

**Grimshaw Regional Health Care Attraction and Retention  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

**M.D. of Peace 135**

Lori Kinnee, Councillor

**Town of Grimshaw**

Stacey Messner, Deputy Mayor, Chairperson GRHARC

Wendy Wald, Mayor

Brian Allen, CAO

**Village of Berwyn**

No representation

**County of Northern Lights**

Brenda Yasinski, Councillor - Vía Zoom

**Alberta Health Services**

No representation

**RhPAP Consultant**

Holly Handfield

**Lac Cardinal Economic Development**

Misty Velichka

**Members at Large**

Charlene Cavers

**Physicians**

No representation

1. **Call to order:** Stacey Messner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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2. **Additions/changes and approval of agenda:** Wendy Wald moved to adopt the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

3. **Review Meeting Minutes:** Brenda Yasinski moved to adopt the meeting minutes from December 11, 2023. **CARRIED**

## 4. Old Business

- Farewell dinner for Dr. Louw and Dr. De Kock – March 25, 2024: Ticket sales have been good so far, (sold in advance only, not available at the door). Last day for ticket sales will be March 22 ending at 4 p.m. The GPS grade 12 students will be helping with set up and tear down. Set up will begin at 3:30 p.m. the day of the event and anyone from the committee that can assist would be appreciated. Library staff will be assisting with decorating the atrium. Anne Vos is making 2 prints to be presented as gifts to each doctor. Collette Robinson will be playing the piano. Doors open at 6, dinner will be served at 6:30 and the program of recognition will commence at 7:30 p.m. Stacey Messner will be M.C. for the event and Mayor Wald will bring greetings from the town. Food bank donations will be accepted at the event.

## 5. New Business

- Rural Remote Medicine Conference – Edmonton April 18-20: Alberta Medical Affairs and RhPAP will both have reps attending this event. As this is a very expensive conference it was decided that our committee will not attend, especially on such short notice, and it requires quite a commitment from our committee. The attraction and retention committee in Fairview is attending so we would be interested in hearing their feedback to be shared with our committee.

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- Invitation to Regional Healthcare Attraction & Retention Committee Meeting – April 23, 2024: Committees from Fairview, Smoky River, Manning, Grimshaw and Peace River have all been invited to attend this regional meeting via ZOOM on April 23 at 7 p.m. Stacey will send out the meeting link and agenda to all committee members. Agenda items will include: an overview of attraction/retention initiatives from each committee, housing/accommodation, and regional promotion strategies. There is a possibility of a future annual chairs meeting depending on interest.
- Regional Community Promotion – Lac Cardinal Economic Development: Ec. Dev. Is partnering with White Lightning to produce a video showcasing our region which will feature: recreation, schools, businesses, and the people in our communities. This video should be completed by the beginning of June and will be linked to the Mighty Peace Tourism website. This initiative will help promote our community, so potential hires know the services we have.
- Grimshaw Chamber Business & Recruitment Expo – April 26&27, 2024: Like last year the committee will share a space with the Town of Grimshaw to expose the work of our committee to the community. Stacey will send out a schedule and sign-up sheet for members to fill 2-hour shifts over the 2 days of the expo. It was discussed that we should ask visitors to our booth: “What makes Grimshaw a welcoming community?” as this was one of the Top 3 items (collected by RhPAP in a past survey) that were important to healthcare professionals when considering working and moving to rural communities.
- RhPAP Northwest Polytechnic – Nurses Presentation – May 23, 2024: Holly will be making a presentation to the Licensed Practical Nursing program regarding the services that RhPAP offers. Stacey and Tara

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will make a presentation on our community, and AHS will speak on nursing vacancies in our area.

- Alberta Rural Healthcare Week – May 27-31, 2024: Discussion was held regarding what sort of recognition would be made to healthcare providers during Rural Healthcare Week. Ideas ranged from a pancake breakfast to a BBQ lunch, to providing gift baskets. It was decided that Brenda and Lori would organize the delivery of gift baskets to 10 locations with a budget of \$800.

## 6. AHS Recruitment Update

- Physicians: The 2 doctor positions for Grimshaw are posted on the AHS website, and Susan Smith is pre-screening applicants. Information on the schools in Grimshaw was provided to a potential candidate.
- Nurses Update: An international Registered Nurse is coming to Grimshaw in April. AHS has secured rental accommodation, but the nurse will require furniture and household items. Stacey will reach out to the Nurse to schedule a zoom call to find out more information and share with the committee of what we need to do to welcome them to our community.

## 7. RhPAP Update – Holly Handfield

- Holly provided updates to the committee regarding the Alberta Chronic Pain Program, Rural Development Network, Alberta Rural Health Week May 27-31, The upcoming RhPAP Conference in Wainwright, October 8-10, 2024, and the Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience (RESIDE). A complete list of RhPAP updates by Holly at our meeting can be found in the attached document to the email.

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## 8. Round Table

- **Misty:** Nothing to add.
- **Wendy:** Concerned about lack of attendance of committee members and CAO's at committee meetings. With the CoNL CAO, Theresa Van Oort retiring, it was suggested that we send a card on behalf of the committee to acknowledge Theresa's past contributions.
- **Charlene:** Nothing to add.
- **Lori:** Neighbouring municipalities positive comments on the upcoming Doctor's Farewell event.
- **Brenda:** Nothing to add.
- **Brian:** Nothing to add.
- **Stacey:** This committee has been a good one to work with and I am very pleased with the support that is provided by all those who attend. We have been doing a lot the past 3 years as a committee; however, the administration and event planning is starting to take a toll on me. I will be reviewing the Terms of Reference and contacting committee members to figure out how we can best manage the workload moving forward and what can be done to improve attendance.

9. **Next Meeting:** June 10, 2024

10. **Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.