

Annual General Meeting of the Hall Road Neighbourhood Association

East Kelowna Community Hall,
2704 East Kelowna Road,
Kelowna, BC V1W 4A5
7 p.m. May 12, 2025

40 people attended, plus all 10 directors and Kelowna Fire Dept. Capt. Jason Twamley

MINUTES

Board directors attending: Vanessa Bell, David Bush, Craig Gronsdahl, Don Plant, Ken Buhler, Steve Losso, Bruce Stevenson, Cliff Serwa, Justin Enns, Dan Kitto.

HRNA member Bruce Hedmann appointed chair of meeting.

1. Call to Order – At 7:07 p.m. Chairperson Hedmann called meeting to order and declared we have quorum.
2. Comments and introductions of 2025 Board – At 7:08 Chairperson introduced 2025 board: Bruce Stevenson, David Bush, Vanessa Bell, Dan Kitto, Craig Gronsdahl, Cliff Serwa, Steve Losso, Justin Enns and Don Plant.
3. Approval of Agenda – At 7:09 agenda was approved. No items revised or added.
4. Review of Previous Annual Meeting Minutes – Copies of 2024 AGM minutes were circulated and reviewed by 7:10.
5. President's report (7:10) -- Vanessa Bell reviewed highlights of last year. We elected current board in 2024 for two-year term. We asked residents to rank 11 issues or topics that deserve attention on hallroad.ca; 35 participated. Top five priorities were traffic, development, crime, wildlife/conservation and fire risk. We'll do another poll to refresh neighbourhood priorities. We're seeking a residents' workshop with City help to discuss speeding and traffic flow. We formed a wildfire sub-committee and joined the FireSmart program. Thirteen properties participated in a recent chipping event. We plan to have another. Barbecue with FireSmart theme is set for June 12. Future sewer upgrades hinge on City funding and will be piecemeal in coming years. HRNA is now an official organization on the City website. We've participated in workshops on building strong neighbourhoods, non-profits and a collaborative meeting with other neighbourhood associations. City will revisit the neighbourhood structure plan within five years. We had Neighbour Day last weekend. Hall Road garage sale is May 24.

Ken spoke about playground improvements in Johnson Road Park. City plans to upgrade the swing-set, paint them, change swivels and seats, put in new climbing structure, replace the white horse and expand footprint. If budget is sufficient, a concrete perimeter will surround playground to separate lawn from pea gravel.

Noxious weeds are listed on hallroad.ca (neighbourhood page). Pull them out and destroy them when you spot them. Scotch Thistle is prevalent.

Bruce Stevenson, a first-aid instructor, has offered to hold a two-hour class on CPR in Johnson Road Park.

The HRNA launched a quarterly mini-newspaper in March called Hall Road Herald to bring residents together on a common platform other than Facebook. It features non-controversial articles written by Hall Roaders. Don Plant asked residents to write him at herald@hallroad.ca if they want to cover gardening, noxious weeds, neighbourhood history, wildlife, resident profiles, coming events or other topics.

6. Treasurer's Financial Report -- 7:26 p.m.

Treasurer Craig Gronsdahl handed out financial statements and reviewed balance sheet and income statement. Ninety members signed up to HRNA in 2024. Expenses like venue rental and maintaining website were minimal. Fall harvest party, our signature event, was rained out. Steve Losso and son Peter Losso-Kiss put in a lot of time. Sixty members renewed this year. Neighbourhood association's main benefit is it can respond to a crisis. We have no big issues for now but have infrastructure. Member asked about grant money. Vanessa explained City's neighbourhood affiliation program offered \$5,000 but we missed application deadline. We hope City will renew program, for which we'll apply. Our biggest expense is hall rental for general meetings. The contract cautions against associations using money to criticize City or get political. Vanessa said HRNA needs more women.

7. FireSmart presentation by Capt. Jason Twamley, wildfire mitigation specialist with Kelowna Fire Dept. began at 7:33 p.m.:

Year 2023 was B.C.'s most destructive fire season – 7 million acres burned. He described FireSmart principles – removing detritus in forests and flammable material from our homes.

Human behaviour needs to change. Responsibility extends from homeowner to landscape management. Embers can fly kilometres ahead of fire. In 2023, embers crossed Okanagan Lake. Homeowners must eliminate combustible cedars, junipers and pines within 1.5 metres of house because they're flammable. Wooden decks are Achilles heel for homes. Use a composite material; Duradek is recognized FireSmart. Deciduous trees and shrubs close to house are OK as long as they're maintained.

Structures are vulnerable to wildland-urban-interface (WUI) fire ignition. Asphalt roofs are safe, even though asphalt is a petroleum product, but fire can ignite if enough pine needles collect. Maintain roof and area around your home.

Cedars give us privacy but burn well under the soffit area. They can burn in the rain. Resins in the green parts of cedars and junipers act like gasoline. Achieve privacy by using metal or composite fences. If you have door mats made of natural fiber and patio furniture, store them in garage while on summer vacation.

Question: More hydrants are installed near new care home. What other measures does KFD have to prevent wildfire spreading from Mission Creek Park?

Set up sprinklers around your home. KFD has structure-protection units – two trailers with sprinklers. They can protect 350 homes by creating a humidity dome. Urban foresters are cleaning out the park.

Question: What materials are best to use on house exterior?

Composite material; Hardie board. Not vinyl. If it burns, don't put it on your house. Don't use mulch.

Twamley finished at 8:01.

Bruce Hedman said board needs more females and a social person to help plan events.

Ken Buhler pointed to historic map of Hall Road area with names of original owners of farm properties.

Ed Grifone thanked neighbours Brad Rix and Bush family after fire at Ed's house on Maquinna. Kids next door set off fireworks, igniting a shrub during winter. They used shovels to put it out.

8. Review Special Resolutions

* amend bylaws if required -- none

9. Directors' comments -- none

10. John Wagner moved to adjourn meeting at 8:07. Walter Baker seconded. Carried.