

Rotary Club of Portage Bulletin

Porta-Rota-Call

June 19, 2019

by Jeannine Willacker

President Chris Buckley called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Betty Lee Ongley gave the invocation.

Greeter Pete Marsiglia presided over introductions of visiting Rotarians and guests, Jack Ryder, John Crandall's, Mom, Bonnie Crandall and Laura Fredrickson, Pavilion Landscaper

President Chris announced fireworks volunteers needed for the fourth of July celebration.

Jim Pearson, wearing two hats, as a Rotarian and Portage City Council member, introduced the Rashke family and other guests.

Jim further shared how 14 years ago Bill Crown began the "Big Idea" Project with Jen Maynard, John Crandle and Jim Pearson.

The big idea raised a lot of money and culminated in today's ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Celery Flats pavilion, plaque, tables and chairs. Three Rotary benches in Honor of Rotarian Rich Raschke, were also dedicated, for the Portage Celery Flats Park area.

Rotarian Randy Orwig gave a warm and loving tribute and introduced David Johnson and friends and Rich's beautiful extended family.

Randy shared how Rich exemplified Rotary in the 5 Areas of Service, Club, Community, International, Occasional and New Generations Service. Randy was Rotary President in 2009 and 2010.

First and foremost, Rich was a loving family man. Rich lived and led by Rotary example, "Service Above Self".

Kathleen Hoyt, Parks and Recreation, Portage, led the program on Creating Destinations- Creating Awareness for Portage Parks and Recreation with a great and timely video on what is happening in Portage with Parks and Recreation. Kathleen advised complete written summation information is available from the Parks Department.

Larry Shaffer, Portage City Manager and Portage Rotarian, reported on the great job that Kathleen Hoyle, Rod Russell and his great team, and city employees did on the Celery Flats Project we are celebrating and dedicating today. Portage City Employees saved over 1/2 million dollars on the project and added 90+ parking places.

Larry, went on to advise the "creative destinations - creative awareness" designation, utilizes park identity, art in history location/sites, branding awareness, new map systems and is a current and future regional draw for

family outdoor experiences in Portage.

Information on the new Portage Parks Foundation is available from our Portage City offices.

Dick Hewitt, member of the Portage volunteer parks patrol, announced new volunteers are welcome and needed. Fishing, Kayaking, and swimming are all available in our city of Portage.

President Chris requested announcements from the floor.

Karen Foster is excepting golf outing sponsorships, foursomes, volunteers and donations.

Jeannine Willacker announced the June 27th blood drive location has been changed, for this time only, to the First Reformed Church at 7905 South Westnedge. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was circulated.

Tom Welch reminded members to sign up for next year's committees. We all need to do our part for the club to function properly.

Birthdays and anniversaries:

Happy Anniversary was sung for:

Mary and Terry Hall, June 16

and

Art and Betty Roberts, June 16.

There were no birthdays this week.

Many, Many, many happy bucks were received for Portage Rotary Charities this week.

Chad Schuring won \$14.00 in the 50/50 drawing, Dan Melnik did not pick the ace of ♠'s. The Winning pot continues to grow!

Bill Beck, Secretary, will lead next week's, Pass the Gavel Meeting.

President Chris thanked everyone for attending this wonderful Ribbon Cutting and loving Rotary dedication in memory of Rich Raschke.

[Facebook link](#)

The Portage Rotary Club provides financial support for youth education, families in need and other local charitable causes. We are part of Rotary International. A service organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian services and help build goodwill and peace in the world