



# Waskesiu Community Association Inc.

Annual General Meeting  
TERRACE GARDENS  
July 23, 2023

## MEETING MINUTES

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### 2023 Councillors – Waskesiu Community Council

Jim Kerby, Council Chair  
*Cottage Owners Representative*

Rob Phillips, Vice Chair  
*Cabin Owners Representative*

Bentley Crozier  
*Member at Large*

Linda Lavallee  
*Business Owners Representative*

Jacqueline Archer  
*Permanent Residents Representative*

Bob Cyr  
*Member at Large*

Jennifer Wood, Treasurer & Secretary  
*Member at Large*

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**Attending:** There were 150 members of the Waskesiu Community Association Inc. in attendance at the meeting.

**1. Call to Order & Welcome** - I am pleased to call the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Waskesiu Community Council to Order. Welcome everyone - my name is Jim Kerby. I am honored to be the Chair of the Waskesiu Community Council, and I will be acting as the Chair of today's meeting. All of the meeting materials for today's meeting have been for a number of weeks now - and still are - available on Waskesiu.org. Hard copies were also printed for the meeting and made available at the door.

**2. Land Acknowledgement** - On behalf of the Waskesiu community we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this special place, and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

### 3. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda for the 2023 AGM

#### Proposed Motion:

*“That the Agenda for this 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Meeting, be approved and adopted.”*

**Todd Peterson/Lisa Johnson**

**Carried**

#### 4. Brief Introduction of 2023 Waskesiu Community Council Members & Administrator

- Thank you to everyone who took the time to be with us here today - I can assure you that it is greatly appreciated.
- A special thank you to Noreen Matthews - our Council Administrator. Noreen plays a key role in keeping Council organized, and on track, and she was once again instrumental in pulling everything together for this meeting. Bravo Noreen!
- Thanks to all our Councillors - they are a diverse and talented group of people who are committed to the community - and passionate about Waskesiu and Prince Albert National Park.

Before making some very brief introductions, I wanted to mention that Councillor Linda Lavallee, who serves as the Business Owner's Representative on Council, is out of the province right now and unable to be with us today. At this time last year Linda was fighting the significant effects of a very serious and highly debilitating stroke. I am extremely pleased to advise you that Linda, with rehabilitation and hard work, and the support of her family including her husband Patrick, has made an excellent recovery. She's back at her Cree Nisga store making amazing indigenous clothing and, most importantly, she's nearly back to 100% health. We are very happy for, and very proud of, Linda's accomplishments.

Your Community Council is comprised of a total of 7 members - and six of them are with us today:

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| • Rob Phillips, Council Vice Chair<br><i>Cabin Owners Representative</i> | Bentley Crozier<br><i>Member at Large</i>                         |
| • Jacqueline Archer<br><i>Permanent Residents Representative</i>         | Jennifer Wood, Secretary/Treasurer<br><i>Member at Large</i>      |
| • Bob Cyr - our newest Councillor<br><i>Member at Large</i>              | Jim Kerby - Council Chair<br><i>Cottage Owners Representative</i> |

As always, we now have some procedural matters to get through on our Agenda - hopefully very quickly - after which there will be the Chair's report, followed by a Q&A session with Council, and a special presentation.

- After this meeting, there is a Q&A session scheduled from 10-11 am at which Parks Canada Agency representatives will provide a brief presentation and then answer questions that have been submitted in advance. Time permitting, they may be able to take some questions from the floor as well.
- From 11 until noon this morning will be the annual general meeting of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association.
- After that WSRA meeting, please remember to support the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department fundraising BBQ - it's just outside - and if you present the ticket that you received upon registration for this meeting you will get a drink, and a burger or hot dog, for just a Toonie!

- Now for the procedural matters!

## 5. Adoption of the 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

### **Proposed Motion:**

*“That the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”*

***Don Johnson/Linda King***

***Carried***

## 6. Financial Reporting (Treasurer, Jennifer Wood)

### **• Presentation and Adoption of the 2022/2023 Financial Statements of the Corporation:**

#### **Proposed Motion:**

*“That the Financial Statements for the most recent fiscal year of the Corporation, in the form prepared by Virtus Group LLP and presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”*

***Grit McCreath/Maxine Beck***

***Carried***

### **• Waiver of Appointment of Auditor / Appointment of Virtus Group LLP to prepare Review Engagement Financial Statements:**

#### **Proposed Motion:**

*“That the Corporation dispense with the appointment of an auditor for the current fiscal year and appoint Virtus Group LLP to prepare the Corporation's financial statements for the current fiscal year on a review engagement basis, with Virtus Group LLP's remuneration to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.”*

***Rob Oswald/Rob Phillips***

***Carried***

## 7. Chair's Year-End Report & Waskesiu Vision 2028 Community Action Plan - Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby

