

MINUTES

Club Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2023 @ 6 -7 p.m.

Chisago Town Hall



Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance - President Chris S. and Vice President Scott R. called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Chris was in attendance remotely via ZOOM. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance – There were 21 people in attendance. The following attendees signed in:

Lindsay Boever	Michele Lindau
Chelsey Carroll	Trena Morrison
Janet Dubose	Robert Morrison
Dana Helm	Lindsay Schmitt
Dennis Kammerer	Natasha Zarich
Christa Lorfald	Scott Ross
Landen Lorfald	Marly Dunne
Kim LaBarre	Pat Ongstad
Joan Tabak	

Welcome New Members - Lori B. welcomed the five new members approved at the last Board meeting: Marcia Boline, Wendy Frantsen, Joan Tabak, Annette Weber, Pat Ongstead. Joan and Pat were in attendance, and Scott R. thanked them for joining.

Approval of Minutes – Natasha Z. made motion, Janet D. seconded, to approve the Club meeting minutes for December 8, 2022. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Update – Treasurer Marlys D. announced the Club currently had approximately \$2,600 in the bank. There were minor reimbursements for mugs. Chris S. had received a \$100 donation, a \$25 donation was received while Christmas caroling, and Scott R. had received \$20 from an elderly couple he was helping by taking their garbage out. Marlys talked about a possible donation from the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, but the amount had not been disclosed. Joan T. asked how the Club's funds were spent. Marlys explained that there were many startup expenses with websites, computers, flyers, and parade fees. Money was also spent on supplies and signs. The Club was trying to be very conservative, and every activity had something going back into community. Scott R. added that money was spent on floats, food drive and awareness campaigns. Crista Z. talked about how group members have many different talents, and she invited those who have ideas to bring them forward. She talked about how requirements had recently been changed for volunteers at nursing homes to not require vaccine shots, and they will likely be asking for volunteers. Marlys said she was finalizing the numbers for the 2023 budget.

Membership Committee Update – Membership Committee Chair Lori B. announced there were currently 61 members. The Committee was working hard to find places for volunteers. Many founding members had not filled out an application indicating areas of interest, and the Committee wanted individuals to commit to at least one activity per year. Lori had created new membership applications and asked all members to fill one out. It could be done on a hard copy or on the website. Scott R. talked about Board members being very open if someone had questions. Lori handed out the new form. Lori B. talked about ordering shirts and purchasing buttons for \$2. All the money goes back into the Club to purchase more.

Activities Committee Update – Committee Chair Natasha Z. said they were asking everyone to commit to at least one active a year. The following activities were discussed:

Winter Plunge – The Plunge will be held Saturday, February 18, in Forest Lake. There were about 15 members signed up. This is put on by the Forest Lake Rotary, and 70% of money raised by the GNC will go back to the GNC. The Plunge begins at noon and can be live streamed on Lakes Area TV. If you wanted to participate, you needed to register online, and Natasha asked everyone to share the Facebook link to get donations. The Club goal was \$2,300, and \$1,295 more was needed to meet that goal. Lori B. will be photographing. White “helping hands” had been purchased, and two songs had been selected. Kim L. said she was still getting funds but may not jump due to illness. Natasha reminded everyone they needed to be registered to jump. She said she received a lot of donations from work. Janet D. and Landen L. had recently decided to jump. Natasha had files if people wanted them to hang up.

Spring Gala- The Gala will be held on Sunday May 7, 2023, at Winehaven from 6-9 p.m. It will be a sit-down dinner, somewhat formal. There will be door prizes and a silent auction. Scott R. talked about staying local by using the Stone Inn for dinner. He envisioned kids being involved in serving food and taking care of the tables. There are 61 members and he had no idea how many would come. The Gala was to celebrate the Clubs success, track our random acts of kindness, and celebrate the wins. Winehaven will set up and take down. It was said an invite will be extended to those the Club has helped during the past year, and it was hoped to be able to offer them the event for free or at a discount. Lori M. commented that it would be nice to have recipients of Acts of Kindness there to tell their stories

Turkey Bowling – Marly D. explained Turkey Bowling would be done as part of the Celebration of the Lakes on February 12 at Chucky Lundquist Park from noon to 2 p.m. Set up will take place at 11. The ice needed spray painting for lanes. Turkeys purchased by Marlys D. and Michele L. will be given as prizes. Grundhoefer’s Meats donated four turkeys. Rusty H. will be wrapping the turkeys in netting that will be used for bowling.

