

Minutes

Club Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Chisago Lakes Town Hall



Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice President Scott R. called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Attendance and Introductions

Scott Ross	Shelley Lindau
Marlys Dunne	Lorraine Swenson
Bruce Meehan	Jeri Watters
Lori Meehan	Rochelle Hernandez
Freddie	Sandy Hulke
Chris Dubose	Kevin Hulke
Wendy O'Leary	Scott Walberg

Updates

- **Adopt a Senior** A new senior is in need of a match as part of the Adopt a Senior program. Marlys will be scheduling a committee meeting soon and hopefully coordinate a match.
- **Freezer Donation**
A local veteran requested assistance obtaining a freezer for storage of food from the Food Shelf. The freezer cost \$180 and was delivered by Scott, Chris, and veteran John Guse. John plans to return to provide additional assistance. A recap is expected to appear in the *Chisago County Press*.
- **Zion Community Meal — June 15**
Jeri reported difficulty obtaining volunteers for the Zion Community Meal. There was discussion about continuing volunteering every quarter since volunteers were becoming hard to find. The Club was committed to one more meal on September 28. Natasha will post notice requesting volunteers. Members discussed the impact of volunteers who sign up but do not attend, as well as scheduling challenges for members who work. Possible options discussed included posting volunteer needs on Facebook and exploring a partnership with Rotary for a joint meal effort. Volunteers should be prepared to begin at 3:30 p.m. for Zion Community Meals.
- **Karl Oskar Parade — July 11**
The Club thanked Lori and Bruce for their work on the parade float. Minimal additional assistance was needed for float setup. The event generated \$325 and 55 pounds of food, which were appreciated by the Food Shelf. Members noted that the weather was very hot.
- **Chisago Lakes Triathlon — July 25**
The Triathlon had a strong turnout. Event owners expressed appreciation for the Club's assistance. The Club expects to receive \$2,000.

- **Harmony in the Park Volunteer Night — July 29**
Bruce, Lori, Marlys, Natasha, Wendy, and Tom volunteered. Four memberships were distributed, and the event provided an opportunity to speak with community members about the Club.
- **National Night Out — August 4**
Six to eight volunteers attended the Ecumen Point Pleasant Heights National Night Out. The event was held outdoors from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. First responders received baked goods, and a kitchen band performed. Drawings were held using donated items. Volunteers assisted with setup, cleanup, and helping residents get around. Members were reminded to share event posts to increase awareness.

Upcoming Club Events

- **Ki-Chi Parade — August 23**
Marlys shared that the local fire department requested donation letters. Lorraine and Marlys presented a proposal for a dollar-for-dollar match for cash donations up to \$500. The Fire Department generously increased the amount to \$1,000. At Jeri's suggestion, Natasha created a Zeffy account, which provides a payment link and QR code at no cost to nonprofits. There was discussion about having walkers carry signs displaying QR codes and promoting the Fire Department's dollar-for-dollar match. The match should also be recognized on the parade float. Cathy at Copypro received the QR code, and Scott will follow up with her. Five people had signed up for Ki-Chi at the time of the meeting. Natasha will send a volunteer request and provide the parade staging location. Chris's trailer will be used, with float setup taking place at Dunne's.
- **Shafer Robbery — September 12**
The reenactment needs a banker, a girl, and a posse. Shelley will send a notice seeking participants. Bruce, who is unable to attend, will lend his costume clothing for the event. Shelley will work with Chris S. to schedule a rehearsal.
- **The Great Community Tailgate — September 24, 2026**
The Chisago Lakes Area Community Foundation will hold a fundraiser with Rotary and the GNC at Wild Mountain. Proceeds from silent auction items donated by the GNC will go to the GNC. Members were asked to bring donations to Jeri, Scott, or Bruce. Jeri has entry tickets available. Members were encouraged to seek donations and gift basket items from local businesses. Scott will contact Clutch Golf for a donation.
- **Chisago County Age Well — October 16, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**
Marlys will be out of town but will reach out to the senior club member to identify potential volunteers.

