

Grace Manor Family Council Meeting MINUTES

Date:	Wednesday, 10 June 2026
Time:	2-3 pm ET
Location:	Virtual - ZOOM Meeting

In Attendance	Representing
Michelle van Beusekom (regrets)	FC Chair
Fred Benedikt	Acting Chair and Secretary
Justine Dudziak (regrets)	GM Administrator
Kristine Nielsen	GM Resident Advocate Activity Manager
Patricia Roelofsen (partial)	Friend
Sina Muzzin	Member
Lisa Stepanic	Member
Stephen Taylor	Member
Susan Dullis	Member
Sanja Shillingford (regrets)	Member
Donna Jenkins	Member
Gwen Veenstra (regrets)	Friend
Heather Homes	Member

Minutes
Old Business • Approval of previous 13 May 2026 meeting minutes – approved by Stephen T. and seconded by Lisa S. • Reminder – FC Dementia Friendship Support Group – 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm – Fred B. ○ The Secretary reminded everyone that the support group is still meeting regularly. It would be nice if more persons attended:- new perspectives, topics, etc. ○ The next meeting will be Monday 15 June and the last meeting before a summer hiatus. See you Monday 21 September. • Chick Hatching Project Update – Patricia R. ○ Patricia informed us that she is willing to manage a final chick hatch for this coming Thanksgiving. This family council (FC) initiative hatches chicks twice a year: Easter and Thanksgiving. She needs someone else to recognize the value it brings to the residents and take the project management lead. However, she would still be available

Minutes

to mentor and respond to questions. This project is essentially setup, but does need volunteers. Perhaps Glenda could be approached to advertize for volunteers in the HCH newsletter *The Ties that Bind*.

- The time commitment is relatively small per visit (5 to 15 minutes) three (3) times per day. During the 3 weeks incubation period because of automation, the incubator runs itself (periodically add water to maintain the correct humidity). When the chicks hatch, there is some work to feed and clean the hutch for about 2 weeks. This work can be spread out with an adequate number of volunteers.
- Patricia checked with Kris and the Thanksgiving time frame was acceptable so as not to interfere with other GM activities. The eggs would arrive about 17 September, hatch about 9 October and the chicks return to the farm 23 October.
- The Secretary asked if in a conversation with Glenda that she would be willing to do this chick project for both FM and GM. Patricia only had initial conversations with her on this topic, but was hoping to fill the role within FC. Stephen T already volunteered last month to pick up/drop off the eggs/chicks so Glenda does not have to do this task. Glenda likes the program and wants it continue, but made no firm commitment to organize.
 - **Action Item – All** - The Secretary asked members to think about helping out over the summer with the chicks. Patricia is willing to train and supervise.
 - **Action Item – Patricia and Stephen** - Arrange for a convenient time meet Ester who proves the fertilized eggs and accepts the chicks at her farm.
- Follow up Action Items from last month
 - **Action:** Michelle to draft a notice encouraging our membership to volunteer and replace Patricia in coordinating this initiative.
 - **Action:** Kris to provide a contact name to get an article into the *Ties that Bind* Newsletter for volunteers from the Towers.

New Business

- **Who Am I posters - Gwen V.**
 - Gwen reported to FC that she is approaching the 100 mark for Who Am I (WAI) posters. Well done Gwen!
 - Secretary's comment: The WAI posters are a family council initiative started about four (4) years ago. Gwen is a volunteer who converts basic information into a poster for all to better know the resident.
- **Proposed WhatsApp Informal FC Member Only Group Chat – Fred B.**
 - The Secretary re-iterated that from the last in-camera group discussion a member raised the concept of setting up a Family Council WhatsApp chat for informal communication and information sharing. FC is willing to try new ideas (...and is

Minutes

always looking for new ideas!)

- A member was unfamiliar with WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging application that you can download to your smart phone from the App store. It is used for direct messaging (an alternative to texts) with individuals or groups that you create or join. You can connect to WhatsApp using Wifi or mobile data. It's a very convenient app for organizing group chats. Messages in the chat are private (and encrypted) and only available to the registered group.
 - A Family Council WhatsApp chat would be used by families to share information, comments and concerns or ask questions of one another.
 - After some discussion, there were no objections to giving this a try. There is nothing to lose. A few members commented that using WhatsApp was helpful and useful. Sign up is optional and if you do sign up and don't find it useful, you have the option to either ignore the message (..and just "listen") or leave the group.
 - After last month's FC meeting, the Secretary discussed the WhatsApp option with the Chair. Michelle thinks it is worthy endeavour and is willing to setup it for us. Please note that this group chat will NOT be moderated by the FC Executive.
 - **Action FC Executive** - To draft an email about WhatsApp – basic info, expectations, how to download, how to join, etc.
- **Home Information Update – Justine D**
 - No updates shared. Justine was not available and sent her regrets
 - **Activity Update - Kristine N**
 - Kris reported on a number of enjoyable social program activities for the residents. This month is Senior's Month. It included a National Donut Day with a Tim Horton's drive through window, a National Gardening week with planting and gardening activities, a Senior Movie social and concert later this month. Please check your activity calendar for events. <https://www.hch.ca/grace-manor-activity-calendars/>
 - A member commented that their family member enjoyed the Tim Horton's drive through window.
 - The secretary commented on a second floor neighbourhood Tea Social that happened in the atrium this morning. This is a wonderful opportunity for the residents to interact. Kris mentioned this is a part of Eden programming. Jacquie (previous Eden lead) re-directed the activity calendar to have less focus on big events but rather more on local neighbourhoods to build community using either the atrium or the patio (weather and air quality dependent). Neighbourhoods are also doing

Grace Manor Family Council Meeting MINUTES

Minutes

their own activities within the neighbourhood.

- **“In camera” session - Succession Planning - Family Council Executives – Fred B**
 - The Secretary encouraged all to think about volunteering. Please consider taking up any of the available positions or even create a new initiative for the benefit of the residents. We need new ideas.

Financial

- The FC account balance is \$170

CLOSING REMARKS/REMINDERS

- We need your good ideas and observations to help improve the quality of life and care for the residents. Please consider volunteering for a role on the Executive Council, as an Advisor, or to lead a new initiative. In the past, family members have initiated and implemented projects like the Who Am I Posters; the chick hatching program and the creation of the activity kits.
- Next meeting: **Wednesday, 9 September 2026** at 12:00PM by Virtual Zoom.
- Please send your comments, observations and suggestions to:
gracemanorbramptonfc@gmail.com

MEETING ADJOURNMENT