Adopt A Grandparent Program – Marlys D. provided background to the new members on the grant the Club had received. She explained the idea of matching volunteer members with seniors, and she passed out a draft flyer. The Committee had met five or six times and would be doing a soft launch at the Chisago Lakes Home and Garden Show. Dana H. explained the program would be run under the Good Neighbors Club. Volunteers will be asked for their interests, and grandparents will be asked the same in order to match volunteers with grandparents. Expectations of volunteers was explained on the form, and there will be orientation and training to make it easier. There will be a one-year commitment with six personal interactions a year, and a touchpoint at least once a month. She asked Club members to be advocates of the program, and she asked members to consider volunteering by completing and returning the volunteer form. She invited everyone to provide ideas. The goal was to match volunteers and grandparents in March, and the Committee will be working on a FAQ. Marlys talked about the many organizations that were asking when the AAGP would be ready to go, such as Lakes and Pines, and school teachers were asking how to get their kids involved. Chris S. said he was fortunate to be able to attend one of the recent committee meetings, and he liked how the program was coming. Marlys said the committee was working on the finishing touches and hoped to include a contact phone number.

Chisago Lakes Home and Garden Show – Marlys D. briefly mentioned the event to be held on February 25 and 26. The GNC will have a booth there and will be launching the AAGP. Help was needed setting up on Friday night and working the booths Saturday and Sunday.

Club Process -Scott R. provided a reminder of the Club's processes saying an email had been sent earlier that day with a flowchart that was put together by Natasha Z. It was also online. He asked everyone to review it and let him know if they had questions.

Club Video Online – Scott R. talked about a four-minute online video done by David P. that explained the Club. There was a link to it on the GNC website. He encouraged all to look at it and said committees would be asked to create their own video.

Sponsorship Update - Scott R. talked about the sponsorship drive being nearly complete. They will be hitting local business this week. Natasha Z. had sent an email out to the group about a month ago to get engagement. She had asked everyone to reach out to their contacts for sponsorships. Sponsors would have their logo put on the GNC website. Scott said sponsors provide good recognition and give credibility that the Club was working with the community. Scott offered himself and Chris S. to meet with contacts. Potential sponsors can always go to the website to become a sponsor, but in person meetings are best.

Acts of Kindness – Club members were asked to share and inspire others with their Acts of Kindness. Crista L. asked for people to write their Random Acts of Kindness on cards she passed out, and put the cards in a jar that she will pick from for the door prize. Scott R. shared an inquire he had received from a veteran for cutting some tile to put on a table, and Landen L. cut the tile for him. Landen said it felt good to help. Stephanie S. talked about a woman who owned a car that the snow plow had buried. The City told the woman several times she needed to move it. She started receiving citations, and she didn't know what to do. Stephanie and Chris S. plowed it out and jumped it, and are now storing it in the Schneider's garage, which completely relieved this woman from stress. She donated \$100 to the Club. Lori B. explained the Club receives requests for Random Acts of Kindness through a hotline number people can call. Scott R. filters them and puts them out on GroupMe for members to offer help. Lori encouraged members to pay attention to the GroupMe application, and she explained how to get onto GroupMe.

New member Joan T.'s Act of Kindness was selected from the jar. Joan explained she hands out small stone hearts to people. She has so far given out over 3,000 in the past year. The idea was inspired by her mom who encouraged small things be done to make people feel better during the pandemic. She buys them in bulk, and she gave one to all the members. The door prize given by Christa was a big stuff bear with a card that appropriately said "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time. They have a heart". Lori asked Joan if giving out the stones was something she would like to expand on. Joan replied that she absolutely would, and that it has a ripple effect to get positivity out there. Scott R. talked about the rocks that Lori M. and Lisa D. had made. There were comments that people like the idea of a small stone because you can put it in your pocket.

Merchandise Orders – Scott R. showed the new baseball cap with the GNC logo on it that costs around \$12. He will be sending out an email for orders. He was also looking at getting head bands and visors. He said Venmo works, but he was trying to come up with another way to deal with the money for purchases.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be on April 13 at 6 p.m. at the Chisago Lakes Town Hall.

Parmley Gazebo – Marlys D. quickly updated the club on a phone call she received from a St. Bridget’s group who wants to partner with the GNC to help with fixing the Gazebos at Parmley in the spring.

Adjourn – Christa made motion, Natasha seconded, to adjourn at 7:06 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.”