

MINUTES

Club Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Chisago Lake Township Hall



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

Attendance - 23 people were in attendance

Shelley Lindau	Lorraine Swenson
Rusty Hooks	Lori Bestler
Joan Tabak	Shelly Refshaw
Kelly Ingebrigtson	Tim Clark
Dana Helm	Pat Ongstad
Joe Helm	Elizabeth Peck
Bruce Meehan	Dennis Kammerer
Lori Meehan	Christa Lerfald
Marcia Boline	Alvin White
Trena Morrison	Chris DuBose
Robert Morrison	Marlys Dunne
Rob Lindeman	

Approve and Welcome New Club Member- Chris D. made motion Shelley L. seconded, to approve new members Elizabeth Peck and Kelly Ingebrigtson. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Approve Club Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2023 – Marlys D. made motion, Robert M. seconded, to approve the minutes for the Club meeting held on August 10, 2023. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion on Volunteer Opportunities

Family Pathways Volunteer Opportunities – Brooke Zank, Family Pathways Volunteer, was not able to attend the meeting and will be added to the next Club agenda.

Middle School Volunteer Opportunity – Jared Clark asked his father, Tim, to present information on an opportunity to volunteer at the Chisago Lakes Middle School during an event for children with terminal illnesses. This event is being put on by a teacher, Mrs. Maeckerleergh, who lost a child to a disease. They are looking for volunteers from 8 a.m.-noon on October 28th in the parking lot behind the Middle School. He believed it was similar to a “trunk or treat” event, and they are looking for decorated trunks or donated supplies. Tim or Jared can be contacted for more information.

Point Pleasant Heights Reading Club Opportunities – Edy Elliot wanted to talk about a program to read to the elderly. She was not able to attend the meeting. This item will be added to the next Club agenda.

Parmly Housekeeping Request – The Club had received a message from a worker at Parmly wondering if anyone did light housekeeping. They have a few people that need some assistance, and are willing to pay. It was noted the Club does not, and never will, ask for payment, but donations are always welcome. It was assumed she was looking for referrals.

Zion Church Community Meal Schedule- It was questioned whether the Club had committed to any Zion Church Monday meals since there had been talk about doing it every month. Chris S. confirmed that nothing was scheduled, and it agreed it may be possible to commit to once a month when there are more committed members. Something could be done quarterly, but it was still being considered.

New Pathways Program – Christa L. encouraged member to look for opportunities through the churches. She found the New Pathways' Path to Home Program that serves homeless adults with children by giving them a safe place to stay. Fourteen local churches take turns hosting families for a week at a time. Families (24 people at the most) are at work, school, or day centers during the day, and return to the church in the evening where sleeping accommodations are provided. They need volunteers to help support program. Christa and her son, Landon, will be volunteering next Thursday, and will be doing a two-hour training. Lorraine added that St. Bridget's Church also hosts these families. Lori M. talked about three CLGNC members who went to Trinity and painted rocks with the kids as part of the program.

Winter Clothing Donations - Christa L. found information on a jacket and mitten drive in the paper, so she offered to collect those items. Lakes Free Church is having an event on October 20 for people to pick out what they need. She will be sending out the information for people who want to donate to drop items off at her house. It was said that free items are needed because thrift stores are getting expensive. Elizabeth added that the church has a room in their basement, and they take donations all year. There was a suggestion to use the Buy Nothing Chisago City/Lindstrom/Center City website. There was also a suggestion to put a weekly ad in the local paper to let people know the things the Club is doing in order to get information out and promote what is going on. It was mentioned that they may put that type of ad in the paper for free. Chris S. will find out more about the paper. Shelly R. talked about putting it on Facebook, and Tim offered to help with Facebook and will connect with Natasha to get logon information. Joan T. offered to help put information together on items to submit to newspaper.

Updates

Treasurer Report – Treasurer Marlys D. informed the group \$249 was donated during the Ki-Chi parade that went towards purchasing food for the food shelf. The Club paid out \$300 for a school supply donation and bracelets for the parade. CenterPoint, Natasha's employer, will be donating \$2,000 to the Club. The Club has paid the CL Rotary membership fee of \$375. There was approximately \$7,100 in the checkbook. She has mailed letters to all three of the Fire Departments requesting donations. Joan T. added that the Lindstrom Fire Hall grand opening celebration will be on Saturday.

Ki-Chi-Saga Days and Food Shelf Dropoff – During the Ki-Chi parade, the Club collected food and \$249.50 for the food shelf. At the request of Family Pathways to have donations be made in food instead of cash, Marlys D. went to Aldi's and purchased food. She crammed 178 pounds of food in her car and brought it to Family Pathways last Friday. Information was sent to the press for publication.

Adopt a Grandparent – Marlys D. informed the group the Adopt a Grandparent committee met the previous evening and accomplished a lot. There was discussion on the upcoming Age Well Expo and the flyers were updated for the expo. More pictures are needed. The orientation folders are complete and Dana asked for feedback on what people like to see in them and what was found to be helpful. There are currently six volunteers matched up and more volunteers looking for seniors. It has been found that the best way to recruit seniors is through referrals, and it is hoped to have some signups at the Age Well event. There was a suggestion to put greeting cards in the folders for seniors to have available to them, and the group was asked to donate if they had some to share. At the committee meeting, there was also discussion on doing a cookie exchange.