The last 12 months have, once again, been very busy for your Community Council. As such, I want to start by sincerely thanking all my Council colleagues for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Waskesiu community. Some of our accomplishments include the following:

- (1) updating the Waskesiu Vision 2028 Community Action Plan - working in conjunction with Parks Canada Agency and all of the key stakeholder groups in Waskesiu.
- (2) starting to advance the Vision 2028 reconciliation initiative, including:
  - (1) Indigenous awareness training,

- (2) formally adopting a Land Acknowledgment for Waskesiu - to acknowledge and pay our respects to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this special place,
- (3) supporting, in conjunction with PCA and the WRA, the introduction of the Treaty 6 and Metis flags in our Canada Day parade,
- (4) attending - for the first time ever - the Indigenous Forum recently hosted by Parks Canada. Our special thanks to Councillor Crozier and Councillor Cyr for their efforts in that regard and to Parks Canada for inviting us.
- (3) meeting last fall with our local Member of Parliament, Mr. Gary Vidal.
- (4) completing, in conjunction with PCA and the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association, the new “Keep the Rubber off the Road” initiative in the cabin areas (i.e., in Parcel X - better known as Bluebird to Pelican).
- (5) providing ongoing input into development of other parking initiatives in portions of the Waskesiu townsite.
- (6) working with PCA to help promote measures that (appear) to have addressed some flooding issues in the townsite, particularly near the four-way stop as you enter Waskesiu,
- (7) provided financial support to the Waskesiu Foundation and the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce,
- (8) effectively using a new Emergency and Emerging Issues Communications Protocol that was jointly developed with Parks Canada Agency for urgent and emerging issues affecting the townsite.
- (9) working with Parks Canada and the WSRA to successfully develop key messaging for the community in relation to (A) emergency rescue of people in life threatening situations and (B) the retrieval of watercraft in non-life threatening situations.
- (10) advancing the development of communications and messaging regarding serious weather events affecting the community.
- (11) considered and recommended the 2023 water, sewer, and garbage fees to be charged to businesses and seasonal residents.
- (12) considered other townsite issues that include drinking water quality, improved waste management, and the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department.
- (13) worked to address concerns of residents regarding tree removal in the Waskesiu townsite, and encouraging PCA to develop clear, and reasonable, policies associated with tree removal and replacement.
- (14) continued to press Parks Canada to address the lack of school bus services for permanent residents of the Waskesiu townsite - an issue affecting young families, and the successful recruitment of potential Park and other employees with school age children.
- (15) worked diligently with the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association to provide input to Parks Canada (national office) regarding the proposed Land Use Regulations that will likely come into effect in Waskesiu, and all National Park townsites across the country, in 2024.
- (16) drafting, in conjunction with PANP and WSRA representatives, the initial version of the Cottage Development Guidelines for the Waskesiu townsite - which Guidelines will be needed immediately upon the new (national) Land Use Regulations come into effect.

I also want to emphasize the importance of our Waskesiu “Vision 2028” strategic planning process - a Council led initiative advanced in conjunction with Parks Canada Agency along with input from all the

key stakeholder groups in Waskesiu. The resulting “Implementation Strategy” (called the Community Action Plan) was excellent. I urge you to take the time to read this important document - which I commend to you - that looks to our collective future. As reported last year, the latest iteration of the Community Action Plan is designed to culminate in a celebration of Waskesiu in 2028 - marking the 100th anniversary of the official opening of the Park back in August of 1928. The Community Action Plan can be found on [waskesiu.org](http://waskesiu.org).

Looking forward this summer, I want to commend three initiatives for you to consider.

- First - the Waskesiu Foundation announced this week an exciting event involving an iconic Canadian musician - Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo fame - who will be performing on August 24th at the Twin Pine Theatre in Waskesiu. Jim will be accompanied by the very talented violinist Anne Lindsay, and a guitarist - performing together as the Jim Cuddy Trio. The proceeds from all ticket sales will go towards the refurbishment of the trail between Kapasiwin bungalows and the townsite. In addition to buying tickets, event sponsorships are available, as are “no show tickets” - and if you want to help the trail refurbishment project you also have the option to donate directly to that specific project to the Waskesiu Foundation - i.e., by designating your funds be used for that specific project. There are Jim Cuddy Trio posters in this hall for your information, and you can visit [waskesiufoundation.ca](http://waskesiufoundation.ca) for more information. This event would not have been possible but for the significant generosity of Jennifer Wood & Jake Burlet of Kapasiwin Bungalows, and generous donations of Rob and Diane Philips. Our sincere thanks to all of them! Fair warning. There are only 300 seats in the Theatre - and in just 3 1/2 days over 180 have already been sold. Don’t miss out on this opportunity - and if you do, please don’t say that you weren’t warned!
- Second, I also want to promote the Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival - August 25th to 27th. The Lakeside Festival requires 100s and 100s of volunteer hours and has become the townsite’s biggest annual event - so please volunteer if you can, and please plan to attend with your family and friends. The festival is again free to attend. You can support the festival by donating to the Waskesiu Foundation, by buying festival branded merchandise and - if you’re willing and interested - by attending the Original 16 beer gardens on Saturday. Details are available on [waskesiu.org](http://waskesiu.org), at [lakesidefestival.ca](http://lakesidefestival.ca), and at the Waskesiu Recreation Association’s office on Montreal Drive near the tennis courts.
- Last, but not least, the Waskesiu Foundation is getting very close to hitting its fundraising goal for the new Narrows playground project which, with your help, can become a reality by this fall. Information and the opportunity to make online donations is available at [waskesiufoundation.ca](http://waskesiufoundation.ca). - and Derwin Arnstead is here today and can answer any questions you may have.

