

**MINUTES** for the meeting of the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs

For that which occurred: **Sunday, 7 November 2021, 1:00 p.m.**

By ZOOM (with thanks for Henry Komadowski hosting through Lethbridge College)

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### **1. AFRC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(Due to technical difficulties from recent upgrades, the message was sent but could not be opened. If resolved, this will be **APPENDIX 1**)

In brief, our President summarized key points:

- The COVID-19(-22) pandemic has had a large negative impact on non-profit organizations, both on stopping club meetings, workshops and field trips, and on postponing incomes (e.g. membership fees, charity drives) essential for paying the bills (e.g. rent, insurances) to run these clubs. The AFRC is very fortunate that its finances are solid – its expenses are few, it has no debts and there is enough in its chequing account to last several years.
- Even with the COVID shutdowns, many have continued their passion for private field trips, attending rock and lapidary socials and training (e.g. the President had gone to Quartzite). As noted previously by the ETLC President, this hobby has grown, not decreased, during the pandemic.
- There is optimism on the horizon for the hobby and clubs. As we come out of the pandemic and resume club activities, community involvement and enthusiasm will likely also increase. Hopefully this will develop new members and new Executives that will contribute to their clubs and in turn to the AFRC.
- On the previous point, the AFRC has a regular item “Rejuvenation” on its Agenda. Promotion of the hobby and finding new audiences will be essential for the AFRC continuing forward (e.g. Colleges where their Art and Design or Geology classes may be interested in forming associated clubs).

### **2. ROLL CALL:** (6 out of 6 clubs represented, quorum present)

**Calgary Faceters Guild:** Mark Williams

**Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club:** Dale Nielsen, Linda Brydon

**Lacombe Handicraft and Lapidary Guild:** Ron Biel, Tony Cave

**Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club:** Michelle Morin, Jim Routledge

**Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club:** Karen-Anne and John Cherwonogrodzky

**Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association:** Brett Jensen, Henry Komadowski, Jonathan Legg

### **3. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA:**

There were no additions or concerns on the Agenda, and so it was approved by unanimous consent.

### **4. IN MEMORIUM:** Nothing to report at the 7 November 2021 meeting

**5. MINUTES OF THE AFRC 12 SEPTEMBER MEETING (BY ZOOM).** The minutes, as presented, were acceptable to the AFRC Directors/Delegates.

- Moved for approval: Mark Williams (CFG)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Nielsen (CRLC)

**All approved**, no disapproval.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

- See Item 8.2, Traveling memento

**7. CORRESPONDENCE:** None to report.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8.1: TREASURE'S REPORTS** (12 September to 7 November 2021)

- a) Monthly Bank Statements: By tradition, the Treasurer gives paper copies of the monthly Bank Statements to the Executive (President, Secretary, the Treasurer keeps a copy). However, due to COVID-19 restricting the AFRC meeting to ZOOM, and that these records cannot be sent by email due to confidentiality, giving paper copies was not possible.
- b) Transactions: The deposits and the withdrawals (cheques), for the noted time period, are given in **APPENDIX 2**. Also noted is the interest on the GIC that was deposited on 23 September 23. As can be seen, the finances of the AFRC are sound, there are no financial concerns.

JohnC (MHRLC) as Treasurer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

This was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Routledge (ETLC).

**All approved.**

**8.2 CUSTODIAN AND LIBRARIAN REPORT, TRAVELING MEMENTO:**

- The Custodian and Librarian is at the Lacombe club. Due to COVID restrictions, the club has not met for a while and so there is nothing to report.
- Dale Nielsen (CRLC) thought that perhaps the "AFRC TRAVELLING MOMENTO" (collection of petrified wood from the different clubs, brought together into the shape of the province of Alberta) might be at the CRLC Clubhouse. This will be checked.

**8.3 GMFC REPORT:**

Brett Jensen (SARHA) commented that this club has not recently met, and so there is nothing to report.

A ZOOM meeting may occur in the near future, and if so, this will be reported at the next AFRC meeting.

Brett also commented that part of the reason the GMFC is struggling is because there is no interest in participating from clubs from Ontario and Quebec (in the past they looked into creating their own GMFC), there are few clubs in the prairie provinces, and British Columbia is a power unto its own. BC has about 30 clubs. Although some are not active, overall there are enough to keep the BC group going with activities that keep this together, such as multi-day camping, several collecting sites (with far less stringent rules than Alberta), "Rendevous" (similar to May Daze) and Abbotsford having the largest Gem and Mineral show in Canada.

**8.4 ALBERTA ROCKHOUNDS NEWSLETTER:**

The AFRC is without a Newsletter Editor.

