

MINUTES

Club Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Chisago Town Hall



Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - President Chris S. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance – there were 26 members in attendance.

Shelley Lindau	Bruce Meehan
Rusty Hooks	Lori Meehan
Chris Schneider	Dana Helm
Sandy Hulke	Trena Morrison
Kevin Hulke	Tim Clark
Lori Bestler	Marcia Boline
Lorraine Swenson	Christa Lerfald
Megan Olson	Alvin White
Rob Lindeman	Dennis Kammerer
Ety Elliott	Miranda Olson
Linda Thalhuber	Natasha Zarich
Greg Thalhuber	Craig Anderson
Marlys Dunne	Patti Anderson

Approve and Welcome New Club Members – Shelley L. made motion, Marlys S. seconded, to approve new members Megan Olson, Jessica Buhler, and Robin West. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Approve Club Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2023 - Natasha Z. made motion, Dana H. seconded, to approve the minutes for the Club meeting held on October 12, 2023. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion on Activity Participation – Chris S. spoke briefly about mug making, caroling, and other events saying they are fun and social. He encouraged everyone to sign up and participate.

Discussion on Youth Program & Meeting with Community Ed Dir. Dan McGonigle – Chris S.

Chris S. provided an update on a recent meeting he and member Scott R. had with Community Ed Director Dan McGonigle. Dan is at the Chisago Lakes High School and has an interest in partnering with the CLCGN on youth programming. Chris said that from the onset of the GNC, he has thought about the need to leave a legacy, and this was a venture down that path. In the meeting, they had discussed having the involvement of the Rotary and other organization. Chris is trying to set up a meeting with everyone to help define the program but was having trouble coordinating schedules. He will keep Club members posted.

Updates

Treasurer Report – Finance Director Marlys D. said there has not been a lot of activity going on. Two checks had been sent out for “Trick or Treat on Main Street” for supplies, and a check to Copy Pro for “Thank you” cards. There are no outstanding invoices, and she expected there would be some items purchased for the Holiday Mugs that will need to be reimbursed. There was currently \$8,271 in the checkbook.

Membership Committee - Chair Lori B. updated the group on the Member Social Event held at Jakes on the Lake. This was the second social event held, and there were approximately 25 people that attended. The next event has not yet been planned. She said four non-members joined the group for caroling on Tuesday, and two asked for more information on membership. Lori held orientation with two new members prior to this meeting. There are currently 79 Club members.

Activities Committee – Natasha Z. talked about possibly doing something in April for the Club’s annual meeting. She was seeking opportunities for anyone to be part of the planning. Chris S. talked about the planning efforts for an annual gala and dinner last year saying it was fairly expensive and didn’t seem like it would be a good use of funds if the Club was unable to recoup the money. He felt the club was in a better position this year. Natasha was looking for members to be involved and help.

Communications Update – Natasha Z. said the number of followers increased by 27 in the past 28 days, and she attributed that to news on events being posted. There were also 6,161 “reaches” on Facebook. She talked about the signups explaining they are done to make sure there is enough people to support an event, and she provided instructions on how to do it through the link she sends out. Once signed up, a calendar invite would be sent as a reminder. She talked about the importance of being on the GroupMe app for updates and watching for emails that go out to the members. She also sends out newsletters that have Club information. Chris S. added that most of the requests for random acts of kindness go on the GroupMe. Natasha informed the group that the membership form is now fillable online but the submit button does not work yet. Dana H. asked about the Adopt a Grandparent application and if that could be made fillable. Natasha responded she will try to do that. Dana asked about the membership log-in button on the website. Natasha responded that there was no page set up yet for that so it was decided it needed to be removed or disabled if it is not being used.

Adopt a Grandparent Program – Marlys D. said the Committee met on November 30th. Not a lot of activities are planned. There was discussion on doing a cookie bake but the “grandparents” had concerns about the weather. The committee is working on rebuilding the folders. There are six successful matches, and more eligible seniors are needed. She is currently following up on a contact that she met last week who found out about the program through a flier her husband received in a Holiday Mug. There was currently a little over \$5,400 in the Adopt a Grandparent fund.

