



Council Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2025

Present:

Council: Carl Etnier, Steven Farnham (Online), Giles Brule (Online), Greg Gerdel, Catherine Lowther (Online), Mark Seltzer, Leesa Stewart

Staff: Mary Mullally, Elly Wood

Facilitator: Elly Wood

Guests: None.

[Audio](#) (Timestamps in blue indicate where audio corresponding to a given paragraph can be found in the recording.)

1. Commencement 5:30:15PM (0:00:02)

Carl called the meeting to order, welcoming Council members, staff, and guests.

Council entered Executive Session at 5:33:30PM

Council exited Executive Session at 6:07:43PM

2. Agenda Review 5:30:51PM (0:00:38):

Elly stated that the Council is meeting to address one issue: To confirm November 15 as the date for the Council Retreat, and to select a venue and facilitator. She asked if everyone had reviewed the proposals offered by two prospective facilitators.

4. Name Selection of Facilitator for Council Retreat 6:07:43PM (0:02:52):

Carl recited the Language for the motion: "I move to select this person at a price to facilitate the Council Retreat on November 15, 2025, and authorise the Council President or General Manager to sign a contract." Giles made the motion, naming Laura King, and the existing contract with Columinate. Mark seconded. Ayes: 6, Nays: 1, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed.

3. Executive Session 5:31:43PM (0:01:30):

Elly explained the motive to enter Executive Session: that harm may come to the Co-op, or a person involved, and requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a contract, whereupon Carl stated the following:

"Whereas knowledge by Co-op Members of the discussion could cause substantial harm to the Co-op or a person involved, I move to enter Executive Session to discuss negotiation of a contract, the disclosure of which would put the Co-op or a vendor at competitive disadvantage," (Bylaws §7.3c). Leesa seconded. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Council Retreat Location and Agenda 6:09:20PM (0:04:29):

Carl stated that an upstairs room at the Unitarian Church has been used for the past couple years for a very low price, and asked if there were objections to using that room again. None were given. Steven mentioned that if lunch is to be taken downtown (as was done last year), there needs to be sufficient time on the agenda for walking to lunch, waiting to be served, eating, and returning to the retreat venue, time that is not needed if the lunch were

catered by HMC's Prepared Foods Department. Carl suggested that Mary consult with Prepared Foods.

Carl asked if anyone wished to offer any changes to Laura's proposed agenda. Mark suggested moving the Vision & Strategy earlier to help set the direction of the meeting. Greg added that doing this would enable dialogue about this during lunch. Catherine likes that idea, and requested starting later. Steven suggested beginning and ending on time, but accommodating anyone who'd like to start later with a bit of review. T liked that idea.

Noting that the afternoon subjects are "meatier," Giles wanted to ensure that the process doesn't get stuck there to the neglect of other topics, and he'd like some "free-form" time.

Steven suggested an earlier start for the socialising, and asked if folks would like to breakfast at Wayside at 7:00AM before the beginning of the retreat. After some discussion several agreed to this.

Carl requested that agenda input be shared by October 31, and expressed appreciation, in particular to the new members for appearing at this extra October meeting.

6. Adjournment 6:25:51PM (0:21:00):

Steven moved to adjourn. Greg seconded. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:26:05PM (0:21:14)