**Vote on Grant Request for $5000 to Help Pay
for a Handicap Bathroom for WUMC and Open Table
Williamston Sunrise Rotary Foundation Board**

**Email vote from March 25-27, 2020**

**From:** **Nick Horstman** <nickhorstman@gmail.com>
**Date:** March 25, 2020 at 8:04:44 PM EDT
**To:** Brian Tort <briantort@gmail.com>, Stephen Terry <terrys@msu.edu>, Gene Klco <geneklco65@gmail.com>, Jim Conroy <jconroy45@gmail.com>
**Subject:** **Foundation Grant Request**

﻿Good Evening Everyone,

We had received a request from the Methodist Church a while back to discuss a grant from the club and foundation to assist with building their new gender neutral bathroom. The grant was requested as it would be used during the Open Table. I would like to try to have discussion regarding the request via email if everyone is okay with that. I am unsure if I am missing voting members please add them to this thread!

Nick
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On Mar 25, 2020, at 9:40 PM, **Kay Goluska** <kgoluska@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you Gene!

I am available for discussion, although I do believe we did have a discussion regarding this at one of our board meetings?

Kay Goluska

On Wed, Mar 25, 2020 at 9:34 PM Gene Klco <geneklco65@gmail.com> wrote:

I added you to this email.

Gene
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On Mar 26, 2020, at 5:47 AM, **Nick Horstman** <nickhorstman@gmail.com> wrote:

Kay,

It was discussed at the board level and voted down, however the request for the foundation was never voted on.  So we will just need to discuss and vote on a decision.

In regards to funding requests I find in general that it will be difficult to raise funds at this time due to the uncertainty of the COVID outbreak. In addition we need to be mindful that we have already funded a request in 2020 being the Volunteer Park.

Thoughts?

Nick
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On Mar 26, 2020, at 9:13 AM, **Terry, Stephen** <terrys@msu.edu> wrote:

﻿ I think the club board voted it down because the club accounts typically have not funded grants above the $3,000 level, and not because of the merits of the request. The expectation was that larger amounts were more properly handled by the Foundation.

**I move approval of the $5,000 funding request for new accessible restroom at WUMC.**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

On Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 12:53 PM **Nick Horstman** <nickhorstman@gmail.com> wrote:

We have a **motion to approve $5,000 for WUMC by Steve**. Do we have a second? Any discussion?

Nick
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On Mar 26, 2020, at 1:29 PM, **James Conroy** <jconroy45@gmail.com> wrote:

**﻿ I second the motion**. May I assume this is for the Foundation, given that Nick is flexing his Robert's Rules? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

On Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 2:34 PM **Nick Horstman** <nickhorstman@gmail.com> wrote:

This is for the foundation you are correct.

My concern is we are helping fund a expansion of the church that will be utilized for more than just the open table. Though I think the open table is a good cause are we going to find ourselves in a precarious situation due to it supporting a church by voting yes? I know we have members of our club that attend the church but I worry that those of other religious affiliations could feel alienated.

Do we have a plan for addressing future requests from other churches, organizations, businesses? I want to make sure we have our “Ducks” in a row before making a decision like this as I want to avoid future potential fallout as we won’t be able to say yes to everyone who requests our support.

Thoughts?

Nick
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**From:** Wanda Bloomquist <wsbloomquist@gmail.com>
**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 2:35:32 PM EDT

I will second and **vote yes**.

Wanda

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**From:** **Wanda Bloomquist** <wsbloomquist@gmail.com>
**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 3:17:02 PM EDT

When I went to the church and toured, they also have AA meetings held there and other community groups are able to use the area as well.  I understand your concern and also had some uneasiness until I see how much it is and can be used by the community.

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﻿ Sorry, I intended to send my reply to all concerned, instead of just to Nick. Additionally, I added Raj and Laska because they submitted the original proposal.

Nick,

It is a very valid concern. We discussed that, and actually had Pastor Julie come in and talk about what they were doing. The purpose of renovating the bathrooms adjacent to the space in which the Open Table is held, is to accommodate a significant number of participants who cannot negotiate the existing bathrooms. Open Table is called that because it is truly Open to all. And it is used by a significant number of non-members of the UMC congregation.

- Is the majority non-UMC members? That would clearly vary week to week.

- Will the UMC congregation benefit from making these bathrooms accessible? Probably not, since the facilities on the main floor are already accessible. The only time members will benefit is a) if they are accessible-needy, and b) if they happen to be on the lower level when the "need" arises.

