

RCWO NEW VENUE REPORT

APRIL 2023



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Jen Ahde
- Brett Brooking
- Miriam Fraser
- Dirk Keenan
- Girija Dube
- With a special thanks for contributions from:
 - Graeme Fraser
 - Linda Flynn
 - Marcia Armstrong



CRITERIA TO CONSIDER

- **HARD CRITERIA**

- Tuesday noon availability
- Accessibility
- Parking
- No Room Rental Fee
- Technology: Wi-Fi / Screen / Sound
- No Minimum / low minimum attendance

- **SOFT CRITERIA**

- Appearance
- Location
- Acceptable lunch fee
- Good food
- Room set-up
- Storage of RCWO paraphernalia
- Hosts who “want” us

VENUES CONSIDERED



- St. Anthony's
- Villa Marconi
- Best Western
- St. Elias
- Hellenic Centre
- RA Centre
- East India Company
- KS on the Keys
- Summerhays
- Barley Mow (Merivale)
- The Newport
- The Masonic Lodge (Churchill)
- The Mill
- Royal Oak (Centrepont)
- Curling Clubs
- Various Hotels
- Restaurants near Ikea
- Boston Pizza (Carling Avenue)

VENUE PROBLEMS



- No free parking or no parking close enough
- Room rental fee applicable
- Minimum attendance requirement too high
- No variety in food
- No onsite food at all (private catering to be managed by RCWO)
- Final guest count required one week prior
- Not enough food variety

..... Continued.....

VENUE PROBLEMS CONTINUED....

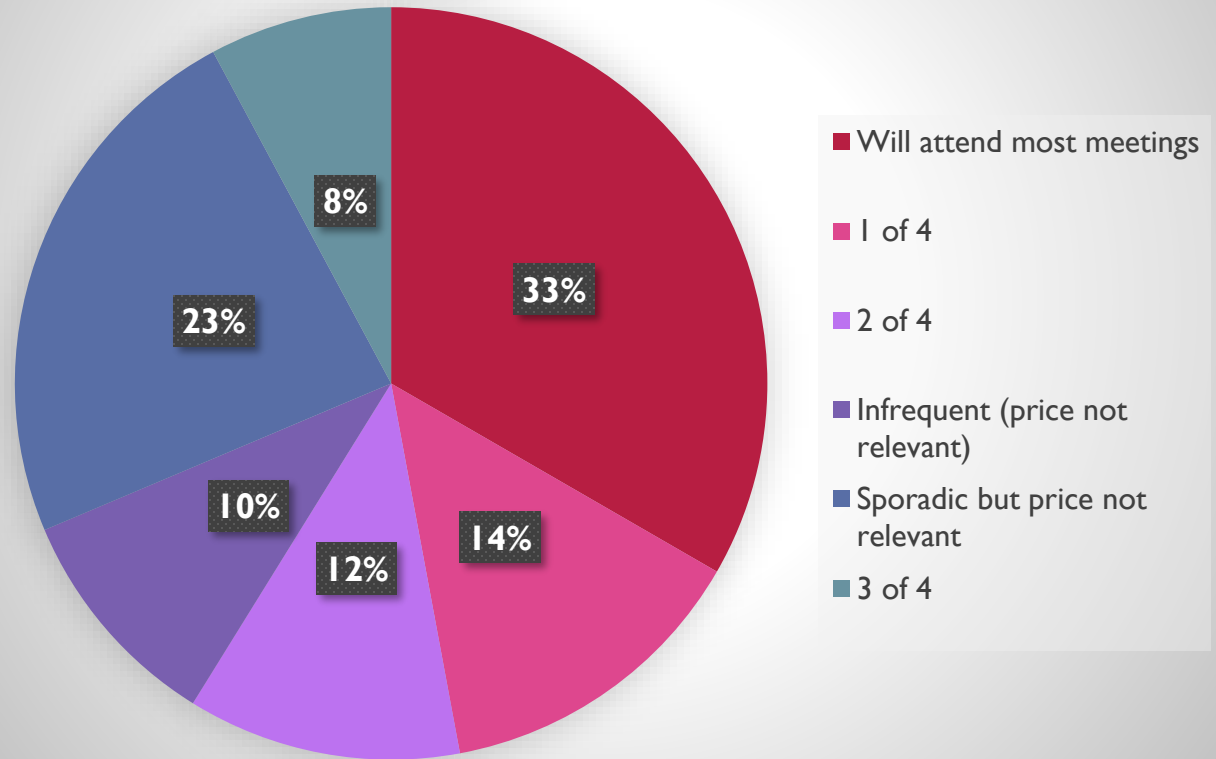


- Too small – no room to grow
- Not attractive to invite guests and new members
- No storage
- Deposits in advance / minimum spend
- Not private enough from other venue guests
- Seasonality
- Outside traditional West Ottawa territory (location is relevant to many members)

