

## June 2020 - President's Update

I hope my community update finds you healthy and maintaining wellbeing during these uncertain times. I try to walk daily, often with my wife Sandy and I see many of you walking as well, greeting each other and taking appropriate precautions by physically distancing when passing each other. It has been great for us to catch up with those of you we know as we meet you along the way. Though I am not the most outgoing person, I will try to introduce myself to you; if I don't please introduce yourself to me. I am usually wearing a 'Texas Long Horns' ballcap to cover my white hair (long without a haircut) and glasses. I am quite interested to hear how you are doing and answer any questions you might have about Scenic Acres.

SACA deferred our Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> as a result of the pandemic restrictions on gatherings. A ministerial declaration by the Province for all registered legal entities allowed postponement of AGMs until further notice. SACA was still able to complete our 2019 annual audit which will be presented to the membership once we are able to re-schedule this annual meeting. Again, our audit results were very good. Thanks to our Federation of Calgary Communities (FCC) auditor Nancy Murdoch and team for their analysis and report, Ruth Sorrentino for coordinating the effort for SACA and Katherine Hawkins our Treasurer for working with Ruth and the auditors to finalize the report. This work effort involves many hours by all so a very big thank you!

The SACA Finance Committee has been meeting more frequently (via Zoom) in light of the pandemic situation to review our operating procedures and financial situation and conservatively forecast each month's revenues and expenses for the rest of the year and determine how we can leverage ever-changing assistance programs; we have lots to talk about! We have provided this forecast to the City to assist them in their overall planning and make known our needs to remain sustainable. The City announced financial assistance to community associations and other non-profits last week and it will be limited to fixed ongoing costs, for example our building utilities expenses. It is still uncertain the procedure to apply, specifically who will get funding and when the funding will be made available. My concern is that not all community associations will be treated equal; those with urgent need, no financial reserve, will be addressed first but those with some reserves like SACA may have to erode their funds over a lengthy timeframe with no assurance the City will provide assistance to rebuild those reserves.

The Scenic Acres community centre facility essentially breaks even by generating just enough revenue and procuring grants to cover operating and maintenance expenses; it will be difficult to rebuild our financial reserve under the current conditions. I mentioned in my last update that Casino funds provide about 15% of our operating costs and SACA has had a Casino event every 18 months to replenish these proceeds. Our scheduled Casino date in late March was cancelled but we were provided some funding based on quarter one 2020 proceeds. This amount however was much less than what SACA normally receives and with a backlog of Casino dates to be rescheduled, we don't expect to have another date for as long as 36 months; this situation will place another strain on our financial reserves.

Fortunately, with much work still to do and federal funding assistance available to support employees we were able to maintain employment longer than expected for Julie; Ruth is still very busy. Amber continues to work part-time and manage our payables and accounting. The SACA Board meets monthly via Zoom thanks to Katherine Hawkins' business account and we handle the ongoing business of the association despite the pandemic. As President, I have been contributing to City-wide community association bi-weekly meetings hosted by the FCC to discuss common concerns, get clarity on many topics associated with the shutdown and determine as a group how we should advocate to government bodies. FCC offers training for Board and staff still via Zoom and several of us have been taking advantage of those opportunities. Board members are working through the 2020 Business Plan deliverables though at some point, I think we will have to adjust these expectations based on the limitations imposed by pandemic restrictions. Currently, we are working with potential renters to meet provincial compliance requirements and open up our outdoor space as permitted during Phase 1 relaunch of activities. More detailed compliance work will be required to respond to the next two relaunch phases as they are announced.

Our Board is small (too small) but I appreciate the faithful effort and support I receive from each of them and ultimately their results – Katherine, Keely, Colin, Ike and Mike and our General Manager, Ruth; a great team! These individuals passionately support many activities within the community and I don't think

they have ever declined to do something, from either the Business Plan or from unexpected issues or from requests from you. If you haven't done so, this would be a great time to renew your SACA membership, which can be done via our website at [www.scenicacresca.ca](http://www.scenicacresca.ca) and by this response you show your support.

I am empathetic to each individual and family within our community; frontline and essential workers, parents at home and teaching kids; seniors shut-in, the prolonged unemployed; extended restrictions and isolation facing us all. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Please reach out to the services available and don't delay if you need assistance. If you need help that SACA can provide, or can offer help please contact the office at 403-547-9589 or [scenicacresca@shaw.ca](mailto:scenicacresca@shaw.ca); we will monitor messages and respond from a remote location.

Please take care of yourselves.

Jim Palmer  
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