- Are we setting a precedent? I suggest that we set the precedent several years ago, when we compensating Open Table for the casseroles they provide us for Haven House. On the second Wednesday of the month, the Open Table staff makes two extra casseroles. We re-heat them on Thursday, and take them to Haven House. There has never been a question of whether we are supporting Williamston UMC by compensating them for the casseroles.

If we were providing a grant for a space that was integral to the UMC church, I would agree that we would be on shaky grounds. But while the Community Room is part of the overall building, it is not integral to the functioning of the church. In fact, as the building is presently configured, someone who needed these facilities while upstairs in the church could not get to them: they would have to negotiate a set of stairs, or go out the front door, around the building and back in the lower level. (Full disclosure: part of their overall renovations dream is to install an elevator. But that is not an active part of this phase of the reconstruction.)

Anytime we dip our oars into murky church/for-profit/socially sensitive issues, we need to do additional due diligence and ask the questions you have asked. In this instance, I am comfortable that there is sufficient separation, and there is a clear application to Rotary goals and purposes.

**I vote yes.**

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**From: Rajkumari Wiener** <rajwiener@gmail.com>
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 6:22 PM
**To:** James Conroy <jconroy45@gmail.com>
**Cc:** other non manme <briantort@gmail.com>, Stephen Terry <terrys@msu.edu>, Kay Goluska <kgoluska@gmail.com>, Wanda Bloomquist <wsbloomquist@gmail.com>, Gene Klco <gmklco@att.net>, Laska Creagh <laskacreagh@gmail.com>
**Subject:** Re: Foundation Grant Request

Thanks and hi!  Am I not still on the Foundation board as immediate past president?

Below are my thoughts and **a yes vote**.

1. Open Table serves mostly members from other churches.   WUMC purchases the food and its members prepare all the food in its licensed kitchen.    The people who come to eat and have mobility issues belong in the community and some don’t attend any church, and others attend other denominations including the local Baptist, Catholic, and Lutheran churches.

2.  WUMC is supporting its own renovation with $600,000 of its own funds.  In addition it has raised $16,000 towards this bathroom project. There are two other bathrooms currently at thr church which will remain, but a person with an electric wheelchair would get trapped inside.

3. A Rotary grant is not the same as a government grant.   This request is for a small portion of a much larger project. If another church wanted to do something to make our our community more accessible, and accessible to ALL, then Rotarians should help raise funds for them too!

4) Rotary could fund a portion of the request and there are matching opportunities for the project.

Thanks,

Raj
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On Mar 26, 2020, at 4:13 PM, **Gene Klco** <geneklco65@gmail.com> wrote:

﻿**I vote Yes** to the proposal from the Foundation. It seems that it is more of an Open Table, community service need than just a ‘like to have’ for the Methodist Church.

Gene

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**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 6:40:12 PM EDT
**To:** Gene Klco <geneklco65@gmail.com>
**Cc:** Wanda Bloomquist <wsbloomquist@gmail.com>, "Terry, Stephen" <terrys@msu.edu>, Kay Goluska <kgoluska@gmail.com>, Brian Tort <briantort@gmail.com>, Jim Conroy <jconroy45@gmail.com>
**Subject:** **Re:  Foundation Grant Request**

﻿Current Vote Count

Steve Motions
Kay Seconds

Steve*- (he made the motion-so Yes*)
Kay- Yes
Wanda- Yes
Gene- Yes
Jim- Yes
Brian-
Nick- Abstain (Cannot Vote - Conflict of Interest - Manage Investments)
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**From:** Brian Tort **Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 9:55 AM

**To:** Raj Wiener ; James Conroy

**Cc:** Stephen Terry ; Kay Goluska ; Wanda Bloomquist ; Gene Klco ; Laska Creagh

**Subject:** Re: Foundation Grant Request

I have no problem with request. **I vote yes** to use Williamston Rotary Foundation money to support the $5000 request.

And yes Raj, you are still on the foundation board.  Thank you for all of your statements.

