

MINUTES

Annual Club Meeting & Pizza Party

Thursday, April 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Chisago Lakes Town Hall



Gloria West from Dutrirun was at the meeting to get a photo of the group to use on their advertisement. The GNC will be sponsoring Chisago Lakes Triathlon on July 28, 2024, by providing patrol during the swim event. The Club will raise \$1,000 for volunteering.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - President Chris S.

President Chris Schnieder called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions (New Members: Nick and Jenna Rogers, Rachel Laferriere)

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all members introduced themselves and welcomed new member Rachel Laferriere.

Attendees:

Chris Schneider	Brad Mattson	Scott Ross
Marlys Dunne	Natasha Zarich	Shelley Lindau
Lori Meehan	Pattie Anderson	Bruce Meehan
Lorraine Swenson	Jessica Buhler	Lori Bestler
Freddie	Shawn Dunne	Maggie Schmidt
Chris Dubose	Eric Engstrom	Miranda Olson
Paul Olson	Craig Anderson	Tim Clark
Jared Clark	Kellie Ann Larson	Jerri Watters
Elizabeth Peck	Beth Engstrom	Rochelle Hernandez
Robin West	Christa Lefald	Linda Thalhuber
Lezlie Paulus	Rachel Laferriere	Tom Paulus
Dennis Kammerer		

Approve Minutes for the February 8, 2024, Club Meeting

Marlys D. made motion, Scott R. seconded, to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2024, Club meeting as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Approve Updates to the Bylaws

Scott R. made motion, Chris S. seconded, to approve the updates to the GNC Bylaws. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Appointment of Board Members

The term for Vice President would be expiring on May 31, 2024. The position was currently held by Scott Ross. Chris S. made motion, Rochelle H. seconded, to reappoint Scott Ross as Vice President for another two-year term. All Ayes. Motion carried.

The term for Treasurer would be expiring on May 31, 2024. The position was currently held by Marlys Dunne. Shelley L. made motion, Shawn D. seconded, to reappoint Marlys Dunne as Treasurer for another two-year term. All Ayes. Motion carried.

The terms for the Members-at-Large would be expiring on May 31, 2024. The position was currently held by Robert Morrison, Tim Clark, Dana Helm, and Trena Morrison. Natasha made motion, Miranda seconded, to reappoint all four as Members-at-Large for another two-year term. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Update – Marlys D.

Marlys D. presented a financial overview of the past few years since the Club began. The first deposit was \$6.81 that was from coins found during the Adopt a Highway Cleanup. In 2022, the Club received \$3,405 in donations, made \$2,006.81 through fundraising, and made \$367 from clothing sales. Expenses were \$4,113 and included Club startup cost, parades, and marketing. In 2023, the Club received \$4,958 in donations, \$6,519 in fundraising and \$545 in clothing sales and miscellaneous. The Club raised 3,134 by participating in the Winter Plunge. The Club also acted as the Fiscal Agent for the Wild River Snowmobile Club. Total expenses for 2023, including the fiscal agent expense, was \$10,547, mostly spent on community events. So far in 2024, the GNC received \$2,254 in donations, and total expenses were \$1,749. A new computer and software was purchased for the Club's Communications Director. The largest donator has been Centerpointe Energy, the company Natasha Z. works for. Other donators include the Fire Departments, Rotary Club, and Copy Pro. The current cash on hand was \$8,446. The Adopt the Grandparent was rebranded to Adopt a Senior. Funding for the program came from the Chisago Lakes Community Foundation Grant of \$6,000. The program also received \$300 in donations. Money had been spent on the Senior Mugs, community shows, and promotion material. The Current cash on hand was \$5,198. In 2024, the Club earned \$1,730 through ATV ticket sales for the Celebration of the Lakes. Some upcoming expenses will go towards upgrades to the parade Float, membership dues to the Chamber and Rotary, and \$500 for the CLGNC scholarship. Marlys explained the scholarship will be awarded to a Chisago Lakes High School graduate on Monday, May 6.

Membership Committee Update - Lori B.

Lori B, Dana H. and Christa L. make up the membership committee. Lori talked about the importance of personal invites and the mentor program. The committee has organized social hours and made phone call contacts. There are 84 members that contribute in many different ways. A welcome letter is sent to new members, and they are notified of orientation. Lori talked about accomplishments in 2023 that included the use of tent cards at meetings, member orientations, creation of the mentor program, and social hours. Coming up in 2024, the committee plans to fine-tune the mentor program, host three social events and have activities that promote acts of kindness. Crista provides a gift at each meeting, and she asked for others to contribute. A slide was shown that listed the GNC's acts of kindness.