Miscellaneous Discussion

- **Open Board Position and Youth Member-at-Large**
The Club discussed the need for activity and communications support. A volunteer is needed to receive incoming requests, maintain a tracking system, and provide timely responses. Natasha reported that the current volume of communication requests has become overwhelming. Shelley will contact Dana to gauge her interest. Members will also ask the Forest Lake Good Samaritans how they manage incoming inquiries. The group discussed the importance of involving youth members.
- **Member Engagement**
Members discussed declining participation and the need to begin considering a transition plan since many board members will have reached the end of their terms. Suggestions included engaging youth, personally contacting members, and making the contact list available. The group decided not to make the contact list available.
- **Valkomann Apartments TLC Project**
Scott, Bruce, and Chris removed a sign at the site with assistance from the City. Mayor Judy was present and expressed appreciation. The next phase involves painting the gazebo during the week of August 16. Scott has scaffolding, and supplies are available. Five to six volunteers are needed for approximately two hours to apply two coats of paint. Scott will lead the project and contact Joanne. Additional work includes weeding the area and trimming the front bushes. Rusty Johnson has keys to the compost site. A weeding project was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on August 28.
- **Rotary Meeting Recap**
Members met with Mayor Judy and Rotary to discuss ways the organizations, along with the Chamber, can support one another. The meeting was viewed as a positive opportunity to strengthen partnerships among groups.
- **Point Pleasant Heights Resident Requests**
Natasha received a request from a resident, Pam, for assistance on behalf of a friend whose husband recently passed away. The resident needs a deck railing installed and assistance with lawn and yard work. Freddie will assess the property and determine the work needed. Natasha said Pam offered to accompany him.
- **Resident Request**
Natasha reported another request came in from a resident, Melissa, who has been blind since birth and lives in a small trailer. She has been approved for a bathroom remodel, but flooring and possible water-damage repairs must be completed first. Because the work may require a licensed contractor, members will explore available resources. The resident was referred to the GNC by the County, and it was decided that she should remain connected with County caseworkers.
- **St. Bridget's Block Party**
The Club declined to donate an item for the silent auction. Members noted that individuals

may still participate as an act of kindness. Shelley will locate an online flyer to share through GroupMe.

– **Veterans Brick Memorial**

Scott is communicating with Veteran John Guse regarding the Yellow Ribbon Fund-supported veterans brick memorial. Shelley will contact Dana for a status update.

– **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Fall Project**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace has raised \$4,500 toward a \$7,500 goal. Club members acknowledged that the GNC is not ready to make a financial commitment at this time, but Scott has communicated that the Club can provide labor. Natasha will explore setting up a Zeffy fundraiser after receiving additional information. Scott will contact Mike, a Lions member, to determine who has contributed and to share information about Zeffy. The project would provide beds for the local area.

– **Meeting Schedule**

Members discussed lower summer engagement and whether to hold meetings quarterly. The group agreed that too much activity is occurring to move to a quarterly meeting schedule.

– **Sweep Little Sweden**

Kevin discussed scheduling the Little Sweden cleanup in the fall to address fallen leaves. Scott will contact the buildings and grounds representative to determine City needs. A Northern Lights Link video previously shown in May was also referenced.

– **Adopt a Highway Fall Cleanup**

The group scheduled the next cleanup for October 24 at 10:00 a.m. and will do the barbecue after.

Acts of Kindness

- Fred assisted Scott with his boat.
- Bruce and Scott assisted Freddie with his railing.
- Lorraine helped connect an elderly neighbor recovering from back surgery with his daughter.
- Scott R. was offered a ride by two individuals while walking to Always Auto.
- In response to a request, volunteers removed a substantial amount of weeds and received a \$100 donation.

Communications Update

Natasha announced that the membership page has been updated with a shortened digital membership form that may also be printed. Similar updates were completed for the Adopt a Senior webpage, and the payment page was redesigned with a QR code to Zeffy. It was noted that the QR code for donations on the current paper would no longer function. Members discussed revising the flyer with the new code. Lorraine suggested adding the date the group was established to the flyer.