Age Well Expo – GNC volunteers worked at the GNC booth on Friday, October 20 at the Age Well Expo hosted by the Age Well Collation. The event was held at the Chisago Lakes High School. Marlys D. said there were over 45 organizations that had booths offering all kinds of senior services. The GNC booth had lots of visitors, some from organizations that want to partner with the Club and some want their information put in the Adopt a Grandparent folders. Dana H. said she talked to another organization that offers the exact same program, and they were also having problems finding partners. They gave the AaGP program accolades and offered to help anyway they could. Marlys talked about the miscommunication with students who were supposed to show up at the end of the event to help tear down. Marlys did a shoutout through the GroupMe app, and six GNC volunteer members showed up to help.

Adopt a Highway Cleanup – The Cleanup was done on Sunday, October 15th. There were approximately seven bags of garbage collected. The group extended the endpoint on Stacy Trail all the way to the City of Stacy, and there was a lot of trash to pick up on that stretch.

Trick or Treat on Main Street – This event for kids was held in Lindstrom on Friday, October 27. This year the GNC set up a table and yard decorations in the area behind the Chamber office. GNC volunteers handed out glowsticks. Approximately 858 bags were handed out by the Chamber, less than last year likely due to the cool temps.

Rock Painting – Lori M. hosts this monthly social event at her home. She explained it started by offering a painted rock as a gift when an act of kindness was done, a sort of a calling card. There will be no rock painting this month, but she will be hosting again in January. There is a need to find more rocks. She was getting them from member Pat O. who was getting them from the North Shore, but she is running low. She explained the Pathways to Home Project where GNC volunteer helped the kids paint rocks. Lori had painted Santa faces on rocks for the AaGP Grandparents.

Mitten Tree – Lori M. worked with Chris at the Uncommon Loon to put up a Mitten Tree. The loon donated the artificial tree for the collection of new hats and mittens. Lori said the tree is packed, and she thanked everyone who contributed. The tree will be there until December 31st. No charitable donation recipients had been selected yet, and Lori asked for ideas. Her hope was to continue this as an annual event, and she hoped the Uncommon Loon would remain a sponsor.

Caroling – Rusty H. updated the group on the caroling that was done over the past week. On Friday, a dozen carolers met at the Pizza Pub in Center City and went to Fiesta Cancun and Jakes on the Lakes and homes in the Center City area. The bar patrons were very generous, and the carolers gathered over \$400 for the food shelf. On Tuesday, carolers met at the Uncommon Loon and collected donations, then went to a neighborhood down Old Town Road that was not very receptive. It was thought the children were being put to bed at that time, and perhaps the timing of caroling needed to be adjusted. From there, the group went to the townhomes on Highway

8 where the old elementary school used to be and then to Scooters. Over \$414 was collected. The next caroling event is scheduled for Saturday. Rusty explained the plan was to meet at the Muni at 3:30, then go to the mobile home park off Olinda Road. He was also trying to connect with the senior homes for caroling on Sunday. Christa offered to make the connection at Parmly. Information on Sundays caroling will be put on the GroupMe app by Rusty.

Discussion on Volunteer Opportunities & Upcoming Events

Parmly Housekeeping Request – Shelley L. questioned whether this request was ever followed up on. Natasha Z. replied that she did respond to them by providing them with some housecleaning contacts. Crista L. talked about other needs at Parmly and said she would find out more.

Family Pathways Volunteer Opportunities – Natasha Z. updated the group on Brooke V.'s request to present to the Club on volunteer opportunities at the food shelf. Brooke was not able to attend again, but Natasha had some information she printed out if anyone was interested. Opportunities included door delivery, food shelf processing center in Chisago, and volunteer work at the Lindstrom Thrift Store. Brooke will try to attend a future meeting.

Request received through website – Chris S. talked about requests that come in that the Club has to decline and ones that require referrals. A specific request came in for a variety of help ranging from shoveling, fixing a floor, putting heater cords on a roof, putting up Christmas decorations, etc. Chris said some of these requests may fall under a liability category. Chris and Denny K. will pick a time to meet with her to see if the Club could help her with some of those needs, and Kevin H. offered to help as well. Chris will coordinate the meeting, and Natasha will provide an update and possible volunteer opportunities on GroupMe.