**Brian Tort**

517-749-4347

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**From:** Gene Klco **Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 12:06 PM

**To:** Brian Tort ; Jim Conroy ; Kay Goluska ; Nick Horstman ; Steve Terry ; Wanda Bloomquist

**Subject:** Results of the Vote for WUMC Bathroom Grant

**I have documented the emails relative to the Grant request by WUMC for a handicap accessible bathroom.  I believe all have voted Yes.  See attached document.**

**We still have a request to obtain a Zoom license for virtual meeting. Please respond to that as well.**

**Gene**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** **Nick Horstman** nickhorstman@gmail.com **Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 11:57:33 AM
**To:** Gene Klco <geneklco65@gmail.com>
**Cc:** Wanda Bloomquist <wsbloomquist@gmail.com>; Terry, Stephen <terrys@msu.edu>; Kay Goluska <kgoluska@gmail.com>; Brian Tort <briantort@gmail.com>; Jim Conroy <jconroy45@gmail.com>
**Subject:** Re: Foundation Grant Request

Anyone opposed before we pass the motion?

Nick
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On Mar 27, 2020, at 12:00 PM, Kay Goluska <kgoluska@gmail.com> wrote:

﻿ I do not think Nick has you on the thread.  Including you so you can vote.

Kay

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**From:** Raj Wiener rajwiener@gmail.com **Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 12:04:33 PM
**To:** Kay Goluska <kgoluska@gmail.com>
**Subject:** Re: Foundation Grant Request

I vote yes.

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**From:** **Kay Goluska** **Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 12:49 PM

**To:** Nick Horstman ; Brian Tort ; gene klco ; Stephen Terry ; Wanda Bloomquist ; James Conroy ; Raj Wiener

**Subject:** Fwd: Foundation Grant Request

 Wanted to make sure Raj vote was tallied as well.
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**From:** **Nick Horstman** **Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 1:48 PM

**To:** Gene Klco **Cc:** Brian Tort ; Jim Conroy ; Kay Goluska ; Steve Terry ; Wanda Bloomquist ; Raj Wiener

**Subject:** Re: Results of the Vote for WUMC Bathroom Grant

 I must apologize as Raj was not included in the thread for the Foundation vote. The votes to approve would be sufficient to pass. But Please pause on results to allow Raj to provide her insights.

 Best Regards and I apologize for the error.

Nick
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**From:** **Raj Wiener** **Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 2:18 PM

**To:** Nick Horstman **Cc:** Gene Klco ; Brian Tort ; Jim Conroy ; Kay Goluska ; Steve Terry ; Wanda Bloomquist

**Subject:** Re: Results of the Vote for WUMC Bathroom Grant

 Thank you Nick,

In addition to WSR’s continued service of helping feed the community, and homeless through Open Table, this is an opportunity for Rotary stewardship of an historic landmark building in our community and future need for universal access, especially for our aging population. Increasingly there had been more motorized wheelchairs, regular wheelchairs, many walkers and strollers at Open Table.  Even now,  Open Table volunteers are delivering meals to families who relied on the meals.  If any Rotarian knows of a family or member in need,  this service will be available.  FYI meals on wheels also delivers from the same building.

 The Foundation grant is a small part of a much larger investment by WUMC for accessibility.  Open Table recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary as a community, non sectarian, charitable program. WSR can be proud to be part of It’s success and preparing for future community needs.

  I support this grant and my **vote is yes**.

 Regarding Zoom license, I fully support getting it.  They are free right now...

 Raj

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**From:** **Nick Horstman** nickhorstman@gmail.com **Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 11:27:28 AM
**To:** Raj Wiener <rajwiener@gmail.com>
**Cc:** Gene Klco <gmklco@att.net>; Brian Tort <briantort@gmail.com>; Jim Conroy <jconroy45@gmail.com>; Kay Goluska <kgoluska@gmail.com>; Steve Terry <terrys@msu.edu>; Wanda Bloomquist <wsbloomquist@gmail.com>
**Subject:** Re: Results of the Vote for WUMC Bathroom Grant

Raj,

 Thank you very much for the input. That means the motion will pass.

Please let me know if I am able to share this information with Laska.

Best Regards,

Nick
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On Mar 28, 2020, at 12:44 PM, **Brian Tort** <briantort@gmail.com> wrote:

You’re the man in charge of Foundation.

If you are ready to give that notice to Laska, go for it.

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**From:** **Raj Wiener** **Sent:** Saturday, March 28, 2020 1:25 PM

**To:** Brian Tort **Cc:** Nick Horstman ; Gene Klco ; Jim Conroy ; Kay Goluska ; Steve Terry ; Wanda Bloomquist

**Subject:** Re: Results of the Vote for WUMC Bathroom Grant

 Yes, please do share with Laska so that planning can begin!