



ROSSMOOR ROTARY NEWS



President: Sue A **Address:** PO Box 2177, Walnut Creek CA 94595 D5160 Club 461

Notes: Jim O **Photos:** Paul W January 24, 2024

Club Website: www.rossmoorrotary.org

District Website: www.rotary5160.org

MEETING NOTES: 01/24/24

Call to Order: President Sue called the meeting to order, David B led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the patriotic song was the national anthem.

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Kathy R (Ruth's daughter in law) is considering becoming a member, and Rich R a Rossmoor resident who wanted to learn about Rotary

Thought for the Day: Quotes were read on the value of giving service.

Sunshine Report: Jean D. welcomed the return of Merilee.

Happy Dollars: Jean for her new great grandchild, Anne for her daughter's visit, David for taking his grandmother to Cache Creek, Bill for the 49ers and also, Eddie, Patrice, Ruth, and Jim D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAB5- Carolyn reminded us to get in our \$35 payment for the event, Wednesday, February 7, 2024. 11:30-1:30 in the Event Center.

Hands On Member volunteer activity at Trinity House- Carolyn has formed a close relationship with Trinity House in Walnut Creek. She issued a sign-up sheet for interested members willing to commit to 3 hours a month working at Trinity sorting clothes, preparing meals, etc. This is a worthy endeavor for those of us who want to do specific tasks in the community.

Membership-Jim acknowledged the fine work of the **Program Committee** of Sue, David B, Bill B., Carolyn, Ron B., Patrice, Paul, Joy, and Nancy R. The committee meets bi-weekly to discuss and choose interesting guest speakers on a range of topics of interest to club members.

Dacdb-John R. showed us the refinement of Dacdb on our telephone app. Now we can easily access the schedule of our meetings, guest speakers and their topics, as well as other features just by using our smart phone app.

Raffle- Joy won lunch, and Paul W won the wine.

PROGRAM

Erika Vandenbrande, Community Development Director, City of Walnut Creek. Erika came to this job with vast experience working as Public Works Director for Transportation and Mobility in the City of Boulder, Colo. She spent 20 years in the city of Redmond, Washington, serving in the mayor's office in helping to run the city as Community Planning Director. She has also worked in county, regional, and federal agencies. Erika grew up in D.C., and received her undergraduate degree in geology and Master's in Public Policy at the University of Rochester. In her leisure time she loves walking with her husband and dog Milo.

Erika talked about her complex work for Walnut Creek being responsible for the city's planning, housing, and building goals and functions. In addition, she talked about her leadership responsibilities for a cross-departmental services team.

One objective of her team is to streamline the permit process for developers which we all know can be very time consuming and complex. The department is trying to make this process available electronically. At the end of April, it is expected that a portal will be made available to submit plans for housing including "affordable" housing. Another objective is the creation of a website that will enable seeing what community projects are in the works. A "sustainable" action plan is in the works. Also, services for helping the homeless "get back on their feet" is pending.

Next up for the community development is, creating a general plan; data gathering; preparing for community conversions.

The number one housing issue is "affordability." Walnut Creek is currently in the 6th cycle (2023-2031) of affirmatively furthering fair housing. The total housing units needed is 2235, but there are not enough yet that are affordable. Erika drew a picture of what Walnut Creek, and the State are working on how best to solve the housing crisis.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 31	Member Bios
Feb 7	Fab Five – Rossmoor Event Center
Feb 14	Connor Merrigan - Summit Financial
Feb 21	Member Bios

PHOTOS

Patrice, Erika, and Sue



Erika Vandenbrande