Zion Church Community Meals – Chris S. talked about Zion Church's need for volunteers to serve meals. Approximately 13 volunteers are needed, Chris acknowledged that it was tough for people to get here by 3:30. There was a consensus that it would be easier if it was planned in advance. A member talked about it being done by church volunteers and the strain on them when there was no other help. Volunteers serving meals were also responsible for providing desserts. It was generally decided to commit the GNC to once a quarter.

Celebration of the Lakes February 9-11 – This is a Chamber event, and Marlys D. is the Chair. She said the GNC is officially partnered with them. In the past, the Chamber partnered with the Rotary, Kids Pro, and the Wild River Snowmobile Club on the raffles, however the Rotary is no longer interested. At the last GNC Board meeting, the Board agreed to participate this year by selling raffle tickets for a 2024 ATV and other money prizes. Tickets will be printed once the gambling permit is approved by the state and the Chamber receives the permit number. \$2,500 tickets will be printed and sold for \$10 each. Revenue from sales could total \$9,000 if all tickets were sold. This would then be divided up among the three groups according to how many tickets each group sold. Marlys also spoke briefly about the Turkey Bowling event the Club will be doing on Saturday, February 10.

Holiday Mugs Making - Mugs will be made in the Schneider pole building on Sunday, December 17th. Chris explained this is a 2-3 hour event. Christa L. and Alvin W. had cut down trees for sprigs to put in mugs. Marlys explained the program started by one of the members, Kim, who had been doing mugs and paying for them. The Club created 100 mugs last year that went to seniors through churches, Family Pathways, Meals on Wheels, Parmly, and AaGP grandparents. The Club last year spent approximately \$3 per mug. The group will be meeting at 10 a.m. and hoped to do some caroling after that.

Christmas Caroling – The next event is on Saturday at 3:30 beginning at the Muni Bar. The group hopes to carol after mug making on Sunday at the local nursing homes. Rusty H. will put the meeting time and location on the GroupMe App.

Miscellaneous Discussion Items

"Thank You" Cards – The Club now has cards and needs to recognize those who have helped in the past. A few of the donators were mentioned:

Trena's niece who donated items for the Mugs
Frankie's who donated the screen for the gazebo

Brinks who donated bags for the Mugs
Uncommon Loon for allowing us to put up the tree
Fire Department for their monetary donations
CenterPoint Energy for their monetary donation
Person who donated the ramp

Member were asked to think about any others that should be thanked.

Easter Food Drive at Brinks – Marlys D. will reach out to the Lions Club to see if they are doing anything so the GNC does not overlap on their efforts. Lorraine talked about Food Shelf Month and she will look for opportunities. There was a suggestion to contact Family Pathways to see if there were any events planned.

Candlelight Walk – Kevin H. asked if the Club was sponsoring the Candlelight Walk as part of Celebration of the Lakes. Marlys D. responded that the walk is done through Chamber funds, and members of the GNC typically help.

Winter Plunge – There is no update on that per Natasha. Members of the Club expressed interest. She will keep everyone updated.

Book Club – There was discussion in the past initiated by Edy E. regarding a reading club. Edy had already left the meeting. There is hope to get an update on it at the February 8, 2024, Club meeting.

Acts of Kindness – Share and Inspire! - Christa chose a number and Natasha received the winning prize. Chris talked about the way random acts of kindness come up emphasizing they don't need to go through the membership or be over complicated. It is important a person takes ownership of it and follows through. He explained that requests come from word of mouth, newspaper, website, Facebook, hotline, etc. Christa L. talked about connections made through church. Recent acts of kindness fulfilled by Club members were tarping a woodpile, filling leaf bags to insulate a septic line, and moving furniture for a resident at Parmly.

Next Meetings -The next Board meeting will take place on January 11, 2024. Chris S. provided a brief update on the Board's last meeting and what the Board will be working on in January. The annual budget will need to be set and it is anticipated to be easier this year because the Club now has historical data. There were also minor amendments to the bylaws that will need to be voted on at the annual Club meeting in April. In April, the Club will also talk about processes to make sure things do not fall through the cracks. All members are welcome at the Board meeting. The next Club meeting will be on February 8, 2024.

Upon closing, Chris S. asked everyone to keep Scott Ross's Mom and family in their thoughts.

Adjournment – Miranda O. made motion, Lori M. seconded, to adjourn at 7:27 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."