

MINUTES

Club and Board Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2022, 6 p.m.
Chisago Town Hall



Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance - President Chris Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance – the following signed in:

Lindsay Boever	Michele Lindau
Chelsey Carroll	Bruce Meehan
Michele Carroll	Trena Morrison
Tim Clark	Robert Morrison
Janet Dubose	Miranda Olson
Dana Helm	Shelly Refshaw
Rusty Hooks	Lindsay Schmitt
Dennis Kammerer	Chris Schneider
Kim LaBarre	Natasha Zarich
Christa Lorfald	Mike Kaiser

Welcome and Introductions – All attendees introduced themselves. Chris gave a brief overview of the last meeting where the organization of the Club was discussed.

Approval of Minutes – Lindsay S. made motion, Rob M. seconded, to approve the minutes for the November 22, 2022, as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Forest Lake Good Samaritan Club Presentation – Chris S. introduced President of the Forest Lake Good Samaritan Club Mike Kaiser saying Mike had attended one of the CLGNC's first meeting and the GNC had learned a lot from him. There are things the Clubs want to do together in the future, and Mike was there to share ideas. Chris announced that the FL Good Samaritan Club recently celebrated their fifth anniversary, and Mike recently won the FL Chamber's Volunteer of the Year Award.

Mike K. said the Clubs are better together and always evolving, and he felt the GNC was ahead of where they were. They recently hired someone to do their website at a cost of \$2,200, but it is much better. He talked about the Winter Plunge in Forest Lake and encouraged the GNC to participate, and he provided details. Participants need to raise at least \$50 to sign up, and the Rotary gives you back 70 % of what you've raised. Mike said you are only in the water for 10 seconds then into a warm tent. Last year, the Forest Lake Club raised \$2,200. He highly encouraged it and said there was time to sign up because it was not until February.

Scott R. talked about how the GNC considered doing it as part of the Celebration of the Lakes, but it had not been discussed by the Chisago Lakes Chamber, who runs the event. He said there were a lot of logistics to consider, and it would be best to do it alongside the Forest Lake Club this time.

Mike K. explained there is a costume contest if the Club wanted to come up with a theme. Teams are usually 5-8 people, but there is no cap. When you sign up, you will get information on how to raise money. He suggested the two Clubs have a competition on the top fundraising team.

Natasha indicated she would work with Chris S. and Marlys D. to make this happen with the GNC.

Mike K. talked about the Buy Nothing Program in Forest Lake. He explained it is now split into several regions, and the GNC could create their own. The premise is to get neighbors to share items and give away items for free. He said it is a good way to meet neighbors and eliminate waste. The idea was created in California and is split into different groups with a new group being created every 800 members. He talked about other ideas the Clubs could collaborate on. He suggested a competition between the Clubs on the city cleanup as part of the Cleanest City in America Contest. The Forest Lake Club makes videos, which the GNC could do. Last year, the Forest Lake Club had 55 people show up to clean for two hours. He suggested taking videos and having a competition on which club collects the most garbage by counting the bags. Mike talked about the power of Facebook and suggested members invite 50 of their friends each day to join the Facebook group saying it is amazing how quickly it would increase, and how many opportunities are created. He shared a story about helping a recently singled mom with five children who needed help. He put out a video and received a call the next day from someone who saw it on Facebook. It was a group that raises money for charities, and they ended up donating \$1,600 to the mom. He said the moral of that is to keep putting stuff out. When in doubt, put it out. You never know who is going to see it.

Scott R. said he loves the live videos Mike does, and it was something that was on the CLGNC's radar. He asked Mike about sponsorships.

Mike K. talked about their t-shirts and sponsors. Depending on how much money is donated, they add different size logos on their shirts. If someone participates in an act of kindness, they get a t-shirt. He said the Club is selling kindness, and no one says no to that. You just need to get out and ask, and this is usually done by whoever has the connections. He said they just added four new board members and are focusing on committees. He finds fundraising to be the easiest part.