## **8. Question and Answer Session (for Community Council)**

This is your opportunity to ask your Community Council any questions you want, so we are going to open up the floor for that purpose right now. If we can answer your question today, we will, and if not, we promise to get back to you.

### **Member Questions from the Floor**

*Member Question:* While visiting Riding Mountain Park, we saw they have many, many picnic tables throughout the park. Waskesiu does not have enough picnic tables; we noticed in the park here that there were large families that had no picnic tables and had to sit on the grass. Can we get more picnic tables in Waskesiu?

*Council Response:* Please speak to Parks Canada at their Q & A session about this request.

*Member Question & Comment:* Could you consider re-opening the freight trail? We need equal access for those with mobility challenges, with so many ineffective sidewalks, it makes it difficult.

*Council Response:* This is a townsite asset question, and we would ask that you please raise this during the Parks Canada Q & A session.

*Member Question:* Matt Baraniecki, representing the residents in the cabin area around his cabin on Dove Street, asked to speak on an issue of a cabin owner doing constant and on-going renovations for at least the past 2 years. This cabin owner is also violating construction waste removal rules. Are there any bylaws to prevent this. Matt would like some follow up regarding this matter.

*Council Response:* The violations should be reported to the Park Administration office. This matter should also be raised with Parks Canada directly, or during their upcoming Q & A session.

### **9. Special Presentation to Karyn Steinke of KPS Medic Ltd.**

I would like to ask two people to come forward at this time for a special presentation - Karyn Steinke from KPS Medic Ltd. - who we are proud to recognize this morning - and Mr. Kevin Ferrie of Parks Canada - who will, I suspect, be saying some very kind words about Karyn and her team.

Council was advised recently that KPS Medic Ltd., which is owned by Karyn, is entering its 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive contract year providing emergency medical services to PANP, and especially to the residents of Waskesiu.

We want to take the opportunity today to recognize Karyn's contributions and thank her and her team. I have had the pleasure of working with Karyn as part of the Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival for quite a few years now, an important community event where Karyn and the KPS Medic team generously donate their entire day providing EMS services for visitors to - and residents of - Waskesiu. I also know, without naming any names, that there are people present here today - some of them sitting at this table - who have needed Karyn's medical help and were very, very appreciative it was available.

Kevin Ferrie - from Parks Canada Agency - is a long time member of the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department. Kevin has worked with Karyn and her employees for the full 20 years KPS Medic has been operating in Waskesiu - and he has supervised the KPS team for 10+ years. He will now take a couple of minutes to share with you his thoughts about Karyn and the KPS team - over to you Kevin.

Kevin's comments:

- There has not been a single missed shift for any reason during this period.
- Karyn and her staff *have saved lives!* Whether by quick administration of IV's and drugs, by quickly recognizing heart attacks and strokes as they are occurring, or by insisting people go in by ambulance when they were in denial about the potential seriousness of an injury or illness, or by insisting on STARS transport on a couple of occasions.
- She and her staff have been complemented on their sincere caring nature, support of a patient's family members, and being involved in the community as she donates her KPS Medic's services to the Waskesiu Music Festival each year.
- We have not received a single complaint about their performance – ever!

Thank you, Kevin. Karyn, on behalf of the Waskesiu community - we are very pleased to present you with this gift (a Jason Bantle framed photo) as a lasting memory of Waskesiu and a token of our appreciation for your success, your dedication, commitment, and contributions to Waskesiu, and your excellent work here. Thank you once again - and sincere congratulations!

### **10. Final Announcements and Adjournment**

After the conclusion of this meeting, please stay for a presentation by, and a Question and Answer session with, representatives of Parks Canada Agency - including our new Acting PANP Field Unit Superintendent Carmen Hancock and Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten.

Before I call for a Motion to adjourn, just a final reminder to please support the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department fundraising BBQ - it's going to be held just outside this building on Lakeview Drive right after the WSRA annual meeting.

If you present your ticket that you received upon registration for this meeting you will get a burger or hot dog, and a drink, for just a Toonie!

**Adjournment**

**10:10 a.m.**

*Sheila Gagne*

*Carried*