

# MINUTES

Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 8, 2025  
6:00 p.m.  
Chisago Lakes Town Hall



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## **Call to Order - President Chris S.**

### **Attendance:**

Vice-President Scott Ross  
Secretary Michele Lindau  
Treasurer Marlys Dunne  
Communication Director Natasha Zarich  
Member at Large Chris Dubose  
Member at Large Dana Helm  
Member at Large Trena Morrison  
Marlys updated the group on Board Member Rochelle who is experiencing health issues. Marlys will reach out to her to see how the Club can assist.

### **Approval of Minutes for the March 13 and March 20, 2025, Board Meetings**

Scott made motion, Dana seconded to approve the minutes. All Ayes. Motion carried.

### **Vote in New Members Kathy Prondzinski and Terri and Orris Erlandson**

Chris D. made motion, Natasha seconded to approve new Club member Kathy Prondzinski and Terri and Orris Erlandson pending receipt of their application. All Ayes. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer Update – Marlys D.**

There was currently \$8,666 in the checkbook. There was a questionable purchase of \$126 to Prism Design that will need to be investigated. There were purchases for apparel, supplies for the annual club meeting, and \$200 for sponsorship for Harmony in the Park. A donation of \$1,300 came in from Natasha's employer CenterPoint, and another is expected from Dana's employer Thomas Rueter. She will follow up on that donation.

### **Adopt a Senior Update – Marlys D.**

There was \$4,013 in the checkbook with an anticipated purchase of brochures. Marlys reported that Janet, who the Club has helped in the past with yard work, had been in the hospital and is looking for help again. Janet is also interested in joining the Adopt a Senior Program.

Dana suggested on engaging the High School Honor Society and/or football team to do some fall cleanup. Marlys will be sending an email out to the coaches.

### **Membership Committee Update - Rochelle**

Rochelle was not in attendance to provide an update. There was discussion on simplifying the welcome letter to include more bullet points and less content to read.

### **Activities Committee & Communications Update – Natasha Z.**

Natasha expressed the need to have a process to guide members so more will get involved. She is overwhelmed and Board Members encouraged her to delegate more. It was suggested to acknowledge and call out people who have stepped up and helped. There was a discussion for a need to have individuals oversee and take the lead on each event. This led to discussion on having an Activity Committee Chair board position.

Chris made motion, Natasha seconded, to create an Activity Committee Board position. All Ayes. Motion carried.

It had been noticed that not everyone was on Group Me. Natasha said there was a way to access it on a computer or have it sent as a text. It was suggested to include those directions on the welcome letter to new members and have instructions to hand out at the meetings if someone is having trouble.

### Recap of Past Events

- **Annual Meeting April 10, 2025.** There was good engagement. It was suggested to have name tags for the meetings.
- **Zion Church Community Meal March 24, 2025.** Was well attended. It works to remind volunteers they need to bring desserts.
- **Adopt a Highway Cleanup May 4, 2025.** Marlys noted that the bags were still out there that morning, and she had made a call to the County. There were 22 bags of trash collected. It was said there were not enough people there for the entire route and better instructions needed to be given. It was suggested to have someone with a vehicle along the route to bring water. Also, volunteers need to be encouraged to bring their friends to help. The hot dogs at the end of the cleanup were a hit.
- **Scholarship Award May 5, 2025.** Kevin joined Scott and Natasha on stage. Sandy took pictures. It was said the person the Club chose to award the scholarship to had also won several other scholarships. The process was explained that the envelope given to the recipient did not contain the money but had instructions on how to collect it, which was after the first fall semester.

### Upcoming Club Events

- **Zion Community Meal June 23, 2025.** There were 18 people who had already signed up. There was discussion on handing out the brochures. The Club was told at one time they could not put them on the tables, but it was noted that there was other literature on the tables, so that needed to be rechecked. There was a suggestion to just put one on the table and continue to replenish if someone took it. The brochure needed to be redone to highlight what the Club can do and there was a suggestion to make it more professional. It was decided to use up what the Club already had. The current one should be on google drive, and everyone was encouraged to take a look at it and make suggestions for updates.
- **Chisago Lakes Triathlon July 26-27, 2025.** Marlys reported the new event coordinators were awesome to work with. There was discussion on whether the Club should move forward with the Beer Garden. The Uncommon Loon had offered to supply beer at cost and buy back leftover partial kegs. Chris D. provided information on his experience with past events and said the Rotary would partner with the Club at the Tri and split proceeds. It was suggested to sell a 12 oz cup for \$5 and have 4-5 volunteers work it from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday only. Because of the uncertainty of how much money would be raised, it was suggested to ask the event promoters to contribute an extra \$500 to split. It was suggested to make it dependent on whether that will happen. It was also noted the volunteer signup was being done by the event coordinators online.
- **Harmony in the Park.** The Club will be attending on non-profit night and repeat what we did last year.
- **Parades (Karl Oskar July 12 and Ki Chi August 10).** At the next membership meeting there will be a push to get someone to take charge. Marlys will get the Club signed up.
- **Coffee Pot Steam Event June 21.** The event will take place from noon to 6 p.m. Channels 4 and 5 will be there and 3,000-5,000 people are expected to attend. The Ambassadors will be selling the coffee replicas from behind water tower coffee pot. The Club had about 70 left on hand, and Chris D. offered his place along Highway 8 across from the Muni bar. It was expected the Uncommon Loon would have a spot next to that. Every storefront will have a sidewalk sale. There was discussion about the Club getting more to sell and putting together the kits for a one-dollar discount for each pot but there was a requirement to purchase and put together 500 minimum. The City was offering a one-time opportunity to return what was not sold. No

decision had been made. Marlys has a popcorn machine and will check to see what permits are necessary for to sell, and there was a suggestion to just ask for donations. Sell popcorn at the Tri? It was suggested to purchase pop and water and maybe cookies to sell. The Act of Kindness wheel will be used. Information was provided on sponsorship. Dana felt there was no need to promote the Club that way.

Chris made motion, Natasha seconded, to be a Blue Sponsor for \$100 which will get the Club's name in the newspaper, announced on main stage, name on the website. All Ayes except Dana. Motion carried.

### **Purchase of Family Pathways Food**

This has been done.

### **Chisago Lakes Area Community Foundation Big Idea Grant**

Chris D. provided information on the grant saying the top amount was \$12,000. He wanted to encourage Club members to think of a project and will put something out on GroupMe. The Rotary was considering applying for a grant related to the bike trailhead improvements. Marlys had been meeting with the Achievement Center Board and she talked about doing a project with them that would focus on senior services to meet unmet needs. She had started work on a grant that was never applied for. The Center has employees, capacity, and vehicles. The program would involve the County and Sheriff's Department with events with seniors starting at one each quarter with the hopes to eventually establish a fulltime senior daycare center. The Achievement Center Director was instructed to start on a work plan. Applications for the grant will be accepted from August 1 to September 15 with grants being awarded in October. Marlys encouraged everyone to read the executive summary that was prepared for the other grant and consider applying for the Big Idea Grant.

### **Discussion on Virtual Board Meetings**

It was decided to continue holding regular meetings in person and any follow-up meetings will be virtual.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Yardwork for Local Senior.** It was decided to meet at Janet's at 9 a.m. Saturday to clean her gardens. Marlys will send out notice to club members to get volunteers.

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### **Upcoming Meeting**

- Membership Meeting June 12, 2025
- Board Meeting July 10, 2025

### **Adjourn**

Shelley made motion, Chris seconded, to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

*"Chisago Lakes Good Neighbors club, through its resources and diverse membership, contributes to the needs and wellbeing of our communities through acts of kindness."*