Chris S. asked Mike K. what they do at the end of the year when they have shirts leftover. Mike replied that they don't lose sponsors. They renew every March. This began when they held their March Into Spring Challenge, which was a challenge to do a simple act of kindness every day for the month. If someone did, they would get a shirt if they didn't already have one. He put the acts of kindness on their website. He talked about the success of their fifth anniversary gala saying they celebrated their sponsors and had a silent auction. They also received four new board members and a few new sponsors. He cautioned that merchandise is not a big money maker, and they will have a store on their website. He said they started off with printing 50 t-shirts and have since given away a couple hundred. Mike wanted everyone in town to have one and thought it would be great to get a picture of all of them.

Mike K. asked about the GNC's social media. Miranda O. provided Facebook stats saying there were 438 followers and 337 likes. She said she liked the idea of making it a challenge to get others to join. She talked needing all information regarding events if they are to be put on the website, but realized many things happen on the fly.

Membership Committee Update - Chair Lori B. provided an update on the Membership Committee while Christa L. handed out cards for people to write down their act of kindness. At the end of the meeting, one card will be drawn.

Lori B. informed the group there were currently 52 members with four new members this month: Colleen Santi, John Santi, Lindsey Boever, and Michele Carroll. She explained that once a member is voted in, they will receive a welcome letter. She will share this letter with current members. She talked about the GNC buttons she purchased for \$43. They were for sale for \$2. The profit from the buttons would be

used to purchase more. She requested the Club reimburse her for the initial expense. Buttons will always be at the door at meetings for purchase.

Lori made motion, Lindsay S. seconded, to reimburse Lori \$ 43 for buttons. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Christmas Caroling – Rusty H. provided an update on the recently caroling event. On Monday, December 5, the carolers sang in Shafer and collected money and food donations for Family Pathways. On Saturday, December 10, caroling will be done at the old Rosehill Resort at 11:45 and then Parmly at 12:45. That evening at 6 p.m., caroling will take place in Chisago. On Monday, December 12, the carolers will visit a south Lindstrom neighborhood, and on Monday, December 19, the group will visit a north Lindstrom neighborhood. Lindsay S. suggested adding it to Facebook a few days before so people are aware. Rusty talked about the food drive explaining that Marlys D. went out ahead of the carolers to let people know they were coming and accepting food and cash donations for Family Pathways. They collected \$70 in cash and a wagon of food. There was a brief discussion on which neighborhoods to visit. It was noted the event was put together rather quickly, and Lindsay S. offered to help figure out the neighborhoods in the future. Miranda O. stated she was not always in the position to put last minute posts on the website or Facebook. Scott R. said it would be a GNC event next year, and it could be taken to the next level with a sleigh. Robert M. talked about some neighborhoods that have their own Facebook page or Nextdoor group that the carolers could be advertised on. Rusty will be sending out an email tomorrow to let everyone know where to meet for Saturday's caroling.

Adopt A Grandparent Program - Michele L. updated the new members of the group on the \$6,000 grant received from the Chisago Lakes Community Foundation for the Adopt a Grandparent Program (AGP). A group met on Monday, December 6, to talk about the implementation of the program. Michele reviewed the budget saying the GNC received about \$2,000 less than asked, so changes needed to be made to the proposed budget. The decision was to keep the same GNC logo instead of creating a separate one for the AGP and to create a page on the GNC website for the AGP. Miranda O. will train Michele on how to use GoDaddy to update the website. Lori B. was working on a folder with a checklist and information for seniors to apply for the program and a folder with information for volunteers. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dunne home. All are invited to attend; however, the meetings are to focus on how to implement the program. Everyone will be encouraged to become involved with the AGP once established. Michele talked about the AGP activities already done or in progress, such as the Age Well Expo, Christmas Caroling at senior centers, and Christmas Mugs for Seniors the GNC is currently working on. Chris S. added that the AGP is the Club's next big focus. It will operate under the GNC, but funds will be accounted for separately beginning with opening a separate bank account.