Membership Committee – Chair Lori B. informed the group there were currently 78 members on the contact list, but not all were active. Lori M. and Craig A. each called 8-9 nonactive members to connect with them. Five confirmed they wanted to dropped out. Robert M. will reach out to Vicki S. to see what her intentions are. Lori talked about the orientation held before regular Club meetings saying that it has helped get new members connected, and she continues to follow up with most recent members to keep them engaged. She will be sending out an email to members who update the GroupMe, Facebook, and contact list with new and dropped members. Two more have been approved this evening, and a potential member was in attendance which could bring the membership to 76.

Random Acts of Kindness Christa L. came up with a new way of presenting the prize by drawing a number corresponding to the number on the signup sheet. The number she drew was Elizabeth's, a new member, and

it was noted the last three random act of kindness prizes went to new members. Christa talked about a book written by member Rob Lindeman called "Paradigms Tossed" and read a passage about doing random acts of kindness and not taking acknowledgement or credit for doing so.

Merchandise – Chris S. informed the group they could order GNC merchandises online using the Square app. Joan asked for the website link to be sent out and was told the link was available through the GNC website, but that would need to be confirmed.

Rock Painting – Lori M. talked about rock painting that was initiated by former member Lisa Darr, who used it as a calling card for those receiving random acts of kindness from the Club. She is holding rock painting nights at her home on the fourth Thursday of the month for now. Pat O. has supplied rocks from the North Shore. Lori has all painting supplies available, and everyone is invited to attend.

Other Updates – Lori B. asked for ideas for another social hour. The first event was held at Scooters and approximately 30 people attended. She thought about Jakes on the Lake, but the maximum they can accommodate is 25. Another idea was the Uncommon Loon if there is a back area the group can occupy. She is checking on November 16 as the date. She also asked that an announcement be made if members are gathering somewhere after a membership meeting. Chris S. suggest an unofficial gathering monthly by just putting a message on the GNC GroupMe app.

Scheduled Upcoming Events

Adopt a Highway Cleanup Sunday, October 15 at 10 a.m. - Still looking for people to sign up. There were comments on the cleanup not being a lot of work, somewhat a social event. Marlys D. has the garbage bags and Bruce M. will provide the grabbers. There was a suggestion to have a prize for the most interesting item found.

Age Well Expo Friday, October 20 at 9:30 a.m. – Volunteers are Dana H., Marlys D., Christa L., and Lori M. from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Trick-or-Treat on Mainstreet Friday, October 27 at 4 p.m. – Plan was to do the same thing as last year. More glowsticks were added. There were around 1,200 kids last year. Volunteers need to be in costume. Christa informed the group that Trunk or Treat is done at Parmly the same evening.

Holiday Mugs - Tentative date for making mugs is December 16 or 17. Member Kelly M. had volunteered to supply pine boughs. Lori M. asked others to check on connections for branches since lots are needed. There was a suggestion to check with Parmly for more mugs. A signup sheet for organizing the event was passed around. Shelly L. and Kim L. will take the lead with the organizing committee.

Christmas Caroling – Rusty H. will take the lead on caroling again this year. Last year, caroling was done in neighborhoods in Shafer, Lindstrom, and Chisago City as well as a few nursing homes and a group home. A food drive was done at the same time, and there was discussion on getting the word out. Rusty will set up a meeting with those who want to help put together a schedule. Days and times will be posted on the GroupMe app.

Miscellaneous Discussion Items

Celebration of the Lakes – Marlys D. attended the kickoff meeting. There was talk about the Turkey Bowling the GNC did last year and will do again this year. Marlys will make sure the GNC is signed up. There was a suggesting to add minnow races as an event. The dates for Celebration of the Lakes are February 9-11.

"Thank You" Cards – One-hundred cards have been printed.

Thanksgiving Ideas - Joan T. talked about a food drive idea she said she could foresee being an annual thing. The idea was to have local businesses compete for food donation collections, and possibly have an award plaque at the food bank. There was discussion on the work it may take to get the businesses onboard, and it was generally agreed that an organizing committee needed to be put together.

Mitten Donation Tree -Lori M. presented an idea for a Mitten Tree. The tree would be artificial and people could donate hats, mittens, gloves, and scarfs that were new or in slightly used condition to clip on the tree. She is working with the Loon to see if the tree could be put inside their location. Joan T. suggested asking the Loon to participate further by offering a discounted beer for the donation.

Acts of Kindness

Members helped with Shafer Days - Bonnie Omshank always needs help with Shafer Days and was very appreciative of the members that stepped forward.


Members helped build a ramp – A Chisago County Case Worker had referred an elderly woman to the GNC for help with a ramp at her home so she could return after an injury. Lori B. found the ramp on Marketplace for sale, but was able to get it for free after explaining the situation to the seller. Shawn D. and Tim C. picked it up and brought it to the home. Denny K. talked about the ramp needing to be retrofitted, and Chris S. commented there was more work to be done, but the GNC is not likely able to perform the needed tasks.

Members helped with the Pathways to Home program at Trinity Lutheran- Three members of the GNC volunteered one evening to help with the program by providing an activity in the evening for the children. Members painted rocks with approximately six kids and one adult in the program.

Next Meeting – The next Club meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Chisago Lake Township Hall.

Adjournment

Joan made motion, Lori seconded, to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.



Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Shelley 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.”