Westland Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023

Red Lobster, Wayne Road, Westland, MI

Present: Gretchen Heinicke, Andy Barylski, Jeff Juenemann, Don Oesterwind Jr., Mary McGaw,

Kristi Willetts, Devin Adams, Carol Zuniga

Absent: Kyle Mulligan

The meeting was called to order by Andy Barylski at 12:15pm.

1. President’s report-

**Budget:**

Gretchen reported on the formulation of the 2023-24 budget, provided a proposed line-item budget; Gretchen and Andy led a group discussion.

A $50,000 transfer of Ameriprise funds is noted. Don expressed on behalf of the donor of those funds that the monies go to community programming. Don explained the $10,000 movie donation contribution in the budget to the nationally led Rotary project that will culminate in the production and distribution of a human trafficking movie focused on victims recovering from human trafficking experiences. Jeff suggested creating an awareness and fundraising event to support the expense and project.

Gretchen stressed consideration of how the allocated Community Project funds can be used to expand the Club’s reach into the community. She proposed different areas for consideration, including bullet proof vests for the Westland PD K-9 officers 2 dogs and consideration for a project focused on the fire department. Devon suggested building something at Rotary Park.

Changes to the line items proposed included increasing the Scholarship expense line from $500 to $1000, reducing the Community requests by the $500, changing the line item “Misc Projects” to be labeled “International”.

The changes and proposed annual budget of $77,500 was supported by Jeff and seconded by Mary. All members present voted affirmatively.

**Speakers**:

Mary provided the Club meeting speaker assignments for the coming year.

**Location:**

No update.

**Weekly meeting dates:**

The Rotary District Lt Governor will be attending our Club meeting on Thursday, October 5th. This special meeting will be held at the Red Lobster on Wayne Road.

There will be no Board or Club meetings in December 2023.

Gretchen noted that she will not be available November – January for Club or Board meeting, following the birth of her daughter.

**Board meeting updates:**

Andy will not be available in October or January; Kristin volunteered to run the January Board meeting.

**Chairperson/Events – Taste Fest, Tigers Raffle, Trivia:**

Tiger Raffle: Kristi explained that 5/3 Bank has not yet committed to donating a Comerica Park Tiger game suite at this time; Jeff commented that the Club could purchase the suite and still conduct the raffle for a positive gain, if 5/3 was unable to participate this year.

Taste Fest: Gretchen reported that she met with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce regarding their assistance with Taste Fest 2024, assuming the merger of the Westland and Livonia Chambers of Commerce occurs as is currently being discussed. Gretchen explained that the meeting was positive and that she felt, based on their conversation, reassured that the merged chamber of commerce entity would be supportive of the event. It was agreed that Rotary would provide 10-12 volunteers, as would the chamber as a partner in the event. Discussion amongst Club members ensued around equitable distribution of funds raised through sponsorships. Mary and Kristi volunteered to be co-chairs for the event.

Trivia: Mary volunteered to chair the event

Adopt a Family: Kristi volunteered to complete the gift purchases; Andy will provide

Kristi with the information.

Craft Beer Event: Scheduled September 16th. Discussed volunteers, 6 of 12 identified.

Grant: The grant to contribute to Services To Enhance Potential (STEP) garden was approved.

Plymouth Rotary Club solicited volunteer assistance for an event they are hosting this weekend; their request was respectfully declined.

1. Secretary’s report-

June minutes were provided to the members.

1. Treasurer’s report

Jeff reported that the Westland Rotary Club fund balance is currently $386,000. He would be providing an up-to-date financial statement at the next meeting.

1. Board discussion

See above. Discussion around proposed budget and planned events.

1. Requests-

Western Wayne NAACP requested a donation to their scholarship fund. $150 was proposed and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Submitted by: Carol Zuniga