to speak, and waiting for the chair to say it's your turn.
 - b) Don't interrupt other people.
 - c) Stick to the item on the agenda.
 - d) Don't talk amongst yourselves.
 - e) Respect other people's views – don't groan or pull faces when someone else is speaking. Wait until they've finished and then put your point of view calmly and politely.
 - f) Keep contributions short and to the point.
 - g) Start and finish the meeting on time.
6. **Update on available funding** Miranda spoke with Leanne Salter and learned that there isn't any available funding to cover the cost of association meeting expenses ie hall

rental and insurance. So far, Miranda has been covering the costs but it has been agreed by the group that a donation jar will be at each meeting for those who would like to contribute. Any small amount is greatly appreciated, and a big thank you goes out to those who donated last night!

7. **Review of Town Hall meeting:** Miranda and Nicole were able to collect another 50 email addresses (now a total of 150). It was agreed that the North Nanoose Residents Association presentation was very well done and that the NNRA is doing some excellent work breaking down and disseminating information from the RDN to the people. We thought that the Errington Fire Hall presented some valuable information, especially the certificate that is available to reduce home insurance costs. Russ and Miranda will work on getting a copy of the certificate to mail out to our email list.
8. **Taxpayer Alliance invitation and sharing of information:** The NNRA has created a new group called the Taxpayer Alliance which will be responsible for reading, simplifying, and distributing vital RDN financial statements that will directly impact the taxpayers in our area. This group is not for individuals to join, but for resident associations, who will reciprocate the sharing and distribution to their own community members. The Taxpayers Alliance has invited us, the ARA, to join with them, and our group has agreed that doing so will be beneficial to our community.
9. **Role of the ARA: official stance or neutral and informative?** The group discussed whether the ARA always needed an official stance on every topic of concern. It was decided that a fluid approach will be taken. Some issues are vital in nature and will require us to stand together with one view, and others will be left to the discretion of individuals and the community as a whole. It was agreed that our role as an association is to listen to the concerns of community members and amplify those concerns to Leanne and the RDN
10. **Brainstorm Mission Statement/Culture** The group agreed upon the following as a current living document that can be changed as our association grows and evolves:
 - Our Purpose:** To engage the residents of Area F, creating a two-way flow of information and topics of concern between our community members and our area director (and the RDN's 19 elected directors).
 - Our Mission:** To listen to input from residents about their current and future needs, wants, and expectations, and to become a focused vocalization for the community.
 - Our Vision:** To interact within an engaged, activated, and well-informed community, and generate understanding, collaboration, cohesion, consistency and a synthesis of our areas' vision.
 - Our Goal:** To create a framework of action steps within the "Arrowsmith Residents Association" to work for the community in a positive, constructive, productive manner.

Thank you to Dirk for creating the framework for these concepts!

- 11. Creation of logo, website, social media pages, market booth:** Miranda is going to commission a few logo options of the group to vote on at our next meeting. She will create an ARA Facebook page. Allan is going to ask his daughter if she can make us a simple website. Miranda is going to look into a booth at the Errington Farmers Market. Thank you to Steve for offering a tent, table, and two chairs if a booth happens. A press release in the newspaper was discussed as a method of advertisement for our group. Ideas for future meetings/guests were discussed: Mayor of Lantzville (recently incorporated), Julien Fell (previous area director), local MLA, delegation to speak at RDN meeting
- 12. Other:** Thank you to Laurel for volunteering as secretary! The group voted to bypass a land acknowledgement at future meetings. Steve and Barbara are going to share their research and documentation on the Little Mountain First nations land transfer that is happening very soon.
- 13. Next Meeting** Tentatively booked for Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm at the Coombs Fairgrounds, pending confirmation. Going forward we will request that our meeting not be in conflict with other community meetings on the grounds as we acknowledge that members may be participating in multiple groups.