**Stafford Rotary Club Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Held at Poland’s**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Present: Trevor O’Toole, Linda Knecht, Jake Almborg, Michael Smith, Leigh Ann Poland, Jamie Larounis, Jack Poland and Danielle O’Toole

The meeting was called to order by President Trevor O’Toole. Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from December was made by Linda Knecht, seconded by Michael Smith. All in favor. Approved.

New Business:

1. Bonefish Option. First item of business was to discuss the pros and cons of moving regular Club meeting from Riverside to the Bonefish Grill. A general discussion followed to examine the pros and cons of each and determine whether there was particular dissatisfaction with Riverside. The general consensus was that there was not dissatisfaction with Riverside, in fact, logistically it was superior to Bonefish in terms of meeting set-up and accommodation of the Rotary storage cabinet. There was discussion and comment that the quantity of food served seemed excessive and that there could be better selections of vegetarian options. It was recognized that the food prepared was, in fact, the same that was prepared for those attending the performance at the theater that day and explained the quantity. The advantages of Bonefish were that it offered a better and more upscale menu; perhaps was considered more appealing to younger members; and offered change as a good thing to a club like Rotary. The real disadvantages were that it was not well suited for conducting meetings and posed problems of accommodating the Rotary storage locker. The Board decided to survey the membership and get the Club to make the decision—those in favor and those opposed. Jack Poland made the motion to send the survey out to the membership to vote, seconded by Trevor O’Toole. All in favor. Approved.
2. Foundation Budget and Club.
3. Polio Plus Donation Reduction from $2,500 to $2,000. The question was raised as to whether the Club should reduce its Polio Plus donation to the Rotary Foundation from $2,500 to $2000 this year since Rotary International was only asking Clubs to commit to $500? It was pointed out that $2,500 was already approved in the budget for this year. The Board decided to table this item for further discussion later.
4. Chamber of Commerce. A general discussion followed on the advantages of the Stafford Rotary Club maintaining its Chamber of Commerce membership. It was noted that few take advantage of the benefits and attend regular Chamber events. It was noted that Shawn is using the Chamber’s membership list to identify potential sponsors for the Monte Carlo fundraising event. It was decided to advertise the advantages of Chamber of Commerce membership to the Club by putting it in the weekly newsletter and to list regularly scheduled Chamber events.
5. Storage Unit. The price for the storage unit continues to go up. It was recognized that the Club needs some storage, but perhaps not the same size locker? It was agreed that the prior commitment to have several members who have been with the Club for a number of years evaluate what is being stored in the storage locker and what needs to be retained. Tabled for follow-up action.
6. Dues. Linda Knecht said that she has been running some preliminary budget numbers and thinks that the dues will need to be raised. She pointed out that, at this point, the numbers are just averages and that more analysis with hard numbers will be required. She also pointed out that membership dues are the only source of income for the Operating Budget. The Club does not include any type of add-on figure for administrative overhead. Dues are calculated and only include the individual cost of District and Rotary International dues plus the estimated number of meals for the year at $18.00 per meal. It was pointed out from the Membership Survey that was conducted last year, that the membership would support an increase of 5%. Further discussion followed as to what that number should be--$220, $235 or $250. 5% is $531. It was agreed to table this item for further discussion.

Old Business:

1. There was a general discussion of ticket prices for the Monte Carlo event. General ticket prices not going to sponsors. It was considered that $50-$55 was a good range and that $39.00 was too low. The Board decided that this was a matter for the Monte Carlo Fundraising Committee to decide and no action was taken.
2. There was a question on the total cost of the Meals of Hope program. The cost cited was $7,000 which exceeded the amount in the budget—and a suggestion to fund the shortfall with a “Go-Fund-Me” campaign. The Board asked that Lori Hayes clarify the status of the Meals of Hope program. A “Go-Fund-Me” campaign was discouraged if there was any shortfall.
3. There was a discussion on repeating the Capitol Steps fundraising event next year. The question was whether it was too soon to hold this type of event again next year? Are there other types of shows that could be brought to the Dodd Auditorium at UMW? The decision was to table this item for later discussion; and re-address it during the planning phase for the new budget for the New Rotary Year

Motion to Adjourn:

Michael Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jamie Larounis. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Board Meeting will be Monday, January 11, 2019, at 6:00 PM at Linda Knecht’s house.