SURVEY #1 51 RESPONDENTS

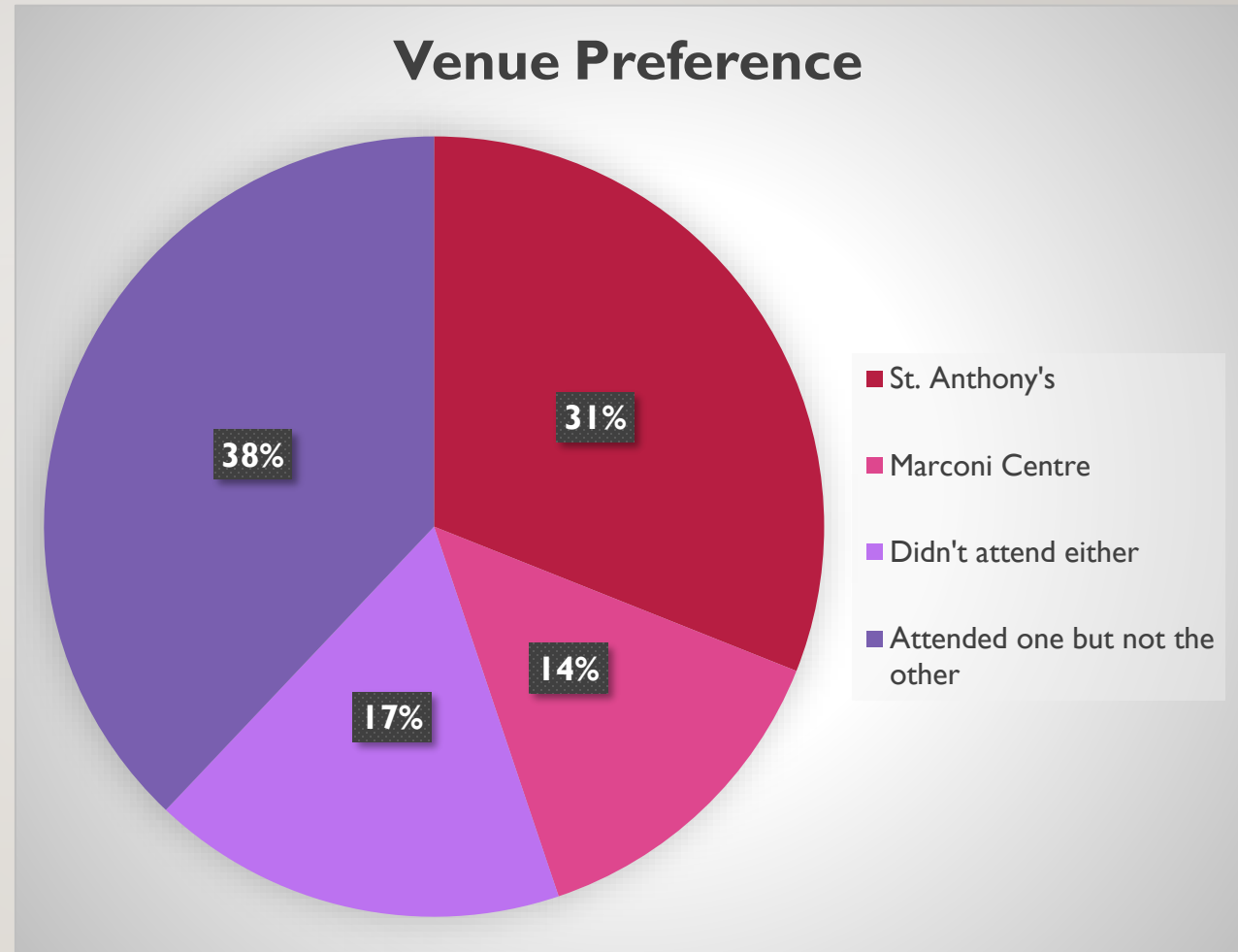
You were asked about the impact that the meal price may have on your attendance.

Impact of pricing on attendance (at \$35)



SURVEY #2
29 RESPONDENTS

St. Anthony's vs. Marconi Centre



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (& COMMENTS)

- Why come in person when I can attend online?
- Covid-19 is still a concern.
- Can our presentations be more interactive?
- Price is too high for lunch.
- Can we increase our community engagement and volunteer activities?
- We don't need dessert. (Or, do we?)

.....Continued.....

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (& COMMENTS) CONTINUED.....

- I like it as it is.
- I'm not always hungry enough for \$35 worth of food.
- I love the way things are running now.
- Breakfast meetings now & then.
- New Speaker ideas: authors, artists, mayor, chief of police, economics & finance.
- Limit time on Happy Dollars.Continued.....

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (& COMMENTS) CONTINUED.....

- Meet less than weekly, but increase social activities and volunteering.
- More discussion – less presentation. Let's talk about committee goals & missions.
- Zoom is more productive and useful.
- Maintain hybrid.
- What happened with St. Elias?
- Where can we park near St. Anthony's?

THE “WINS” FOR ST. ANTHONY’S

- RIGHT SIZE.
- GOOD FOOD (SOME EVEN SAY “DELICIOUS”)!
- SERVICE – NORM IS GREAT! MANAGEMENT TOO. (THEY WANT US HERE, AND IT SHOWS.)
- LOCATION IN THE CITY & PROXIMITY TO THE 417 & PUBLIC TRANSIT.
- SOUND QUALITY & SCREEN.
- NATURAL LIGHT.
- MINIMUM OF 25 IS ACHIEVABLE.
- PRICE POINT – ALL THINGS CONSIDERED – IS WORKABLE.



NOW WHAT?

WE WELCOME FEEDBACK & QUESTIONS!