Minutes of Lodge Meeting – Thursday, 11th September 2025

- The general meeting of the Perth Elks Lodge # 362 was held on Thursday, 11th September at 6:00 pm with Past ER Les Smith presiding.

- Opening ceremony was conducted.

- Les asked if there were any omissions or corrections of the Minutes from 14th August 2025. There being none, Gary Grant MOVED and Alta Street SECONDED the motion to accept. MOTION CARRIED.

- Treasurers Report – Gary Grant stated that our Scotia Bank account is currently strong with all monthly bills paid. A MOTION TO ACCEPT the treasurer's report was made by Ron Gaunce. SECONDED by Paul Kinney. MOTION CARRIED.

- Committee Reports

  A. Strategic
  Al McPhail addressed the two motions brought forward by the Strategic Planning Committee. He stated that the Lodge has to move in a new direction, to modernize while maintaining our traditional values of service to community. In order for the Lodge to attract new and younger members we need to adjust to the 21st century and how we present ourselves.
  a) Motion 1 – Al MOVED "With the support and upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, that the Lodge abandon the use of honorific titles for the Chair Officers such as Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Loyal Knight and Lecturing Knight, Esquire, in favour of modern titles such as President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President and 3rd Vice President, and Sergent-at-Arms. Such change to become effective immediately following the 11th September General Meeting." The motion was SECONDED by Shawn Dennett. Al stated that these changes are authorized the Elks of Canada By-laws. Ron Gaunce expressed no objection, however questioned whether there would be a change to the Executive and would Elks garb be shunned. Al confirmed the only change would be title, with no change to the existing Executive or the right to wear traditional clothing. Paul Kinney questioned whether the Lodge would remain under the Elks of Canada? Al affirmed that this motion does not result in a separation form the Elks of Canada. Mark Johnson addressed the traditionalist attitude, stating the Lodge is bound by the National Constitution. However, over the years change has helped the Elks and our Lodge. He reminded those present of the addition of women and those who have served as Exalted Ruler. He also stated how dress has gone from wearing suits and the fez at meetings to casual. There being no more discussion the MOTION WAS CARRIED.
  b) Motion 2 – Al MOVED "With the support and upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, that the Lodge discontinue the use of all ritual and ceremony which, in accordance with the Elks of Canada By-laws and Regulations, is optional. This would include the Initiation Ceremony. Such change to become effective immediately following the 11 September General Meeting." Gary Grant questioned the Initiation Ceremony. Al stated that new members would still be sworn in, however the Initiation ceremony must be modernized with a new oath / affirmation. Ron Gaunce questioned whether the motion was too vague and should be split to address initiation and ceremony separately. Shawn Dennett stated, as new members he and Janet questioned joining due to the word initiation and the fear

of the unknown. Mark Johnson questioned whether the motion meets the conditions laid out in the National Constitution? Diane Hatheway questioned whether the Lodge would remain a Lodge of the Elks of Canada or an independent social club? Al ensured all that we will continue under the umbrella of the Elks of Canada. Mark Johnson MOVED this vote be tabled until the next General Meeting, allowing for more research. SECONDED by Ron Gaunce. Burpee Wagner recommended drafting a new Initiation Ceremony to be presented at that time. Ron Gaunce wanted to ensure that Parliamentary Procedures were followed. Anthony Davidson requested that all votes be recorded. Les Smith recommended a return to previous procedures with a secure vote. Following discussion Motion 2 was tabled until 9 October Yea – 22 / Nay – 2.

B. Finance

Al McPhail summarized the budget for FY 25/26 as approved by the Executive. The Lodge is predicted to have a good year. Fundraising is up while bar sales are down. There being no questions or comments, a MOTION TO ACCEPT the budget for FY 25/26 was made by Mark Johnson, SECONDED by Jim Hatheway. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Membership

I. Janet Gee highlighted the breakdown of fund distribution from our membership dues. She stated that it has been a number of years since we had an increase and that there is a requirement to increase the Dues, so the Lodge does not have to dip into our revenue to cover the two outgoing fees. Mark Johnson stated that a Notice of Motion to increase the Membership Dues must be sent out to all members before a vote can be called. Janet MOVED that a Notice of Motion be drafted and presented to all Lodge members with the intent to vote on increase of Membership Dues at the October General Meeting. SECONDED by Anthony Davidson. MOTION CARRIED.

II. Jed informed the Lodge of two new membership requests. Ron Gaunce MOTIONED to vote on these membership collectively. SECONDED by Paul Kinney. MOTION CARRIED. Ron Dube spoke on behalf of Paula Cyr, and Al McPhail spoke on behalf of Chase Cote. Ron Gaunce MOVED TO ACCEPT the new members. SECONDED by Paul Kinney. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Management

1) Building

a) Paul Kinney acknowledged the arrival of the new chairs.

b) He reported that the siding for the south side covered walkway would be ordered shortly and installed by the end of September.

c) Paul stated that he had a company lined up to drill the holes for the bollards to begin the following week.

2) Bar – Ron Dube stated the bar had a good August.

E. Entertainment

The Thanksgiving supper scheduled for 11th October is a private function.

- Charities

Gary Grant stated there was nothing to report.

- Wellness – Jed reported that the following was sent to members:

1. Bob Lafrance – a thinking of you and gift card during his treatments
2. Murry Dunster – a sympathy card for the passing of his mother
3. Ron Dube – a get well soon card was sent for his eye surgery

Bob Lafrance thanked the Lodge for the card and gift card he received in Aug

- New or Unfinished Business
  Les Smith questioned the delay in producing the plaque for donation made by Ron Grant for the construction of the new deck and ramp. Jed offered to draft the appreciation of his contribution so the plaque can be ordered and installed.

  THIS RAMP IS DEDICATED TO
  RON GRANT
  IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
  CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROJECT
  AND A VALUED MEMBER OF THE PERTH ELKS

- Correspondence
  Jed Lockyer received one thank you card from Bob LaFrance and Darlene Morton.

- Good of the Order
  I. A call for volunteers to make sandwiches for the Sept Meeting was made. Volunteers will be reminded before the meeting.
  II. Jed Lockyer stated that tickets on a maple cutting board will be sold at all functions held in the Lodge from now until the final Christmas supper. The draw will be held the following day. All proceeds will go to support the Make a Difference Foodbank.

NOTE: Confirm next Lodge Meeting – Thursday, 9th October, 2025

Fraternally yours.

Jed Lockyer, Secretary