

MINUTES

Annual Club Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6 p.m.
Chisago Town Hall



Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance - President Chris S. called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves. Rusty H. led the group on the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance—The following attendees signed in:

Marlys Dunne	Michele Lindau
Kim LaBarre	Bruce Meehan
Joan Tabak	Joe Helm
Rusty Hooks	Sandy Hulke
Shelly Refshaw	Kevin Hulke
Robert Morrison	Rob Lindeman
Trena Morrison	Edy Elliott
Taylor Gause	Dana Helm
Alvin White	Lori Bestler
Dennis Kammerer	Natasha Zarich
Christa Lerfald	Scott Ross
Chris Schneider	Miranda Olson
Christa Lerfald	

Welcome New Members – Chris S. welcomed new members Kari Francois, Kevin Hulke, Landen Lerfald, and Rob Lindeman. Kevin Hulke was in attendance with his wife, Sandy, who will be voted in as a new member at the next Board meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Scott R. made motion, Natasha Z. seconded, to approve the Club meeting minutes for February 9, 2023, as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Approve Amendment to Bylaws – Chris S. explained a requirement in the Club’s bylaws was to hold the annual meeting by March 31. Marlys D. made motion, Miranda O. seconded, to change the annual meeting date from March 31 to May 31 beginning in 2024. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Nomination of Officers – Chris S. explained board member terms were staggered two-year terms with three positions being for only one year at the beginning. Those positions were communication director, secretary, and president. Miranda O. explained the role of the communications director saying she needed to relinquish the position due to her workload, but did not want to leave the Club in a bind. She stated she would be there to help anyone willing to transition into the role. Michele L. explained the role of the secretary, and Chris S. explained the role of the president. A sheet was passed around for members to enter a nomination for each of these positions.

Treasurer Report Treasurer Marlys D. presented the 2023 budget that was approved by the Board at their April 12, 2023, meeting. She explained it would continue to be a work in progress over the years. The Club recently took in \$1,300 in donations and money from fundraising that included \$280 from Turkey Bowling, \$100 individual donation, \$200 from the Zion Church Endowment Fund, and \$50 from the Chisago City Fire Department. She encouraged members to seek donations from their employers. The biggest fundraising money came from the Winter Plunge in the amount of \$3,100, and Marlys anticipated more donations forthcoming from the fire departments and churches. The Club renewed their chamber membership fee, and with other minor expenses, there should still be about \$4,000.

Activities Update

Adopt a Highway Cleanup - Activities Committee Chair Natasha Z. informed the group the Adopt a Highway Cleanup was scheduled for Sunday April 30, and she would be sending out a sign-up sheet. If the weather was bad, it would be rescheduled for some time in May.

Gala – Natasha informed the group the Activities Committee decided to change the date for the spring gala that was tentatively scheduled for May. Due to a small planning window and shortage of funds, the Gala would likely be done in the Fall.

Parades – Natasha said the next parade would be during Karl Oscar Days on the weekend of July 7-9. She questioned whether the Club wanted to do a booth. Chris S. said he thought the parade was sufficient. Part of the problem with a booth was getting volunteers to do it and then not being a part of the parade. Scott R. added that it was good the first year to get the Club's name out but more work than it was worth, and we needed to be respectful of people's time. Everyone generally agreed to keep the parades and food drives going. There was discussion on doing balloons again, handing out tattoos, and a suggestion to ask for donations to offset the costs. Natasha indicated she would be looking to get a parade committee together.

Tree sponsor- Miranda O. talked about the City of Lindstrom's request for tree sponsors to plant trees in North Meadow Park. The Rotary was donating funds to plant two trees, and they were looking for more donations to purchase a third or fourth tree to install on Earth Day. Trees would cost around \$250-\$450, and the City was taking donations. Miranda will share on the information on the GNC Facebook page.

