



## MEETING NOTES: July 22, 2020

**Visitors:** Welcomes were extended to Hays Englehart, Rotary Assistant District Governor and Rossmoor Rotary Past President Gene Wilson.

**Rotary International Video:** The video illustrated the good work RI performs throughout the world. They provide food, education, health care services, expand opportunities, and promote peace. The new Rotary International president is Holger Knaack.

**Sunshine:** Manor Care has been closed to new admissions due to twelve Covid deaths. Eighty-two residents and thirty staff have tested positive for the coronavirus.

We lost **Ed Spencer** on July 16<sup>th</sup>. We will miss his regular presence, style and flair when coming to our meetings in his shiny red Cadillac convertible. When **Jim O.** and **Ed** last spoke, **Ed** shared how much he valued our Club and will miss it.

**Thought for the Day:** **Jennifer Hansen** outlined the Top Ten Thoughts for the Day. They were:

1. Train your mind to see the good in everything. Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.
2. If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito.
3. Every act of love is a work of peace no matter how small.
4. A good deed brightens a dark world for someone.
5. One person can make a difference, and everyone should try. (JFK)
6. Feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is like wrapping a present and never giving it.
7. If you want to make everyone happy, do not be a leader... Sell cream. 😊 (Steve Jobs)
8. Enjoy the little things today, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things
9. I hope the next pandemic is "World Love" and may it spread like a wildfire.
10. Everything will be okay in the end... If it is not okay, then it is not the end.

**Happy Dollars:** **Dick Hamlish, Jim Olson, Gene Wilson, David Brown,** and **Tillie** were among the many who made contributions.

## PROGRAM

BART District 1 Director Debora Allen and BART Principal Government and Community Relations Representative Ariel Mercado addressed the current state at BART.



Since its inception, BART has been in a continuous state of change. To date, BART travels across 131.4 miles of rail and serves riders at 50 stations (19 surface, 15 elevated and 16 subway). One hundred fifteen million people ride BART per year. Before the Covid pandemic they were running at capacity. Now, they are only carrying 12% of their former numbers.

Prior to Covid-19 their operating budget was 2.37 million, mostly paid by taxpayers. A projected 60% ridership loss due to Covid brings the budget loss to over \$400 million. In response, BART has shortened operating hours and laid off personnel. The budget deficit is being replenished by subsidies. They received \$377 million of government stimulus money.

Despite the deficit, Bart is focusing on rebuilding its infrastructure by expanding their fleet, rails, etc. They will have twelve new 10-car trains. Two hundred three new cars have already arrived on site.

The BART Board continues to struggle with "Quality of Life" challenges. Riders frequently report concerns about crime, drug use, panhandling, and homelessness relative to their BART experience. BART is initiating ways to connect the homeless that seek shelter at BART with support services. A second area of concern is system safety and cleanliness. Currently, ten people inspect all cars for security. Cameras on cars are being replaced. The air in BART cars is now replaced fifty times per hour and wash down is at maximum. BART's welcome back plan addresses cleaning, health and safety, and matching service to demand.

Fare evasion is another significant problem in that it accounts for a \$27-\$57 million loss per year. In response, they are considering replacing gates and closing certain elevators.

Positive innovations include:

- The development of Clipper cards, a new technology that provides excellent discounts and can also be used on other bay area transportation systems.
- Walkable high-density housing and commercial development around transit hubs utilizing government land.
- Rebuilding the BART organization with a new general manager, internal process improvements, and a new inspector general.

## CALENDAR

Today	Dr. Seema Yasmin – When Epidemics and Politics Collide
Aug. 5	Aaron Eckhouse – Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY)

**Aaron Eckhouse - Yes In My Back Yard  
(YIMBY)**