

Harbor Country Rotary Club and Foundation Board Meetings - August 4, 2023

Club Directors in attendance: Mark Montgomery, George Gormley, Steve Diller, Gene Svebakken, Colleen Newquist, Chris Lynch, Lyn Romero, Brendan Wagner, Leslie Wood

Absent: Tom Rosenbluth, Laura Jolly
Guests: Frank Schmidt

8:30 - Club Meeting called to order:

Finance from Brendan: paid most of the major bills, getting back to healthy account balance. Stable club finances.

Mums Sale is coming up. Sept. 8

Need to put on customer form: portion of proceeds go to Club Operations and Club projects. Leslie will make sure the wording goes on the mums form. Hoping the club can clear \$2000-2400 for club operations. 50-50 split was suggested of proceeds.

Maria will need 10 minutes at next week's Friday morning meeting (Aug. 11) to announce mums sale to club; will have flyers to distribute.

Gene: hoping to up the club's commitment this year to purchase raffle tickets for the **District Foundation raffle**.

Golden Trowel Award goes to someone who is not a rotarian, and especially generous/helpful to the club.

Caroline Dreier last year.

Possible nominations (nomination form is on DACdb):

Owner of Hardings was suggested by George. (especially for their help with food baskets, meat). Local, small business. Very community minded.

Village of TO, for tree project, also suggested for nomination.

Brendan made motion to nominate Hardings owners for Golden Trowel Award. Seconded by Colleen.

Motion passed unanimously for Hardings owners as Golden Trowel Award nomination.

Gene reported on fellow **Rotarian, Gerry** (last name?) who has COPD and can't come to meetings anymore but is setting up \$1,000/yr. donation to HCRC. *(Note from Lyn: not sure if there is more that needed to be discussed about this later? Send Gerry a card? Gene and anyone else, if you can give me more details about who Gerry is I can add it to these notes.)*

Mark & Steve requested that a working group of club members be formed to set all the details to **move one meeting/month from Friday morning to an evening meeting**. Thursday 5:30ish was suggested.

Working group needs to decide on: locations (stay at Water's Edge Church?), format (e.g., not a breakfast meeting).

This is not a less important meeting than Fridays; it will have the same purpose and function. Just a different time, for Rotarians who can't make the Fri. 7:30AM meeting. It replaces one of the Friday morning meetings.

Bring up at next week's Friday club meeting and ask for this working group to form from the club members.

Steve's **update on AEP's transmission line project**: HCRC supports community efforts for better communication between community residents and AEP. Reiterated the club are not taking a political stance.

Rotary can provide info re. what AEP is planning.

Chikaming Twp is setting up nonprofit group, and has a 25 pg report from law firm containing all the options that exist to engage AEP at various levels.

The conversation going on now is top down from AEP.

AEP knows the Weko Beach meeting did not have desired effect of appeasing the masses.

David (last name?), at Chikaming Twp is talking with AEP. Does TO Twp want to get more involved? Need to unify 2 townships for better representation with AEP. Steve will meet with TO Twp, wear Rotary hat, ask them to get involved with Chikaming, which is a bigger group. Steve staying involved as Rotarian to help keep conversation going, not just let AEP do all the talking.

Should Rotary co-sponsor a town hall meeting to get Chikaming and TO Twps involved together?

9:10: Adjourned Club meeting.
Foundation Meeting called to order.

Finances: Foundation bank account has \$50K-60k balance, per Brendan.

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi documentary is being aired on local public broadcasting, PBS Michiana - WNIT. Looking for sponsors

Sponsorship levels: minimum \$500.

Discussion about this being an important place for HCRC's public image.

Colleen made motion: \$1K proposed contribution.

George seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Three Oaks Oktoberfest - Looking for sponsors. Proceeds go to River Valley Foundation used for schools (band, sports, schools can decide how to use it).

Discussion about HCRC Public Image.

Name/logo on banner for \$1K sponsorship. Colleen made a motion to contribute \$1,000.

Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

George has logo image to share with Brendan to supply with the 2 above donations.

The question was asked: Do we have a **public image committee**? Or at least a process to keep track of what funds are spent on public image?

Rotary Foundation month is November. How do we want to approach this as a club? Gene says Foundation meeting will happen before next board meeting, so he will ask and report back.
Gene will do a program in Nov. about the Paul Harris Award, for one of the Friday morning meetings.

Members are confused about where money goes: Rotary Int'l, District, Club, where does coin box money go? Etc.
Leslie wants this explained better to members, especially new members.

Fund-raising committee: Colleen is requesting statistics to make public.
Examples: how many people did we feed? How many blankets were given away? How much was spent buying meat, etc.
These stats can be included in the Ask Campaign, which should mail out no later than November 1.

9:30: Foundation meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Lyn Romero, Secretary