Cleanest City Challenge – Scott R. shared a conversation he had with Mike from the Forest Lake Good Samaritan Club who want to challenge the GNC in the Cleanest City Earth Day Cleanup. It would be a two-hour period to see which group could collect the most trash. The plan would be for the GNC to meet at a central location at the end and count the bags. Some details needed to be figured out such as whether a dumpster could be donated, where it would be located, and getting the bags. Marlys D. will check with the County and local solid waste companies. A show of hands indicated there would be many volunteers.

Communications Update - Communications Director Miranda O. said there were 415 likes and 545 followers on Facebook. Things had been slow, but were expected to pick up now that spring was near. She stressed the importance of sharing posts so they come up more often in feeds.

Membership Committee Update - Chair Lori B. said there were currently 65 members, and she thanked the new members for joining. She talked about getting all members to fill out the new application form which had info on what members were interested in. She had purchased 50 buttons for \$43 and sells them for \$2, and she encouraged everyone to wear them. She recapped the first quarterly membership gathering at Scooters saying there were approximately 25-30 people that attended. The Membership Committee would be working on finding a location for the next gathering. A new thing the Committee did for this meeting was place cards in front of everyone so people could learn names. She said she would be collecting them after the meeting and reusing them at the next meeting.

Parmly Volunteer Opportunities - Taylor Gause, Lead of Activities at Parmly, spoke to the group about volunteer opportunities at Parmly that included running large groups, going on outings, doing arts and crafts with residents, and groundskeeping. She said they lost a lot of volunteers during Covid. She had applications and guidelines available. Kim L. talked about a program she was starting where she works at Sweet Living Senior Center. Kim does live auctions where the seniors use play money. She asked

Taylor if she would be interested. Taylor indicated she would, and they will reconnect after Kim does it this month to see how it goes. Christa L. added that there was a lot of need in nursing homes, and she could help make connections.

Adopt A Grandparent Program – Marlys D. provided an update on the Adopt a Grandparent Program. There were approximately seven qualified volunteers, and three had gone through the Lakes and Pines Program, which the group decided to not move forward with that at this time. She had connected with Family Pathways, and she talked about the difficulties in finding grandparent volunteers. Dana H. added that most candidates were not asking for help due to the pride factor, and the group would do best looking at referrals and complimenting other services.

Reading Night – Marlys D. shared a volunteer opportunity for Reading Night on May 17 at the Chisago Lakes High School. They were expecting over 1,000 kids. This would be shared on the GroupMe app if anyone was interested in volunteering.

Acts of Kindness – Recent acts of kindness included Chris S. helping Rob O. clear snow at his residence. Marlys, Rob and Trena helped push another Club member out of the snow. Christa collected everyone's acts of kindness written on cards, and she drew Nikki's name. Nikki's Act of Kindness was purchasing coffee for a stranger. Trena provided the gift of a homemade yard garden mushroom.

Vote to Elect Officers – A sheet for nominations had been passed around, and the only names on it were the current board members.

Marlys D. made motion, Natasha Z. seconded, to elect Chris S. to continue as President. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Rusty H. made motion, Marlys D. seconded, to elect Michele L. to continue as Secretary. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Natasha Z. made motion, Michele L. seconded, to elect Miranda O. to continue as Communications Director. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – The next Board meeting would be May 11, and the next Club meeting would be June 8. Future agenda items would include a discussion on upcoming parades and a possible presentation from Family Pathways.

Miscellaneous - Scott R. provided information on Terri Perron's house burn recently. They were accepting clothing donation at Shafer Saloon and at Als. This had been posted on the GroupMe app. Joan T. suggested having a community closet for items people would need in an emergency, and she offered to head this up. Christa suggested reaching out to Family Pathways and a foster store in town that may be able to provide support. Rob M. provided information on the Chisago Lakes Association meeting saying they were hurting for members. There was a meeting scheduled at the Uncommon Loon for May 6, and it would be beneficial if some club members went to it and got involved.

Adjournment – Miranda o. made motion, Lindsey S. seconded, to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Michele Lindau.

