

MINUTES

Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

5:15 p.m.

Gallery Bar & Grill Basement



Call to Order

Natasha Z. made motion, Lindsay S. seconded, to call the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Attendance

President Chris Schneider

Vice President Scott Ross

Treasurer Marlys Dunn

Fundraising Director Natasha Zarich

Secretary Michele Lindau

Member at Large Lindsay Schmidt

Member at Large Paula Hanson

Chisago Lakes Rotary

Chris S. said he needed to get the application to Chris D. It will be \$500 for the year to be a member, and they were okay with waiting until the Karl Oskar parade. Lindsay S. talked about the Rotary letting the Club defer payment for a while.

Vote in New Members

Paula made motion, Natasha seconded, to vote in new members Marcia Boline, Wendy Frantsen, Joan Tabak, Annette Weber, Pat Ongstead. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Review of 2022 Expenses, Revenues, and 2023 Budget – Treasurer Marlys D.

The Board talked about how the budget didn't need to be set in stone at this meeting, but it would be nice to have it done by the end of February. Marlys D. had started a spreadsheet and started keying in supplies cost for past events.

Parades - The Club will be doing Karl Oskar and Ki-Chi parades but agreed the balloons didn't go very smoothly and would not be doing balloons again. Natasha Z. will continue with the parade committee. Paula H. talked about the event committee of Shafer saying they asked the GNC to help with Shafer Days again on September 16. The Board agreed it was good exposure. There were still some supplies left from last year. Natasha Z. said some other organizations in the parade have spent upward of \$1,500 for candy for parades.

Fundraising Options - Chris S. talked about his connection to someone who has a popcorn machine that could be used at booths for fund raising events. Chris suggested having balloons at the booths, and Lindsay suggested giving them out as part of the spinning wheel.

Lindsay S. brought up the question of whether the Club was going to keep raising money during food drives for the food shelf or if the Club should keep some of the money for itself. It was agreed the Club should give as much money as possible to Family Pathways, but the Club needs funds and perhaps should keep a certain percent. (This was discussed again later in the meeting.) The Club needs to know what is necessary for the 2023 events, which will lead into a discussion on fundraising and sponsorships.

It was agreed \$500 should be budgeted for parades. The Club needs another batch of pens, business cards, glow sticks, and stamps for Trick or Treat on Main Street. With the information she has, Natasha Z. will break down what has been spent on each event.

Paula H. talked about an organization that raised \$60,000 through calendar sales, and the Board agreed this was something to consider.

Turkey bowling - Turkey Bowling will be a part of the Celebration of the Lakes and will be a fundraiser for the Club. Marlys D. and Michele L. are working on details. Due to the ice conditions, the event will be held at Chucky Lindquist Park. Local businesses will be asked for donations of turkeys. More info to come.

Annual Gala - Natasha Z. is working with a committee on the Gala and will have a better idea once that comes together. The Gala could be held in March or April or possibly May 15. Natasha pointed out that the pollinator garden is done in May, and the Adopt a Highway is in the spring, so it should be spread out. Chris S. talked about timing being a factor because tickets sales and invites needed to go out. Natasha pointed out there will be costs involved and planning needed to be done to figure it out. They had looked at doing it at Split Rock Bowling but it would cost \$1,500 minimum for half a room rental. It was mentioned that the Stone Inn has a caterer and liquor license, and it was agreed it needed to be kept in the community. Marlys D. said that people recognize a gala as being a fundraiser. Chris S. was thinking tickets could be \$20 and having a theme was suggested. Natasha recalled the Forest Lake Good Samaritan Club's event was free, and she suggested tabling the discussion for the committee to decide how big the event should be. All agreed.

Home & Garden Show -Chris S. questioned whether the Home & Garden show was the right venue for the Club and didn't want the Club to promise things it couldn't deliver. Marlys said the Age Well will have a booth there too, and Marlys will try to get a booth next to them. Funding from the Adopt the Grandparent Program will be paying for the booth (\$200), and the booth will need to be staffed.

Adopt a Grandparent Program – The committee will be meeting on Thursday. An application and waiver was being worked on, and Copy Pro was doing a flyer. The banner was already made. A soft launch will be done at the Home Show. The committee plans to have a folder with an application and information for volunteers available at the next Club meeting in February. Expectations of volunteers was still being discussed by the committee.

AgeWell Collation Virtual Session – Marlys D. attended the virtual meeting that began with the GNC introducing the Club to the group. Resulting from that, there have been several organizations contacting the GNC, one being Lakes and Pines. She felt it would be a great partnership and part of the Adopt a Grandparent Program to be involved with their Groceries to Go program. There is predevelopment (onboard) training for 1-2 volunteers. Chris S. said he wanted to stress that the Adopt the Grandparent Program is a GNC program. Any major decisions should be voted on by the Board, and it wasn't necessary to wait for a Board meeting to vote on things.