There was discussion whether one was actually needed. Most clubs have their own websites with their newsletters, activities and articles of interest are sent out electronically. Could the

AFRC newsletter just be an electronic compilation of these for information for all members?

- Jonathan Legg (SARHA) mentioned that it might be helpful if the different clubs let their delegates know what social media that they use, and what works best for distributing information and activities to their members. The delegates could then present this to the AFRC meeting for discussion.
- Dale Nielsen (CRLC) discussed that social media is changing and evolving. What was popular a year ago might be outdated now. If AFRC does go through the route of compiling club submissions, it would likely be necessary to know what they are using and how different forums could be put together on one site.
- Tony Cave (LHLC) has generously assisted with the AFRC website and updates. However, as in the past, he cannot work on this if nothing was submitted to him.

### **8.5 AFRC REJUVENATION:**

- The public has great interest in rocks, gems, fossils, lapidary, either as field trips or hobbies of their own. However, clubs that can meet these interests cannot grow and develop if their community does not know these exist.
- Colleges have courses and clubs related to geology and lapidary (e.g. Calgary, College of Art and Design, courses on lapidary). Their students might be interested in forming such clubs that could benefit from, and possibly be new members of, AFRC.
- Unfortunately, with COVID restrictions, the presented prospects cannot be pursued until people can gather.

## **9. ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

### **9.1 ARCHIVES, DOCUMENTS, FILES (storage, access, potential loss of history)**

There was considerable discussion at length on this topic.

- Mark Williams (CFG) said that their club has already done much to digitalize and store about 10 boxes of historical records, minutes, articles, patterns for faceting, and documents on about 20-30 memory sticks. The process was not easy and took him a few months.
- What was essential to the process was to have an adequate scanner, one which could scan and record 20-30 pages at a time, rather than one at a time. Their own club scanned about 5000 pages of documents that included all the Minutes since its beginning.
- A key issue was not only storing the information, but having it organized prior to scanning and storage so that one could retrieve the item of interest quickly rather than going through everything one block at a time. It also makes scanning easier if one goes through the records and discards non-essential items of little interest.
- Jonathan Legg (SARHA) said that the technology for scanning is similar to photocopying, but now far cheaper. One could either store a large block of data and documents at a commercial shop like Staples for about \$20 each, or spend the money, about \$800-1000, to have the capability accessible any time within a club.
- JohnC (MHRLC) asked if paying for either the digitalization of records by a commercial business, or the purchase of the required scanner, could be funded by the AFRC for a club.

- Dale Nielsen (CRLC) added that much of what will be done for the storage and access of historical information depends a great deal on the volunteer who undertakes to do the task themselves. Such volunteers often have a passion for history and enjoy going through the records and organizing these into blocks of information for easy access. Their club has also had to support the volunteer, who has taken upon themselves to go through the files, to make judgement calls on what needs to be stored and what needs to be removed to reduce clutter.
- Brett Jensen (SARHA) said that for their club, they already have much of the history in digital form, and as hard copies at the club. He addressed the issue that different clubs may need or want to do different things. The club looking at storage of their club's history may be thinking of digitalizing the records, or just keeping hard copies of documents in their club's file cabinet. There is no point in AFRC offering to pay for the service or equipment for data storage, if we do not know what is needed. Also, some clubs have already done most of this record keeping and storage already, while other clubs may not want to bother.

**Brett (SARHA) made the motion that all the Directors/Delegates should go to their clubs and find what their interests, concerns and needs are for the storage and retrieval of the records, then report to the AFRC at the next meeting.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Williams, approved by all.**

## **9.2 ELECTIONS:**

The usual procedure has been to put forward nominations for AFRC Executive positions at the September meeting, and have elections at the November meeting. For 2022,

- **Brett Jensen** (SARHA) will continue as **President**
- **John Cherwonogrodzky** (MHRLC) will continue as **Treasurer**.
- **Dale Nielsen** (CRLC) has agreed to be **Vice-President**, but made a request to have available to her and others the Terms of Reference from the By-Laws (with updates).  
JohnC replied that this may take a while to find.

There is no-one as yet for Secretary, and the past President has not been decided upon.

## **9.3 OTHER BUSINESS:**

Somewhat related to Elections, Dale Nielsen (CRLC) said that perhaps people are hesitant to take an Executive position because they do not know what the duties entail.

