

FRSM Meeting Minutes

Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum • June 24th, 2025, 6:05 pm to 6:55 pm via Teams and In Person

<i>Voting Members in attendance:</i>	<i>Non-voting:</i>	<i>Regrets:</i>
<i>Kevin Bassendowski Colin Rennebohm Jennifer Schwager Harold Bryant Joan Beisel Graham Purse Kevin Safinuk Laura Gilson Todd Kemp</i>	<i>Brien Hnetka (RSM E.D) Kellie Greene (Notetaker)</i>	<i>Craig Perrault (FRSM E.D.) Brad Bellegarde</i>
		<i>Virtual:</i>
		<i>Andrea Johnson</i>
		<i>*identifies member joined late. ^ identifies member left early</i>

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Brie H welcomed everyone attending to the RSM and to the AGM. She also read the land acknowledgement. And informed everyone that she will be stepping in for Craig P for some of the meeting as he was unfortunately unable to attend.

2. In person Protocol

Kevin B went over the in person and virtual protocol for the meeting. Those online during the vote were asked to verbally state if they were in favor opposed or abstaining from a vote. If the room hears nothing the assumption, is you are in favor. He also asked those in the room to be loud and clear with questions, comments and or voting.

3. Changes to and adoption of June 24, 2025, AGM Agenda -Decision

Kevin B asked if there were any changes to the agenda or could the agenda be adopted as is.

Motion: Kevin Bassendowski **Seconded** Colin Rennebohm

Vote passed and carried.

4. Introduction of all members present

Kevin B noted that all board members were present except one, Brad Bellegarde. And full introductions were unnecessary.

5. Review/Approval of June 25, 2024, Minutes

- Business arising from minutes.

Hearing no business or questions arising from the minutes of June 25th, 2024

Motion: Harold Bryant **Seconded:** Todd Kemp

Vote passed and carried.

6. FRSM President's Report

Kevin B noted that his time with the FRSM has been wonderful. He thanked and praised the other board members for their hard work and enthusiasm. He also thanked and complimented the work and cooperation of the RSM executive and staff. He noted the work the FRSM has done during his 6 years with them. It has been an honor for him to serve the community and be engaged in long standing events such as Artifact/Artifiction and Solstice Speaker Series. And to witness innovative ideas come to life such as Birds and Bevvies. He appreciated everyone's support and trust while he filled the role of President of the board. It was a very enjoyable time. And he and his family will always be Friends of the RSM.

Kevin B then called for any questions – there were no questions.

7. Royal Saskatchewan Museum Executive Director Report

Brie H began by thanking Kevin B for his work with FRSM. She noted the many achievements and obstacles encountered by RSM this past year. Complimenting the team on how they collaborate and dedicate themselves to hard work which has helped the RSM thrive.

Among the many accomplishments in the past year, was the success of Artifact/Artifiction which happened and was planned while our government was preparing for elections. The opening of two new exhibits, Saskatchewan North and South, and Animal Sounds, which is a fun interactive new exhibit has delighted visitors.

The program department has expanded with more public programming during school breaks. And fun new programs such as Stuffy Sleepover, Scotty Talks and Birds and Bevvies are all successful and due to come back in the coming year.

The Research and Collections department have welcomed a new staff member, Dr Tracey Martens. And as a team they have published eleven papers, done twenty-two interviews and fifty-four public and private presentations.

The update to facilities had impacted on the use of the Auditorium but in true RSM/FRSM style everyone pivoted and made things happen. Brie acknowledged Darke Hall which played host to Solstice Speaker as construction took place in the auditorium. She hopes the inconvenience remains minimal. Approval has passed for the Research and Collections team to move to a new facility on Park Street, which is exciting.

Brie also named and thanked the FRSM executive and board. She praised their work and dedication over the last year. And thanked and gave best wishes to Harold B, Andrea J and Kevin B as they completed their time with the board. There were gifts for the boards kindly created by Queen City Gifts. Moving forward for the next year, she hopes her team remains strong and she hopes to continue the wonderful collaboration with FRSM.

Brie called for any questions – an attendee asked if there were any plans to bring back summer camps? Brie said, no. Special events and programming for school breaks have been successful and the public are enjoying them. The same attendee also asked if anything could be done with the Wascana Centre Sign, she feels it is too big and takes away from the RSM signage. It also gives the impression that the museum is Wascana Centre. Brie responded by saying, that yes, the museum is part of the Wascana Centre, however she does see the impression someone would have. She also said she does not necessarily disagree with the points made. But there are conversations and collaboration that happen, prior to any final decisions.

8. FRSM Executive Director Report

In Craig P's absence Brie H took on the role of presenting his report.

On behalf of Craig P, she thanked the board for all their hard work and dedication over the past year. And she thanked the RSM management team, John Snell and Ray Poulin as well as all the staff for their help and dedication. She also thanked the government communications team, Betta Shum and Michael Benoit, for all their input throughout the year.