Activities Committee & Communications Update– Natasha Z.

Committee chair Natazha Z. updated the group on social media activities. Facebook had 808 likes, 118 of them being new this year. She encouraged everyone to like and share the Club's Facebook posts. To comment or tag the GNC would also encourage exposure. She also encouraged subscribing to the blogs, calendar, and mails. Groupme is a quick way for her to get out information and to share acts of kindness. Natasha presented what the social media sites looked like and how to respond. By accepting a calendar invite, it can be added to your calendar, and you will receive reminders. She reminded people to check their junk folders on email because sometimes that is where they end up.

Selling Lindström Coffee Pot Water Tower Replicas at the Lindström Holiday Craft Fair – Miranda Olson

Miranda presented information on an opportunity to sell replica coffee pot water towers. She explained it was the City of Lindstrom's initiative to get steam back in the tower, and selling the towers was only available to non-profits. Plastic Products donated the tower kits. The GNC can purchase them from the City of Lindstrom for \$10, which will go towards the steam project. The GNC can sell the kits for \$20 unassembled or \$25 assembled and keep the profits. A minimum of 20 needed to be purchased. Miranda proposed selling them at the Holiday Craft Fair on December 7, 2024. The fee for the booth was \$25, and there was only one booth left, so the group needed to decide. All generally agreed it would be a great opportunity, and it was suggested to sell at summer events also. The Board will need to make a motion on the expenditure at the next meeting when it is decided what the upfront cost will be. There was a suggestion to sell towers at Harmony in the Park, but need to find out if other nonprofits are selling them.

There was also a suggestion to sell during Karl Oskar Days. Miranda stated the City had behind the scenes logistics to work out.

PIZZA BREAK - 6:30 p.m.

Members took a break and had pizza from Lindstrom Pizza Pub. Chris S. asked everyone to share their thoughts by putting them on a post-it and attached it to the board.

Recap of Past Years

Natasha shared photos of past acts of kindness and events the Club participated in. Scott R. talked about the many things the Club did over the past years and the inspiration of the members that made many of the event. Kim L. had started the mug project, Lorraine initiated the food drive, Lori M. came up with the Mitten Tree, just to name a few.

Upcoming Events/Acts of Kindness Opportunities

Adopt a Highway Cleanup was scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at 10 a.m. on County Road 19/Stacy Trail. Volunteers were needed to be a point-person to help people find the location.

The Cleanest City Challenge was scheduled for Sunday, April 28. More details to come.

The Club will be serving at the Zion Community Meal on Monday, April 29 from 3:30 – 6 p.m.

The Gazebo Social was scheduled for Saturday, June 8 from 2-4 p.m. More details to come.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Lorraine S. said the approximately 500 pounds of food was collected through the food drive, and she appreciated the discounts from Copy Pro.

Scott R. added that he also wanted to recognize Copy Pro for donating stickers.

Lori B. offered CLGNC buttons to everyone. They once needed to be purchased, but it was decided each member would get one for free.

Rachel is a vendor for clothing and will bring some samples to the next meeting.

There was more discussion on the coffee pot towers. Scott R. said it needed to be determined how many the Club could sell because there was an upfront cost. He will be asking for input from members. Freddy added that they could also be sold through the website and Facebook. Miranda said the Club would be the only one at the craft fair selling them, but the Fire Department will hold their craft fair the same day and the Church in Center City has their holiday fair too.

Shawn D. talked about the last ditch cleanup having too many people and the possibility of doing other roads, such as Whisky Road. There was a question as to whether the County would pick up the trash bags if the Club did that road. Marlys D. said she could talk to the County. There was reminder to bring vests and grabbers.

Natasha Z. told members that if they knew of anyone who could use help, put it on the Groupme app.

Lorraine S. said she had brochures on hand if anyone wanted to take some.

A “thank you” was extended to Mark, who helped with technology for the presentation. The Club may purchase their own equipment in the future.

The next meeting is a Board meeting on May 9. All are invited to attend. The next member meeting will be on June 13.

Adjourn

Marlys D. made motion, Christa L. seconded, to adjourn at 7:25 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.”