JohnC (MHRLC) supported her inquiry, noting that in the By-Laws, a Secretary is to hold the records of the AFRC, which are 2 cabinets full of documents (now temporarily stored at CRLC). They must also hold the official Seal (now held by JohnC the Treasurer) which to his knowledge has never been used. Perhaps there is a need to look at the By-Laws and perhaps revise the Terms of References of the Executive to make their responsibilities more practical and less burdensome.

Dale (CRLC) asked if the Bylaws were all in one document for review. JohnC (MHRLC) replied that no, there have been revisions and additions over the years, with the original Societies Act being used from 1964 to the early 1990s, another set to the early 2000s, Pauline Zeschuk (Secretary) compiling motions in the 2010s, and motions since then being noted in the Newsletter and in the Minutes. There is a need to collate all these blocks of motions and By-Laws into a single document.

Mark Williams (CFG) added that the provincial government also updates the Societies Act on

a regular basis, on digital form, and the AFRC should update its own By-Laws and policies accordingly.

Brett Jensen (SARHA) commented that this would be a fair bit of work to compile and update AFRC's By-laws, and without a Secretary or anyone volunteering to do this, the project has to be postponed for a while. For now, having this done before the Annual General Meeting will not be possible.

#### **10. AFRC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:**

This was to be presented to Pauline and Ed Zeschuk at the ETLC fall meeting. However, due to COVID restrictions where clubs could not meet, the presentations have been postponed.

#### **11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLUB EVENTS**

- Tony Cave (LHLC) stated that **MAY DAZE** (Friday May 20 to Sunday May 22) at **Lacombe** is proceeding but that the club has not met due to COVID restrictions. Ron Biel (LHLC) said that the hall near Lacombe has been booked for the event.
- Jim Routledge (ETLC) announced that the Norwood Legion will be hosting the "Vendor and Craft Market" (Nov. 20-21) and the club will have a table with displays and brochures.
- Tony Cave (LHLG) said that Kris Robak and Melissa Robak now have a Silver Cove store in Calgary, though their Head Office is still in Red Deer. They always have an open invitation for AFRC members to attend their shows that occur in different parts of Canada throughout the year. Their next one is yet to be announced.
- SARHA was hosting a Tailgate Market at the Peavey Mart in Lethbridge at the same time as the AFRC meeting.
- Chris and Melissa Robak of Silver Cove will host the Calgary "Rock and Gem Show" from Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** Brett Jensen (SARHA) moved that the meeting be adjourned at **2:43 p.m.**

All agreed, so moved.

#### **APPENDIX 1: AFRC President's Message for November, 2021**

Greetings to all AFRC members. I sincerely hope you are all faring well and enduring this pandemic with grace and dignity. (Yeah, sure!!!) Due to the pandemic restricting gatherings of all kind, this last year and a half has been a real trying time for all organizations, but especially non-profits. Many have not been able to survive without fund raising opportunities, formal meetings or social gatherings. We should consider ourselves lucky to have been able to survive this long. I would like to hear from the Alberta clubs as to how well you have been doing and how you overcame some these challenges. I know that membership numbers are down in my own club and we continue to hope for a return to pre-pandemic conditions. I know I am sure looking forward to next year's May Daze sponsored by the Lacombe rock club.

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#### **APPENDIX 2: AFRC TREASURER'S REPORT (John Cherwonogrodzky) for 12 September – 7 November 2021 (presented at November meeting)**

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS, as of 7 November 2021

ATB Business Savings Account	\$ 2.27
ATB Springboard GIC	\$43,804.99
ATB Community Spirit Account (Chequing)	\$ 5,189.89
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$48,997.15</b>

TABLE 2: TRANSACTIONS: 1 May – 11 September 2021

CHEQUING ACCOUNT		BUSINESS ACCOUNT	GIC ACCOUNT
DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS/ CHEQUES	(Lag in interest when account closed)	
30 October 2021			Interest: 2019-20, Year 1, 2.02%
1. SARHA memberships \$45.50			2020-21, Year 2, 2.06%
2. LHLG memberships \$73.50			<b>2021-22, Year 3, 2.10%</b>
3. CRLC memberships \$90.50			On 23 September 2021 2.10% interest was automatically deposited for <b>\$884.17</b>
<b>TOTAL: \$209.50</b>	<b>TOTAL: 0</b>		(previously) \$42,920.82 (interest)+ \$
<b>SUBTOTAL:</b>	<b>+ \$209.50</b>	<b>\$2.27</b>	

		884.17 <b>TOTAL:</b> <b>\$43,804.99</b>
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Note: Chequing Account balance as of 12 September 2021 was \$4,980.39 (previous AFRC meeting).  $\$4,980.39 + \$209.50 = \$5,189.89$