

DCHA Annual General Meeting – September 24th, 2020

President's Report

Good afternoon fellow Covians! I will start by saying that this has certainly been a challenging year!

The first issues the board had to deal with was the Fire Service Protections Agreement, followed closely with the BC Assessments.

At our General Meeting in January we had a presentation by Mike Fotheringham and Mike Doherty from the OKIB, explaining our fire Service Agreement and answering many questions from members.

When we received our BC Assessments in April, many homeowners were upset with the change in how our homes were assessed and wanted the DCHA to appeal them as a group, but each resident had to appeal their own assessment on an individual basis. The Deputy Assessor for the Thompson Okanagan Region (Amanda Wilms) contacted me after they received more than sixty appeals from Desert Cove residents, and offered to provide a presentation if I could set up a Town Hall Meeting. That meeting took place on January 29th, and approximately 125 residents attended. Amanda Wilms provided information on the rules around BC Assessments and answered questions following her presentation.

When Covid-19 shut down businesses and public meeting places in March, our recreation hall was locked down and all our activities came to a halt. I kept an eye on the news and Dr. Bonnie Henry's daily updates and tried to keep all the residents informed via our DC email news. I got a list of volunteers together to help Snowbirds returning to Desert Cove get their groceries, and provide any other needed service while they were isolated.

A number of residents have asked if we could have a dog park, and I have met with Management with various ideas on how this might work, but Management is not in agreement for the following reasons:

- Cost prohibitive
- Maintenance issues
- No space available
- Safety issues

With the closure of the recreation centre came the problem of the Defibrillator being inaccessible by residents. It was temporarily kept at a couple board members' homes until the Administration office offered the use of a mail compartment to keep it in, and 6 keys were made available. I arranged for the keys to be kept by six of our Emergency Response residents, and a list was put on the Defibrillator box at the hall and posted on the DCHA website.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our June General Meeting was cancelled.

Phase I of the reopening of businesses and public areas began the beginning of July, and a few of the Board members met with Management and Administration to negotiate a plan to reopen our billiard room, the gym and recreation hall with safety protocols in place. I printed off notices and signs and marked the recreation centre floor with red tape for social distancing, made sign-up sheets for the gym and billiard room and contacted all the program coordinators to organize their classes. With Phase II came the reopening of our swimming pool, with much help from Maggie Lyon and Marilyn Richardson, who made all the signage and sign-up sheets, and who also deal with the ongoing issues, while keeping me in the loop. I have been trying to negotiate with Don Westgate to give us longer access to the recreation centre so that residents can access the gym, billiard room, craft room, swimming pool and hall past 3 pm, but with the Covid-19 numbers increasing, it's unlikely that that will happen in the near future.

At the end of July I contacted Mike Fotheringham from the OKIB, requesting the financial report for the Fire Protection Services that was promised to us at our January meeting. The report was received and has been posted on the bulletin board inside the front door of the recreation centre for the past 10 days.

The Food Safe Course was held on Saturday, September 19th, and was attended by 16 residents. Everyone passed with flying colours, and our certificates are good for five years, so hopefully we can put our knowledge to work in the not-too-distant future.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all the board members for their hard work and support over the past year. I don't think I'd still be sitting here without all of you. Also, special thanks to Elly Bonsma and Martin Ploegman for your two years of service on the board as Social Director and Director at Large.

Thank you also to all the members who have provided me with valuable input and support over the past year. I will endeavor to do the best job I can for the Homeowners' Association for the second half of my term.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Burwell

