

Members needed for EBEYS PAC

By Andrea Geary

École Beausejour Early Years School's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will disband in the New Year unless more parents and caregivers start participating in the monthly meetings.

PAC member Bobbie Lund has tried to attract more participants for the past two years in hopes of meeting the seven-member minimum as set out in the council's constitution. She said she and four others attended the last meeting and only three others joined her during the 2022-23 school year.

"We never had a quorum so couldn't vote on anything," she said.

In past years, the school's PAC was very active, raising money for school projects such as the annual Children's

Festival and teacher appreciation events, water bottle stations, gym mats, and furniture, shelving and supplies for the library.

At PAC meetings members are joined by the school's principal, vice-principal, a teacher representative and school trustee. Lund believes having the chance to find out about upcoming school activities and issues from these administrators is beneficial.

"I really feel that's the most valuable part of PAC. It gives you the opportunity to ask questions and give input."

Principal Michael Carter said the PAC plays an important role in providing a parental perspective in advising the school administration and giving input on the annual school plan and various activities.

"It is important for our school that we work closely with our PAC as they provide valuable input and support a variety of activities for the students," he said.

Lund said community members who are interested in supporting the school can attend PAC meetings. While the monthly meetings were previously moved online due to COVID restrictions, now members and staff can meet in-person, but accommodations can be made for anyone who wants to join a meeting virtually.

PAC meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month in the school library. The next meeting date is Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.

Information on the school's PAC can be found on the school's website.



Hazardous waste collection facility permit renewed

By Tony Zerucha

A hazardous waste collection facility in the Springfield Industrial Park that generated significant public opposition four years ago had its conditional use permit renewed.

Representatives of Secure Energy appeared before Springfield's council in the spring to seek a renewal

of a conditional use permit granted in 2019 when the company was known as Tervita. The four-year permit was to expire in August. Council deferred a decision so they could tour the facility.

In 2019, Secure Energy's Neil MacDonald said the plans were to accept gases, flammable liquids and solids, oxidizing substances,

toxic and infectious substances, and corrosive and miscellaneous substances. They would not take in public deliveries, radioactive materials, biohazardous waste, and explosives.

MacDonald said Secure Energy has kept those promises. Their annual volumes handled are considerably smaller than those from their original submission. Hazardous containerized waste averages 51,660 kilograms annually, roughly one-fourth of the 200,000 kilograms stated in 2019. Non-hazardous, containerized materials average 23,000 kilograms, well

below the 740,000 kilogram total from the proposal. Hazardous bulk materials are not accepted. Most clients come from agriculture, automotive and mining.

Secure Energy conducts regular groundwater monitoring, MacDonald added. Most materials it handles are oil and air filters, glycol containers, aerosol cans and batteries.

Development officer Dan Doucet said he had received no complaints about Secure Energy over the four years. The emergency operations plan has never been activated.

That didn't placate a few people opposed to the

renewal. Developer Gerald Matheson, who said he pays six times the annual taxes that Secure Energy does, represents 70 nearby business tenants and has plans to add 40 more.

"We want to make sure this plan is opened up," Matheson said on May 18. "It's not going to add many jobs or value."

Matheson conceded that Secure Energy has been a good neighbour but added that its location near residential developments, a busy industrial area, and a railroad line is not ideal. While there have been no incidents, two grass fires were sparked by passing trains in the dry season.

"We need hazardous waste storage, I agree," Matheson said. "I just don't think this is the ideal location. I think we're opening ourselves up to huge liabilities."

Former Springfield Fire and Rescue Service Chief Jeff Hudson shared Matheson's concerns. In 2019, Hudson said a significant

incident would stretch Springfield's ability to respond. Because Springfield does not have a mutual assistance agreement with the City of Winnipeg, the bill, which Secure Energy would pay, would be significant.

Opposed to the proposal in 2019, Coun. Glen Fuhl said now that he's seen the company in operation, he would vote to approve the development agreement.

After several members of the public spoke, Coun. Andy Kuczynski urged further public input into the development. He said he has no issues with the company, just its location. Doucet and CAO Colleen Draper said development agreements are completed in closed meetings as a rule due to financial and insurance concerns.

Council approved the conditional use renewal 3-2, with Fuhl, Mayor Pat Therrien and Coun. Melinda Warren in favour with Kuczynski and Coun. Mark Miller opposed.

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Weekly Activities

Bingo	Monday	7:00pm
Pokeno	Tuesday	2:00pm
Pool	Tuesday	1:00pm
Cribbage	Wednesday	6:30pm
Darts	Thursday	7:00pm
Lessons Offered Bridge	Friday	1:00pm
Meat Draw & Chase the Ace	Saturday	2:30pm
Jam Session	2 nd Saturday of each month	7:00pm

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