Speaking of events, Craig wanted to praise the success of events like Artifact/Artifiction, Solstice Speaker series and new events like Birds and Bevvies. All these events are possible because the board works hard, and the FRSM membership contributes.

He also wanted to thank Barb Neal and all the staff that work at the museum gift shop for all their work on the front line of the FRSM.

Craig also wanted to acknowledge Michael Schmidt for his long dedication to the FRSM.

He spoke highly of all the board members but wanted to acknowledge the outgoing board members.

Andrea J the past President who showed great leadership during the pandemic. And was always willing to share her skillset to help others on the team.

Kevin B who is our outgoing President and is always the first name on any volunteer list. He has been a great leader and amazing team mate to all at FRSM.

Harold B, the outgoing Treasurer and former Executive Director of RSM, brought countless years of experience and expertise from both sides to the table. He has been an important part of the FRSM and RSM.

Each outgoing board member was given a 3D printed replica of Scotty's head. A one of kind gifts, made by the staff at RSM Ryan McKellar, Wes Long and Darren Grey.

Moving into next year some things will look different Artifact/ Artifiction will be moving back to the spring. But some things will remain happily SGI have renewed sponsorship for Solstice Speaker series which is set to continue. And there are some exciting plans for new merch in the store.

Craig extended thanks to all and is looking forward to the next year.

Brie called for any questions – an attendee asked what the membership was looking like and what plan was in place to increase membership. Brie responded that we have just over three hundred active members and there are some exciting plans to come. Jennifer S would speak more to this.

9. Friends of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum Board of Directors Committee Reports

- **Governance Committee**

Approval of amendments to Bylaws that received Board assent on March 12, 2025, and the Bylaws into conformance with current legislation.

Colin R said the committee had spent a lot of time making changes and improvements to the FRSM Governance Manual. It was ratified by a board vote in May. It was important to make the changes to enhance the workflow moving forward. One of the main changes was the word constitution which was replaced by the word by-laws.

Colin R made a motion to change the word constitution to by-law in the document and to approve this amendment.

Motion: Colin Rennebohm **Seconded:** Todd Kemp

Vote passed and carried.

- **Audit and Finance Committee**

Receive the Audited Financial Statement for 2024-2025

Harold B began by thanking the FRSM board and the RSM for his time on the Board. Everyone should have received the audit statements for 2024/2025, to review.

This past year the committee completed the consolidation of multiple projects including a new policy which is included in the governance manual, he feels it was good to have that done. He extended thanks to Joan B and Kevin S for their contribution and help with that project.

The budget has been developed for 2025, and the committee collaborated with the auditors at the end of year, wrap up. He extended thanks to the committee, Craig P and Carla, for all their help throughout the year.

Approval of 2024-2025 Draft Audited Statements

Harold B reviewed some operating costs and reserve funds. All available for review by members on the website. Harold noted there was a small decrease since the RSM sponsorship with CN Rail had expired after five years.

Harold B motioned to approve the audited statements for 2024-2025.

Motion: Harold Bryant **Seconded:** Laura Gilson

Vote passed and carried.

Appointment of Auditor for 2025-2026 fiscal year

Harold B motioned that FRSM remains with the auditing firm of Dudley and Co. They have been the auditing partner for several years and the relationship is a good one.

Motion: Harold Bryant **Seconded:** Kevin Safinuk

Vote passed and carried.

Fundraising Committee

Jennifer S reported the past year has been a good one with some new additions such as Birds and Bevvies. This will likely become a twice a year event. The committee continues to strive to make the museum an accessible affordable place for all. With events like Artifact/Artification continuing to bring in great groups of people and raising funds this should be achievable.

There will be a strong focus on communication in the coming year with the board set to use a new communication tool to help streamline work.

The strategic planning will focus on external communication, and she is excited for new board members' input.

Jennifer called for any questions – one attendee asked if the FRSM were willing to expand their corporate sponsorship, for example sell some museum merchandise in someone else's store. Or collaborate on a product. This suggestion was met with enthusiasm by other attendees, who also suggested items such as Christmas decorations. Jennifer admitted some of these suggestions were new, and she would be happy to have a conversation about these ideas moving forward.

10. FRSM Board Nominations

- Election of Colin Rennebohm and Brad Bellegarde (current directors) for their second three-year term on the FRSM board

Motion: Kevin Bassendowski **Seconded:** Ida Sadowski

Voted passed and carried.

- Election of new Board Members

Kevin B called for the election of new Board members.

He motioned for Stephanie Yang, Cole Fornwald, and Chetan Goyan to be voted on to the FRSM board.

Motion: Kevin B **Seconded:** Harold Bryant

Vote passed and carried.

11. Other Business

No other business arising from the meeting.

12. Adjournment

For the last time Kevin Bassendowski adjourned the FRSM AGM at 6:53 pm