Christmas Mugs for Seniors - Kim L. started the Christmas Mugs for Seniors 20 years ago. The mugs had been made by florists with donations from fire departments. The mugs were then given to seniors at Christmas time to recognize those that are lonely at the holidays and to promote Christmas cheer. The GNC recently had decided the mugs could be made by Club members to save money, and it was decided to create 100 mugs. A committee has organized supplies and all mugs had been purchased. Volunteer mug makers will gather at the Schneider home on Sunday, December 18 at 10 a.m., and a signup sheet was passed around for those who wanted to help to sign up. Kim said to let her know if anyone knew of a senior who should receive one. It was noted that Family Pathways wanted 50 mugs, and there were seniors in three different churches mugs should be distributed to. Scott R. suggested giving mugs to those who received random acts of kindness from the Club. Christa L. said she had a list of seniors from the Age Well Expo as well.

Treasure Update – Chris S. provided a brief update in the absence of Treasurer Marlys D. The money from the grant was currently in the GNC account and will need to be moved to a separate account. Absent those funds,

there was currently \$2,497.96 in the GNC account, so the Club needed to look ahead to do fundraising.

Winter Plunge – Scott R. said he will talk more with the Forest Lake Club on competing with them and find out more about the fundraising. He acknowledged the timing was too tight to do as part of the Celebration of the Lakes because of the many logistics, but the GNC could put it on as an event next year.

Club Events – Chris S. talked about how club events are defined. The events usually cost Club money. He talked about not knowing what the Club's operating expenses were since the Club was so new, but more will be known after one year. Mike K. talked about the Forest Lake's Club events, such as their Clean-up event where the Lions pay up to \$500 to provide food for volunteers. Kim L. said the Lions could be used in cases where alcohol would be sold. Lindsay S. said she had talked to Chris D. about being a member of the Rotary. The cost is \$500 but, at their board meeting, it was agreed that GNC could become a member and defer payment for six months while partnering in events to help pay. Chris S. offered Chris D. and Stephanie S. to be liaisons with the Rotary to figure it out.

CLGNC Merchandise – Scott R. talked about the app that was set up to take orders for CLCNC merchandise. The link was active if people wanted to order. He was happy with the way the sweatshirts and hats turned out and said to let him know if there are other things member wanted to see.

Mentoring Children – Scott R. said Shelly R. had connected With Safe Haven, and Tina F. had ideas as well. He suggested they work together to come up with ideas to help mentor kids.

Community Events – Chris S. suggested the Club start brainstorming on a community event for April. Mike K. said, in his experience, when they approached companies for gifts for their silent auction, they often gained them as sponsors. He said the face-to-face interaction is important, and it never hurts to ask. Natasha Z. said she will get a group together to plan the event.

Club and Board Meeting Dates – Chris S. acknowledged the Club had fallen behind on Board meetings. He suggested staggering Club and Board meetings and said all Club members are welcome to the Board meetings. There was a discussion on new members being voted in at regular meetings. Lori B. explained that if people want to join, they could touch base with the membership committee who will start to include them. They don't need to be a member. Mike K. asked why the Club was even voting people in; if they want to join, let them. He added that he liked how the Club was collecting emails. There was discussion on bylaws and 501-3(c) requirement of voting people in. It was pointed out that the bylaws can't be changed until the April meeting.

Miranda O. made motion, Robert M., seconded to stagger meetings every month beginning with January's meeting being a Board meeting.

Vote in New Members - Miranda O. made motion, Natasha Z. seconded, to vote in the following members:

Colleen Santi
John Santi
Lindsey Boever
Michele Carroll

All Ayes. Motion carried.

Tim C. asked new member to talk to him about getting on to the GroupMe app.

Acts of Kindness - Mike K. shared how the Forest Hills Church fixes cars once a month. They ask for cars to be donated and mechanic company employees fix the cars for free in a way to teach them to pay it forward. Lori M.'s card was chosen from the jar. She talked about helping a client out to their car when the pavement was icy. Lindsay S. talked about finding garbage bags full of compost on the side of the road that she opened and spread out.

Next Meeting- The next meeting will be a Board meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6 p.m. The budget cycle will be discussed.

Adjournment – Lindsay made motion, Natasha seconded, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Michele Lindau.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Lindau".

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