Committee Notes and Dropbox - There was a reminder to send committee notes to the Board. There was discussion regarding Dropbox. One was created for the Adopt a Grandparent Program. Rights to all Dropboxes needed to be set properly so some will have rights to only view documents.

Winter Plunge-The Club needs a theme or wear the GNC shirts.

Christmas Caroling – Chris S. questioned whether something should be put in the budget to have a trailer for the caroling event, but there was talk about how it was very successful being more impromptu. Scott R. began a discussion about partnering with a group that is doing a toy drive. No decisions were made.

Pollinator Garden – There are no costs associated with this event

Adopt a Highway – There are no associated costs for road cleanup unless the Club wanted to purchase grabbers. Paula H. will contact the County to see if they have any or possibly Sentence to Serve has some the Club could use.

Social media maintenance fees, phone fees – Scott R. said there were no costs associated with the phone.

Merchandise (apparel, stickers etc. for handout not for sale) – Chris S. felt the Club should increase stickers. Marlys D. said she was working with Kathy at Copy Pro on stickers and quotes. Lori B. had made some buttons that could be handed out or sold. It was suggested budgeting \$1,000 for stickers. Scott R. suggested Koozies could be done with Adopt the Grandparent on one side and Good Neighbors Club on the other. Kathy had quoted a dollar per koozie. It was agreed it would be easy to sell Koozies for cost and could be sold if working in the beer garden for two dollars. This would raise money for the Club.

Technology (software, devices etc.) – The device Miranda O. uses is paid for, but Office Suite software was needed. Chris S. said he has a new HP laptop that he thought already had Office on it. Marlys D. and Lindsay S. said they both have extra seats on their subscriptions that could be used. Chris S. talked about a mic and camera combination (web cam) that could be used for ZOOM meetings, which would make it nice to give members options for attending meetings.

Supplies (Items for parade floats and other events) -The banners were done, but funds were needed for business cards, brochures, and applications. There were still a lot of them, but they will be gone soon.

Bank Account – Marlys D. reported there was currently \$2,616 in the bank account. During caroling, \$808 was raised, and the Club received a check for \$25. She was working on getting the food and money delivered to Family Pathways. Chris S. had received \$100 as a donation from someone whose car he helped jump when it wouldn't start. Chris said he had trouble linking a PayPal account to the bank account for people who wanted to donate. There is an option to donate through the website. Marlys D. said she had everything she needed to do the 2002 tax filing.

Donations/fundraising - There was discussion on taking donations during caroling for both the club and Family Pathways, and it was agreed to do that moving forward when the Club could let donors know they were donating to both, and not just the food shelf. Robert O. was working to get his hours at work transferred into dollars, approximately \$200. CenterPoint donated \$500, and Thomas Reuters may donate some money. There was a reminder that donation requests needed to go to the Fire Departments every year.

No other budget items were discussed.

Sponsorships

Chris S. and Scott R. talked about the newsletter and sponsorship forms Natasha Z. was working on. There was a suggestion to send sponsorship requests to a list of businesses, and there was recollection that Mike from Forest Lake Good Samaritans said it was better to visit them face-to-face. There was a

suggestion to first send a letter and then go in person. Lindsay S. said she had some free time to go around to businesses with the sponsorship form. It was agreed it should be organized, and a suggestion was made for Natasha Z. to put together a list of the business and the GNC contact. She will send an email to the members asking them to let her know if they have any contacts and whether they would be willing to reach out to the business. This list could also be used for other things. Lindsay S. will be dropping off Winter Plunge flyers and will keep a list of the businesses she visits for potential sponsorships.

Handling of Service Requests

Scott R. talked about needing to be sure to circle back to people or be a resource. Chris S. agreed it was great to have people reach out, but the GNC is not able to handle some of the requests. He will send out the request to the group. If he doesn't get any members to volunteer, he will respond to the requester that there is no volunteer, and he will provide another resource if he can. It was noted that the handling of service requests could go down a very complicated path.

Next Meeting

The next GNC Board meeting will be March 9 at Chisago Lakes Town Hall at 6:00 p.m., but it is likely a special meeting will be called prior to that for the purpose of finalizing the budget.

The next GNC Club Meeting will be Thursday, February 9, 2023 at Chisago Lakes Town Hall.


New Members

There was discussion regarding new members and the need to put together an instruction sheet for GroupMe and/or have Tim C. meet with them to get them going on it. Chris S. said he could include a notification in his Welcome Letter that they will be getting an invite from GroupMe and they will need to respond to it. It was agreed that only positive messages should be sent on GroupMe and chit chat should be limited.

Adjourn

Lindsay S. made motion, Michele L. seconded, to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Michele Lindau.

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