

SACA – Scenic Acres Community Association 2019 AGM Report

SACA Mandate and Business

The Scenic Acres Community Association is a self-funded, volunteer based not-for-profit operating under the Alberta Societies Act. SACA successfully operates by having a volunteer Board of Directions, a part-time General Manager (supported by a small team of staff members and contractors), many invaluable Volunteers and those who choose to be Members. The SACA Board advocates for the community as a whole as well as our membership on a wide variety of issues. The Board is responsible for the fiduciary duties of the Association, which includes all aspects related to financial, legal and ethical practices. The General Manager and staff support the board and oversee SACA's virtual and physical operations. Volunteers support both the Board and our Office team with their time, while Members support the Association financially through purchasing a membership, and may choose to further support the Association by engaging as a volunteer and/or participant in one of our many offerings.

SACA generates the funds to support operations and initiatives through membership dues, grants, sponsorships, program registrations and facility rentals. Membership of our Association has seen a steady decline since our peak in 2012. Amid the Pandemic, and the resulting limits to our other revenue streams, community support through purchasing a membership is vital. If you don't have a membership or your membership has expired, please consider renewing. Please also talk to your Scenic Acres friends and neighbours and ask them to support us by being members. At only \$30 per family or couple or \$15 per individual for a one year membership, these contributions collectively go a long way to maintaining the viability of SACA and our community.

2019 Highlights

Community Development: Colin Yeo our Community Development Director oversees the community response to development permits, residential construction projects, traffic and parking initiatives and issues. Colin is supported by Community Development Committee Members Bill and Dean. Throughout 2019, Colin and his team were regularly involved with Revera and Chandos, their General Contractor as construction on The Scenic Grande commenced. They were consulted on the Stoney Trail and Crowchild Trail construction projects and City planning policies. They initiated the safety measures and street parking revisions implemented around École du Nouveau Monde, Monsignor Doyle and the Community Centre. In addition, they facilitated resident feedback related to development permit applications which typically involve secondary suites, structural relaxations on properties, home-based businesses.

Parks & Environment: The Parks & Environment portfolio consists of oversight of the LEAF program, forestry program and any other environmental initiatives and programs. Colin Yeo is SACA's Director for Parks & Environment. In 2019, in consultation with Colin and the City's Urban Forestry team, a number of new trees were planted in the community. The next round of planting will occur in 2021. The LEAF program is very well managed by our volunteer LEAF Committee of Barb, Colin, Darryl, Julie, Ike, Lorna, Ricki and Simone. In 2019, the LEAF program continued to enhance our community with winter displays as well as turf maintenance, shrubbery clean up and the planting of flowers in both planters and a growing number of in-grounds flower beds. Major projects included improvements along Scenic Acres Link and the start of "the Fort" park rejuvenation, located west of the tennis courts.

Facilities: SACA owns the Community Centre and adjacent structures like the Beach Volleyball Courts and advocates for other structures and facilities like community playgrounds. Mike Fursier supports maintenance and capital projects related to these facilities and works closely with our General Manager Ruth Sorrentino. In 2019 the Beach Volleyball Courts were renovated with a new drainage system and new sand. This project was funded through Provincial and City Grants.

Sports and Affiliates: The Sports and Affiliates portfolio held by Keely Willment involves working with various sports organizations providing programs to our community. Keely represents Scenic Acres on the Crowchild Hockey Association Board, a member of the Northwest Warriors, and when needed, supports SACA's own sports programs, Women's Soccer, Adult Slo-Pitch, Beach Volleyball and Norwest Soccer, a joint program with the Silver Springs CA.

Community Engagement: This new portfolio held in 2019 by Janalee Morris, was created to organize and execute low cost community building events and encourage participation in our Association. Events in 2019 included the Green Thumb Awards and the Holiday Cheer Awards.

Communications: Our General Manager Ruth edits our monthly Scenic Review Newsletter, manages our website as well as our social media presence. The President and other Directors routinely used these platforms to keep the community informed and elicit feedback throughout 2019.

Secretary: In 2019, Suzanne Greco held the role of the Secretary. Suzanne took the minutes of board minutes and maintained the action registry and board agenda rhythm. The Secretary is also an Executive Committee member with signing authority, playing a role in authorizing the appropriate expenditure of SACA funds.

Treasurer: Katherine Hawkins continued in the Treasurer role in 2019 and in addition to overseeing the Association's financial activities, designed the transitioning of SACA into the 21st Century as we moved to a paperless, cloud-based accounting system. SACA also moved our banking activities to Servus Credit Union, significantly lowering our fees while increasing revenues with better interest rates on deposits.

President, Vice President: Jim Palmer as President and Ike Zacharopoulos as Vice President, support the work of all Directors and Staff, while liaising with entities beyond our community like The Federation of Calgary Communities, the Office of Councillor Sutherland and representatives in other levels of government. In 2019, the President facilitated the provincial and federal candidate forums, participated in celebrations at École du Nouveau Monde and engaged with other CA's on bylaws and other governance matters as well as community development issues. The Vice President chaired the LEAF Committee and coordinated our Community Pathway Cleanup in May; a big thank you to the volunteer group who blanketed the community public spaces to gather a large amount of debris.

Vacancies: There were vacancies in the roles of Marketing & Communications and Affiliates. Plans in these areas could not be completed, with mandatory work assimilated by other members of the Board and the GM.

YOUR Contribution: The SACA Board is open to support initiatives benefiting Scenic Acres. We welcome individuals willing to go beyond coming up with an idea, by determining how to plan, resource and execute them. Depending on the nature of the initiative, an individual could join the Board or be a change agent within a new committee.

General Manager (Non-Board position): The community centre has continued to be a physical hub in Scenic Acres and host to multiple services, programs and events. SACA has grown its presence as a virtual hub for sharing pertinent information on issues impacting our community while also being a source for education and information about other services available to residents of Scenic Acres. In 2019, our General Manager Ruth continued to be supported by a dedicated office team of Julie, Pat, Amber and Amanda as well as countless volunteers. Most notably: Brodie (Adult Slo-Pitch), Fiona (Women's Soccer), Dino and Steve (Norwest Soccer); Kathleen (Walking Group), Katharine (Artists Gathering), Jeri (Ladies Social Coffee Craft Club and Quilting Group), Barb and Nancy (Book Club), Claire (Single Ladies) as well as the 200+ volunteers who gave of their time at events like our Stampede Breakfast. Ruth also supported neighbourhood initiated projects such as the Schooner Playground Re-Development lead by Cindy and her fellow committee members.

2020 Update

The SACA Board and GM have met frequently in 2020 in an effort to balance the needs of the community, adhering to Public Health orders and guidelines, while maintaining the viability of SACA. The Board procured the services of the law firm MyProfessionals to review our insurance, provide guidance on legal exposure, revise our waivers and rental agreement and give guidance in all operational matters. Many thanks to the Board during this time for meeting frequently to work through detailed decision-making, and especially to Ruth for staying on top of changing orders and guidelines while developing robust policies and procedures to ensure our safe operations. We hope you will join us in April 2021, when we provide more details on what we achieved in 2020.

As we prepare to host our delayed and now Virtual 2019 AGM, I invite you to ask questions and inquire about how you can become involved to support our association. If you have not yet registered to attend the AGM, please visit: <https://volunteersignup.org/L4DED>. Please encourage your Scenic Acres friends and neighbours to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Palmer, President SACA