

MINUTES

Board Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Chisago Lakes Town Hall



Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Attendance

Chris S.

Natasha

Scott

Marlys

Shelley

Jeri

Chris D. (phone)

Bruce (phone)

Lori (phone)

Vote in New Members

Natasha made motion, Jeri seconded, new members Don Ladoff and Daniel Erdman

Veteran Assistance – John Guse

John Guse attended the meeting to discuss opportunities to assist local veterans using approximately \$3,000 in the budget from funds received from the disbanded Yellow Ribbon Network.

- John reported that he had spoken with County representative Ryan regarding a woman in the National Guard who is currently in need of assistance. John suggested providing her gift certificates for food and essentials. A ledger would be maintained to track the assistance provided.
- John also discussed a local Marine veteran who is in need of an electric range/stove. The estimated cost is approximately \$500. The Marine lives on Morgan Street, and the GNC would purchase and deliver the range. The color of the stove still needs to be confirmed. John noted that the Marine makes custom knives, which he may donate, and there was a suggestion to use that as an item for the Community Tailgate silent auction. John indicated that some custom knives may have a value of up to \$3,000.
- Discussion was held regarding commemorative bricks at the Lindstrom Veterans Memorial. It was agreed to develop an application process for participation. The goal would be to establish the brick program as a one-time initiative, with future funds directed toward donations to veterans.

Natasha made motion, Jerri seconded, to purchase the stove for approximately \$500 and two \$200 gift certificates to donate to the veterans. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Update

Treasurer Marlys reported a current checkbook balance of \$13,247. The \$225 invoice from Copy Pro has been paid, while an \$84 invoice for generated codes remains outstanding, along with payment to the Meehans for float supplies. The club received \$386 in donations through Bevy. The GNC received \$1,130 in cash from the parade, along with a \$1,000 matching donation from the Fire Department, with all of those funds designated for the food shelf. Donated food is currently being stored at Scott's house. The club also received a \$500 donation from CenterPoint and a \$200 donation from the triathlon.

The group discussed the \$500 Rotary membership invoice. Chris explained that Rotary is operating at a deficit, which resulted in an increase in dues. Of the \$500 membership fee, \$250 goes to Rotary International and \$250 goes to the local organization to support meals, picnics, social hours, events, and other activities. The group discussed the benefits of membership, including being included in and connected with certain events. The matter was tabled pending further discussion about the future direction of the group.

Adopt a Senior Update

The checkbook balance is \$4,069. There are outstanding craft expenses that still need to be paid.

Communications/Activities Update

Natasha reported that Wendy O. will help with outreach efforts, and they will be meeting to determine what that support will look like. Requests for assistance should be tracked to ensure that each one receives a response. There was previous discussion about making this a board position, but Wendy does not feel strongly about it. Further discussion is needed

- **Shafer Days Robbery - September 19** A vehicle from the appropriate era may be available. The rehearsal will need to be rescheduled. Volunteers are asked to be there at 10:00 a.m. Lori and Bruce will check the storage shed on Sunday or Monday to confirm that all necessary items are available. They believe everything is currently there. It was noted that the storage area needs to be reorganized.
- **The Great Community Tailgate - September 24** GNC is partnering with Rotary and the Chisago Lakes Area Community Fund on the fundraiser. Proceeds from GNC basket donations will benefit GNC, while proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Community Fund. The group discussed possible basket ideas, including a GNC basket containing GNC swag, and donations for services such as yard work or dock removal, which would be valid for one year. Jeri requested wine donations for the raffle. Chris D. offered to donate a soft-sided cooler to hold GNC merchandise. GNC members are not expected to volunteer at the event.
- **Chisago County Age Well - October 16** Volunteers are needed. The GNC (typically the Adopt a Senior Committee) has not signed up yet.
- **Adopt a Highway Cleanup - October 24** A cookout will be held again this year following the cleanup.
- **Zion Community Meal - September 28** A new member volunteering for the meal needs a GNC shirt. His size is not currently available in the storage unit, although hats are available. Shelley will provide a hat to Jeri for the meal. The group discussed whether GNC should continue volunteering at the community meals. Jeri will check whether GNC is scheduled for the December meal. The matter will be placed on the next Club meeting agenda for further discussion and to determine interest in continuing.

Set Date for Family Pathways Food Drop

Scott will work with Family Pathways on a date for the food/cash dropoff.

Set Date for Valkomann Apartments Weeding Project

The date/time selected is the morning of October 3.

Set Date for Holiday Mugs to Reserve Room.

Natasha will check whether the room is available on Saturday, December 6. Sunday, December 13, will serve as the backup date. A committee meeting will be scheduled at the October Club meeting.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

There are more than 70 beds to be assembled. GNC has committed to providing volunteers to assist with the project. The Board will consider making a small financial donation, potentially matching Rotary's contribution. The project is anticipated to take place in November, with additional information expected at the October Club meeting.

Celebration of the Lakes

Celebration of the Lakes is scheduled for the weekend of February 14. Marlys will try to attend the kickoff meeting to obtain additional information.

Trick or treat on Main Street.

There has been no update regarding whether Trick-or-Treat on Main Street will take place. Eight boxes of candy were ordered for the two parades, and Marlys has three boxes remaining that may be available for use. The group discussed whether the spinning wheel is in good condition. It was also noted that the GNC's location at last year's event was not ideal.

Discussion on Board Membership

Chris S. announced that, due to changes in his family and work commitments, he is unable to devote the necessary time to the Board and has no objection to stepping down. The group discussed a potential change in Board roles, including moving Scott into the President role, Chris D. into the Vice President role, and Chris S. into the member-at-large role. Shelley will schedule a virtual meeting for Wednesday, September 23, at 6:00 p.m. to further discuss the Board membership changes.

Upcoming Meetings

- Collaboration with Forest Lake Good Samaritans Club - September 24
- Club Membership Meeting - October 8
- Board Meeting - November 12

Adjourn

Shelley made motion, Jeri seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 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.”