Upcoming Meetings

- Meeting with Forest Lake: Thursday; date to be confirmed
- Board Meeting: September 10, 2026
- Club Membership Meeting: October 8, 2026

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.

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.

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Person(s)	Due Date/Timing
Schedule an Adopt a Senior committee meeting and coordinate a match for the new senior.	Marlys	Soon
Recruit volunteers for the Zion Community Meal.	Natasha/Jeri	Before September 28
Post volunteer requests for the Zion Community Meal, including consideration of Facebook outreach.	Natasha	Before September 28
Explore a partnership with Rotary for future community meals.		Ongoing
Follow up with Cathy at Copypro regarding the Ki-Chi Parade QR code.	Scott	Before August 23
Send a Ki-Chi Parade volunteer request and provide the parade staging location.	Natasha	Before August 23
Coordinate Ki-Chi Parade float setup at Dunne's and arrange use of Chris's trailer.	Chris /Marlys	Before August 23
Ensure the Fire Department's \$1,000 dollar-for-dollar match is promoted and recognized on the parade float.		Before August 23
Send a notice seeking participants for the Shafer Robbery event.	Shelley	Before September 12
Coordinate with Chris S. to schedule a Shafer Robbery rehearsal.	Shelley	Before September 12
Provide costume clothing for the Shafer Robbery event.	Bruce	Before September 12
Collect donations for The Great Community Tailgate.	Club members	Before September 24
Seek donations and gift baskets from local businesses for The Great Community Tailgate.	Club members	Before September 24
Contact Clutch Golf regarding a donation.	Scott	Before September 24
Identify potential volunteers for Chisago County Age Well.	Marlys	Before October 16
Contact Dana regarding her interest in the open board position/communications support.	Shelley	TBD

Action Item	Responsible Person(s)	Due Date/Timing
Ask the Forest Lake Good Samaritans how they manage incoming inquiries.		TBD
Continue exploring ways to engage youth members and address declining participation.	Club/Board	Ongoing
Lead the Valkomann Apartments gazebo painting project and contact Joanne.	Scott	Week of August 16
Recruit five to six volunteers for the Valkomann Apartments painting project.	Scott / Club members	Week of August 16
Complete weeding and trimming at Valkomann Apartments.	Club members	August 28, 9:00 a.m.
Assess the Point Pleasant Heights resident's property and determine needed railing, lawn, and yard work.	Freddie	TBD
Explore resources for the resident needing flooring and potential water-damage repairs before a bathroom remodel.		TBD
Maintain connection with County caseworkers regarding the resident assistance request.		Ongoing
Locate the St. Bridget's Block Party online flyer and share it through GroupMe.	Shelley	Before event
Contact Dana for a status update on the veterans brick memorial.	Shelley	TBD
Continue communication with John Guse regarding the veterans brick memorial.	Scott	Ongoing
Obtain additional information about the Sleep in Heavenly Peace fall project and explore setting up a Zeffy fundraiser.	Natasha	TBD
Contact Mike regarding Lions contributions and provide information about Zeffy.	Scott	TBD
Contact the City Buildings and Grounds representative to determine City needs for the Little Sweden cleanup.	Scott/Kevin	Before fall cleanup
Schedule/coordinate the Little Sweden fall cleanup.	Kevin	Fall
Conduct the Adopt a Highway fall cleanup and barbecue.		October 24, 10:00 a.m.
Revise the membership/donation flyer with the new Zeffy QR code.		TBD
Add the date the organization was established to the flyer.		TBD

Key Upcoming Dates

- **August 16:** Valkomann Apartments gazebo painting project
- **August 23:** Ki-Chi Parade
- **August 28, 9:00 a.m.:** Valkomann Apartments weeding project
- **September 10:** Board Meeting
- **September 12:** Shafer Robbery
- **September 24:** Great Community Tailgate
- **September 28:** Zion Community Meal
- **October 8:** Club Membership Meeting
- **October 16, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.:** Chisago County Age Well
- **October 24, 10:00 a.m.:** Adopt a Highway Fall Cleanup and barbecue