

Rotary



Club of Wauwatosa

Newsletter - JFebruary 3, 2021

By John Edward Bauer

A Meeting of The Rotary Club of Wauwatosa
Jottings and Musings
February 3, 2021

Taking things a bit out of order today to accommodate our speaker, Peter Skanavis introduced Johnny Vassallo, owner of Mo's Irish Pub among other establishments, who spoke to us from Houston to share his company's proposal for a 20-story luxury apartment building on the corner of Bluemound Road and Highway 100 in Wauwatosa.

This large development would consist of a 20-story building containing 340 apartment units ranging in size from 1000 to 4000 square feet. The projected rent structure would be about \$250 per square foot. Five floors of indoor parking would make up the lower levels. The project would contain numerous amenities such as restaurants, movie theater, fitness center, and 24-hour concierge and valet service.

Eight other properties are owned in the block in question. A few remaining properties are residential, but immediate neighbors include a bank and a restaurant. If developed, the property would generate an annual \$650,000 in taxes for Wauwatosa and add \$40 million to the tax base. Concerns about increased traffic have been addressed, with the complex projecting added traffic to be a fraction of that generated by other businesses such as restaurants or gas stations.

A question-and-answer period provided additional details and insights about the proposed project. The density versus height issue was addressed. Mr. Vassallo indicated that current code requirements would permit a 34 story/67-unit building. Such a project would be comprised entirely of very high-end luxury apartments with only two or three units per floor. He indicated that this would be a very viable option had they not already invested heavily in developing the 20-story (reduced from a previous 24-story) building.

Neighbors opposed to the project have organized themselves. At present, one alderman from the district appears to support the project and the other alderman is opposed. The proposal presented to our club today will be submitted to the City for review and hopefully approval. In the meantime, the site has been cleared with the demolition of Eduardo's Restaurant.

We thanked Mr. Vassallo for an interesting presentation and wish him well in his pursuits.

Having eaten lunch during our speaker's presentation, the Club was ready to recombobulate and get down to business. President Rick opened the meeting by calling upon us to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Paul Roller provided an eloquent and succinct invocation.

We were not able to sing Happy Birthday to Richard Frenn due to his absence. He will celebrate 71 years on the 6th.

There appeared to be no happy, sad, or even mediocre news to report today, other than the fact that Bill Makal had two trees in his yard taken down without landing on the house.

Club Meeting

Wauwatosa
Meets at Radisson Hotel Milwaukee West
2303 N. Mayfair Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

Events / Speakers

February 3rd
[Johnny Vassallo](#)

February 10th
[Ryan Festerling, President of OPS Employment Group](#)

February 17th
[Tim Dittloff, Master Captain, from Full Sail Leadership Academy.](#)

Club Leaders



[Rick David Steinberg](#)
President



[Anne Ruttger Neafie](#)
President-Elect



[John A. Sebald](#)
Vice President



[Robert P. Niedermann CPA](#)
Treasurer



[Peter M. Skanavis](#)
Public Relations Chair



[Richard Frenn](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Jonathan Lorenzen](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Aaron D. Sebald](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms

[John C. Ericsen](#)

However, not being one to waste an opportunity for member engagement, President Rick did have numerous announcements to make:

- The Membership Committee will meet at Gerv Rose's house next Wednesday, February 10, beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- Our plan to host a visitor's event on February 18 will be postponed to a later date. This event was to invite people from the community to learn more about Rotary and to support the 128th Air Refueling Wing. Col. Adria Zuccaro, Commander of the Air Wing, expressed a willingness to speak if and when the event is rescheduled.
- Robert Niedermann asked that the directors of the Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation Board meet briefly after today's meeting to discuss their support for the World Affairs Seminary students.
- President Rick used the occasion of our meeting today to present Paul Roller with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his outstanding contributions over many years to our club.

[ADDENDUM: As a follow up to this award, Paul asked that the following be included in this week's bulletin:]

I was totally surprised to receive another Paul Harris Award. Thanks very much to the Board and Officers. While I have received others, I treasure them all for what they represent. Best wishes,
Paul

- After having delivered an inspiring classification talk last week, Aaron Sebald was presented with his membership badge and pin by President Rick. Welcome, Aaron.

[CORRIGENDUM: It was erroneously reported last week that Aaron Sebald was sponsored into our club by Paul Roller. Paul sponsored Aaron's cousin, John Sebald. Aaron was brought to us as part of a corporate membership by Wisconsin Lutheran College and Rich Mannisto.]

- John Bauer indicated that numerous moving parts are still in play before our club is ready to start soliciting sponsorship for the Kids from Wisconsin performance. He and Peter Holtz will be working with the Department of Public Works and the City's Health Department to make sure all things are on track before we go public with active donor solicitation.

There being no other business, President Rick ended the meeting with a joke that may have conjured up memories from when we were teenagers - something about back seats and police. Your humble bulletin editor suggests that some memories may not be worth reliving.

Respectfully submitted, your humble jotter and muser,

John E. Bauer

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

Rotary membership provides the opportunity to: Become connected to your community. Work with others in addressing community needs. Interact with other professionals in your



Club Executive Secretary
Webmaster



[Craig Schmutzer](#)
Club Programs Chair



[John Edward Bauer](#)
Past President

Years of Service

Barry Weber
03-01-2000
21 Years

Anne Ruttger Neafie
02-18-2009
12 Years

Christine Lynn Merritt
02-15-2017
4 Years

community; assist with RI's international humanitarian service efforts. Establish contacts with an international network of professionals. Develop leadership skills. Involve family in promoting service efforts.



BE THE INSPIRATION

