

MINUTES

Board Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Uncommon Loon



Call to Order

President Chris S. made motion, Shelley L. seconded, to call the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Attendance

President Chris Schneider

Vice President Scott Ross

Treasurer Marlys Dunn

Communications Director Natasha Zarich

Secretary Shelley Lindau

Member at Large Dennis Kammerer

Member at Large Tim Clark

Member at Large Lori Bestler

Member at Large Dana Helm

Lorraine Swenson

Approval of Minutes

Natasha made motion, Scott seconded, to approve the minutes for January 11, 2024, meeting as presented. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Vote in New Members

Dana made motion, Lori seconded, to vote in new members Greg Thalhuber, Joan Hause, Eric Engstrom, Beth Engstrom, Matthew Fredricksen, and Jeri Watters. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Update

Treasurer Marlys D. has filed the tax return. In total, the club brought in \$17,023 and had \$10,947 in expenses. There was \$1,730 from the Celebration of the Lakes ATV raffle ticket sales that needed to be approved by their board. Out of 2,500 tickets, the CLGNC sold 347 tickets. Marlys shared information on expenses from part of year 2022 and the full year of 2023. The largest expense was for community events with over \$700 in parade expenses. Money that came in was \$5,000 in donations and \$6,500 from fundraising, mostly from the Winter Plunge. There was also some money from sales of apparel. There was a suggestion to create a folder for events where specific notes on events could be kept. Dana H. said she could create a template but someone else needed to take the lead on this. It will be discussed at the annual meeting. Marlys will create a spreadsheet and information will be put on the screen for the annual meeting. The fund for Adopt a Grandparent was currently at \$5,200. Money had been spent on the gazebo ice cream social, the home show, and on Holiday mugs.

Membership Committee

Lori informed the group there were currently 86 members. She talked about implementing the mentorship program and said there were more new members than mentors signed up. She created a spreadsheet to track and had emailed mentors asking them to call new members, and she made suggestions on how to mentor.

Activities Committee & Communications

Natasha had updated the brochure and was asking for feedback. There was a discussion on making sure we were no longer using the old membership brochure with the out-of-date application. She had sent the revised brochure out to the Board to look at and confirm if it was okay or to suggest changes. Marlys talked about the need to get this done before the Chisago Lakes Showcase, and the deadline to get the changes to Natasha was the following day. It was decided to print 300 copies. There was discussion on finding volunteers. Shelley will be there 8 a.m. – noon. Chris. said he could be there all day. Tim offered to be there as well.

Adopt a Grandparent Program Update- Marlys D.

The Adopt a Grandparent Committee met on February 28. The main topic was rebranding. It will now be called “Senior Connections”, and new material was being created. The flyers and folder were currently being printed, and there will be a handout that has a tear-off with the contact info.

Yellow Ribbon Update

Chris, Scott, and Tim recently attended the Chisago Lakes Yellow Ribbon Network meeting. They reported that the discussion was about partnering, and ideas were shared. The YRN was having problems getting volunteers to participate, similar to the GNC. There was talk about inviting them to the Club meeting on April 11 and perhaps asking them to speak. This will be discussed further as the agenda for the meeting is set.

Youth Program Update – Chris S.

Scott and Chris had met with members of the Forest Lake Youth Program recently but did not have a lot of luck on partnership. They found most of the programs had been retired and not utilized. They found out that a lot of them are troubled youth, and the GNC does not want to take on that responsibility. The scouting groups needed to be approached as well as the Honors Club. There was brief discussion about the GNC creating their own youth program, and there was a concern about taking on too much. Tim said his son, Jared, had a teacher that brought up the GNC in class and encouraged them to consider volunteering when they are trying to find something to do. There was also tutoring opportunities at the high school that students could get credit for, and they could possibly get credit when volunteering with the GNC.

2024 Budget Discussion & Purchases

It was agreed it would be nice to have a TV on a tripod to have at booths, and the float needed to be redone. It was suggested to approach Family Pathways to see if they would like to partner in upgrading it. It was also agreed Natasha needed a new computer with the Microsoft program on it.

Marlys made motion, Dana seconded, to purchase a new computer at a cost up to \$600. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Mark from the Yellow Ribbon Network will be at the annual meeting with his sound system. The Club may consider purchasing something like that. There was discussion about offering t-shirts to volunteers and having sponsors on the back. It was agreed there needed to be a larger discussion on budget items.

Scholarship Opportunity

Marlys shared information on the Chisago Lakes Senior Annual Scholarship event that takes place every spring. Entities that give away the scholarships set the criteria, review the applications, and select the recipient. It was agreed the Club’s parameters would center around community involvement.

Marlys made motion, Tim seconded, to offer a \$500 scholarship from the Club. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Transportation Opportunity- GoGo Grandparent (they partner with Lyft & Uber)

Scott shared information he received on the GoGo Grandparent program. Seniors are able to call a single number and get a ride from Uber or Lyft. Seniors need to set up a profile and pay a fee to be part of this program. Scott said his mom did it, and it works great. He wanted to share this information with Marlys since she is working on other transportations issues. Marlys spoke about the collation that she is working with and said there are grants available for transportation.

Updated Bylaws and Member Terms

Shelly talked about the changes the Club had wanted to make to the bylaws. Some of the changes would simply provide more involvement by the members and less decisions made strictly by the Board. These amendments would need to be presented and voted for at the annual meeting. Board Member Terms that were expiring were President Scott R., Treasurer Marlys D., Members at Large O.B., Tim C., Dana H., and Trina M.

Stroke Support Group – Scott R.

Scott shared information about the Stroke Support Outreach group. The community outreach program asked if the GNC could take them on pontoon rides or other activities. How formalized and often the Club want to do this was discussed. “Let’s go Fishing” was mentioned. There was discussion on whether this needed to be formalized or if it could be more of an Act of Kindness ad hoc.

Family Pathways Partnership

There was discussion on more engagement with Family Pathways and getting them more involved with the float, etc. It was agreed food drives were big wins for the Club because the proceeds go back to the community. There needed to be data going forward to promote it such as pounds of food collected.

Miscellaneous Discussion

- Lori created documents with events and all steps involved. This would be presented at the Annual Meeting to support the theme of membership engagement and the importance of member participation. Data would show the energy that is put into Club.
- There was discussion on participating in the Earth Day Challenge. Natasha suggested that anyone could plan a date and ask for members to join in GroupMe.
- There was discussion on eliminating booths due to poor volunteer engagement. There were mixed thoughts on the topic. Marlys expressed importance of continuing, and Chris agreed.
- Natasha brough up scaling back on formality and focusing on Acts of Kindness.
- Tim suggested going back to post-it for the Annual meeting to identify areas of interest similar to what was done when the Club first started.

Upcoming Events/Acts of Kindness Opportunities

- Chisago Lakes Showcase March 23 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Scott, Nasha, and Shelley will be there for the morning setup. Chris will be there in the afternoon.
- Adopt a Highway date was set for Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.
- Marlys will provide Natasha information on the Gazebo location and information for the Ice Cream Social.
- Shopping still needed to be done with the \$960 in money received from caroling. Lorraine and Marlys will coordinate that.
- Marlys was working with the Honor Society at the Highschool for referrals to connect seniors with those needing help with yard work.
- A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, to set the agenda for the annual meeting on April 11th.

Adjournment

Natasha made motion, Scott seconded, to adjourn at approximately 8 p.m. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Secretary Shelley Lindau and Natasha Zarich.

“Chisago Lakes Good Neighbors club, through its resources and diverse membership, contributes to the needs and wellbeing of our communities through acts of kindness.”