

Sumas First Nation Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 4, 2017 (6:00pm-7:00pm)

SFN Community Hall

Attendance: Josephine Kelly, Barb Silver, Trudy Watson, Alyssa Villeneuve, Cheyanne Trumble, Cathy Ned, Melvin Williams, Luwana Williams, Jackie Bird, Beatrice Silver, Ruth Isaac, Tonya Austin, Allan Shultz, Tara Smith, Dianna Herrling, Lester Ned Sr, Lester Ned Jr, Murray Ned, Dalton Silver,

Staff: Stephen McGlenn,

Guest: Anja Brown

Chairperson: Tyrone McNeil

Recorder: Lori Kelly

Dinner Prayer/Dinner: Ruth Isaac 5:28pm

Meeting Began at: 6:03pm

Introduction and ground rules: Tyrone McNeil

Opening Remarks on Elections Code from Murray Ned: Thank everyone for coming out. This community bulletin was publicized, on website, Facebook, and hand delivered door to door and postage for mail outs. Apologize for not making dinner. Chronology of events come from council, Lori and Anja Brown. Alter and amend the election code, bring to community to review and make suggestions. Corbiere and Thompson are two other cases similar to SFN. Last meeting there was a suggestion to make a community committee but we have not started one, we would still like to create one. Short term goal is to comply with Corbiere and long term is making additional amendments

Facilitator: Acknowledging (Dalton) Siyam. Turning over the floor to Anja Brown, raise hand for a question, write it down and pass to Lori after the community.

Review SFN Election Code Amendments from Anja Brown: Thank you for inviting me to your territory. What needs to be changed are the parts of the rules that restrict the ability to vote and run in Stó:lō territory. Please don't hesitate to ask a question and will do best to answer and will rephrase for clarity. Election regulation were passed in 1998. Under the Indian act, or custom rules (community rules) most

community have rules written down. Passed in 98 passed with a vote from SFN members. Court cases have occurred Corbiere passed through Indian act election another case was Leqemel Thompson case, very similar to SFN rules. Restricted people who live outside of Sto:lo territory. Another case was Esquega, couldn't run for chief if lived off reserve. Rules for Sumas currently: elector (appendix one) in the draft it is proposed recommended changes that's why it says draft.

Questions and Answer Period

Membership Question: Is this generic (Election Code Amendment? Is this similar to other communities?

Guest: it is possible they are same.

Membership Question: How long do changes take?

Facilitor: Once you go through process it is approved. It is the administer who approves amendments with court decisions. Sumas rules: ministry does not have any roles in approving on amendments. Once a community has passed it own rules they are passed. Chief and council have explained the focus right now is on the residency part because it can be decided every easily. Counsel recommends amending resident restriction, and once passed according to policy then can take time needed to make additional changes according to governance.

Membership Question: So if a member wants something changed out of regulations?

Guest: band member

Membership Question: The band has to vote by this and it is permanent?

Councilor Ned: 1998 Valerie Sam was doing election. INAC trying to dissolve their responsibly and that's when Valerie approached community. These are living documents.

Membership Question: once members say go ahead with the amendments is that it?

Guest: Right now the way the rules are set up council cannot bring forward amendments. Members vote on membership called an extraordinary meeting.pg5 comments, question to SFN and Chief and Council. It is possible to do live by skype or conference calls.

Guest: 12.3 this time line will need to be increased to allow for mail-out and return of off reserve ballots.

Amending division, currently only way members can bring forward, they need 30% of signatures (may be challenging. One way to make amendments is for council to bring forward to the people. If you're amending your rules in the future how should it be? Ballot? Community meeting? Another piece of amendment part if a vote was to change rules that require 75% of eligible electors to approve amendments (amending provision s.24.2(c))

Membership Question: What is the change happening on Pg.9 22.1

Action: Look at original to check, what is being deleted.

Action: have copies of original election code amendments

Membership Question: who enforces these regulations?

Facilitator: Everyone votes it and wants it but over time people forget this. After rules are developed they need to follow up on to be purposeful. With these amendments they better protect, reengage community, keep process alive, and look at broader things in election code. Community engagement is key, having an election committee that meets regularly is key to monitoring election governance.

Membership Question: 75% seems too high of a number?

Councilor Bird: One of the reasons was it was a high number 75. Can't be a small meeting and go by simple majority. Because we want more people involved, it is a high number, but we need process, how they are set up and informed.

Facilitator: Think about what an appropriate number would be

Action: Get community feedback on Threshold to approve future amendments by June 1, 2017

Councilor Bird: Post the regulation new and old on the Sumas First Nation Website

Action: Have current and amended SFN Elections Handbook and References on SFN Website

Membership Question: What is the electorate?

Action: Get count for electorate

Closing Remarks from Council Ned: Sounds like we are reasonably comfortable. Community participation, meeting, land code meeting, the numbers vary. Number of people who actually vote people are actually really interested. 75 percent. One thing I would like to suggest, think about the threshold. 75 percent is too high. 50 is quite common. On June 1 we should arrive with a number for percentage.

Closing Remarks from Guest: Would be helpful to get feedback on how nomination meeting should be structured so people who live away can participate (eg. skype or conference calls)

Facilitator Adjourning Meeting: If you have any questions contact Murray Lori or Wendy.

Action: Next meeting current regulation we will bring draft depending on feedback.

Action: Post on SFN website, meeting minutes

Closing prayer: 7:25pm

Next Membership Meeting Regarding Election Code Amendments June 1, 2017 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Next Membership Information Meeting June 1, 2017 6:00pm – 7:00pm @ SFN Community Hall, Dinner will be served @5:00pm

Referendum Vote Scheduled June 15, 2017 9:00am – 7:00pm, Location-2788 Sumas Mountain Rd (New Admin Building)

Action Items	Responsible	Deadline
State the change from pg. 9	Anja Brown	May 5, 2017
Comments/Questions from membership	Murray Ned/Wendy Phair/Lori Kelly	May 5, 2017
Post minutes to Facebook for absent members	Lori Kelly	May 10, 2017
Existing & Draft Election Handbook SFN website	Lori Kelly	May 10, 2017
Community feedback on Threshold	Membership	June 1, 2017
Get count for electorate	Murray Ned	June 1, 2017
Draft of current amendments	Anja Brown	June 1, 2017
Post to Facebook and SFN website	Lori Kelly	May 9, 2017