

Notice by Motion – 2026 AGM – Riverview Community Centre

Proposed Bylaw Changes – 2.3 and 7.1

Bylaw Changes 2.3 Elected Board Members:

Present Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
<p>2.3 Elected Board Members (9):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities and Grounds Director • Renovations and Grants Director • Events Director • Neighborhood Group Liaison Director • Member at Large • Member at Large • Member at Large • Member at Large • Member at Large 	<p>2.3 Elected Board Members (9):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities and Grounds Director • Renovations and Grants Director • Events and Fundraising Director -1 • Events and Fundraising Director -2 • Neighborhood Group Liaison Director • Member at Large 1 • Member at Large 2 • Member at Large 3 • Member at Large 4 • Member at Large 5

Bylaw Changes to Terms of Office Article 7:

Present Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
<p>7.1 Each director shall be elected for a one-year term. At each Annual General Meeting all directors on the incumbent board shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.</p>	<p>7.1 Each elected member serves a two-year term.</p> <p>Elections are staggered as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Facilities/Grounds • Secretary • Events/Fundraising 1 • Member at Large 4 • Member at Large 5 • Odd years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice President • Treasurer • Renovations and Grants Director • Events/Fundraising 2 • Member at Large 1 • Member at Large 2 • Member at Large 3 <p>Election of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the Centre</p>

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 7.1: Staggered Elections

Subject: Transitioning to a Two-Year, Staggered Board Term

Rationale

The current system of electing the entire board for a single one-year term, while common, presents several challenges that hinder the long-term effectiveness and strategic growth of our Centre. This bylaw change is a proactive measure to build a stronger, more resilient organization. The rationale is based on four key pillars: Continuity, Capacity, Consistency, and Institutional Memory.

1. Continuity of Projects and Strategic Direction

Under the current system, the entire board turns over (or stands for re-election) at the same time every year. This creates a "cliff" effect, where momentum on long-term projects can be lost. Major initiatives, such as capital campaigns, grant-funded renovations, or strategic planning, often take longer than 12 months to complete.

Benefit of Change: By moving to two-year terms, directors will have a realistic timeframe to see projects through conception to completion. Staggering the elections ensures that even in a year with significant turnover, a core group of experienced directors remains in place to provide institutional knowledge and guide new members. This prevents the board from having to "start from scratch" every January.

2. Capacity Building and Governance Expertise

Serving on a non-profit board involves a significant learning curve. It often takes new directors six months to a year to fully understand their roles, the organization's finances, and the complexities of our operations. A one-year term means that just as a director becomes highly effective, they are facing re-election or preparing to step down.

Benefit of Change: A two-year term allows directors to move beyond the initial learning phase and spend their second year operating at maximum capacity, contributing meaningfully to governance and oversight. It encourages a focus on governance rather than just administrative tasks.

3. Consistency in Board Operations

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a time for celebrating achievements and welcoming new leadership. However, when an entirely new board is seated, it can lead to inconsistencies in the application of policies, financial oversight, and operational procedures. The first few months of the new term are often spent re-establishing norms.

Benefit of Change: Staggered terms create a stable, consistent board environment. Having experienced directors present each year, the board's operations, from financial controls to

meeting procedures, remain steady and reliable. This also provides a built-in mentorship dynamic, where returning directors can informally guide newly elected members.

4. Preserving Institutional Memory

In a volunteer-driven organization, "corporate memory"—the knowledge of why past decisions were made, the history of partnerships, and the lessons learned from past events, is easily lost. An annual complete turnover of the board puts the Centre at risk of repeating past mistakes or losing valuable community connections.

Benefit of Change: Staggered two-year terms ensure that a portion of the board always has a long-term view of the organization. This preserves our history and provides context for current decision-making.

Conclusion

This amendment is about strengthening the governance structure of our Centre. By adopting two-year, staggered terms, we invest in the stability and long-term success of our organization. We ensure that every AGM is a moment of positive transition and renewal, rather than a potential disruption. This change will allow us to govern more effectively, serve our community better, and achieve our long-term vision.