Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Farmington Country Club

October 20, 2021

**Directors Present**

Aimee Andrews, Roger Higgins, Ben Horne, Sam Caughron, Thomas Markham, Amy Hart, Susan Evans, Eddie Karoliussen, Ronda Puryear, Dan Alley, Wayne Murphy, Ty Cooper, Franklin Daniels

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Aimee Andrews, President, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:29am.

**Prior Meeting Minutes**

***Motion****: Sam Caughron moves to accept the minutes from September 15 meeting. Seconded by Franklin Daniels. Approved by the board.*

**Past President**

Past President Franklin Daniels brought a motion on behalf of Bruce Woodzell to make Phil Sparks an honorary member. This would allow Phil to continue receiving communications from the club and attending when possible without paying dues. Honorary members pay for breakfast on an ad hoc basis.

***Motion****: Franklin Daniels moves to make Phil Sparks an honorary member. Seconded by Dan Alley. Approved by the board.*

**Secretary’s Report**

Thomas Markham, Secretary, gave the following update.

* Disengaged Members: To address the problem of members who do not attend, are late paying dues, and do not respond to phone calls and emails (see September 15 minutes), a draft letter was circulated (attached).
  + The board agreed that such a letter should be reserved as a last resort after more personal means of outreach have been exhausted.
  + To help track this issue, Ms. Andrews asked for a reinstitution of quarterly updates from the secretary about members who are below 60% attendance.
  + Ms. Andrews also reminded the board that attendance at social and service events should be reported to the secretary by the event leader for attendance makeup purposes.

**Financial Report**

Sam Caughron, Treasurer, gave an update on the financial situation.

* Donations: The fall grant, a $5,000 donation to Hospice of the Piedmont, has been disbursed, as has the over $7,000 donation to 100 Black Women from the induction dinner fundraiser.
* Quick Books Subscription: Dr. Caughron is investigating an advanced QB subscription that will allow for easier record keeping in the future.
* Overdue Accounts: Outstanding balances stand at around $7,000.
  + Jay Blanton: This recently resigned member has a balance of approximately $780. Because he never attended a meeting, the question arose whether he should be charged for breakfasts, or just dues.

***Motion****: Thomas Markham moves to charge Jay Blanton for dues only. Seconded by Ronda Puryear. The motion was not approved by the board.*

* Discussion: Amy Hart, Susan Evans, and Eddie K. expressed reservations about the motion. Roger Higgins, President-Elect and Vice President at the time of Jay’s orientation, noted that the breakfast payment policy (all members charged regardless of attendance) was explained clearly to Jay.
* Ms. Andrews asked that the motion be tabled. She will reach out to Jay’s sponsor, David Atchley, about the best way to handle it with Jay.
* Breakfast Policy: Eddie K. raised the broader issue of whether new members should be asked to initial their acknowledgement that breakfasts are billed regardless of attendance.
  + Mr. Higgins expressed reservations about this approach, suggesting it feels overly transactional.
  + Ms. Andrews noted that the club has a constitution and tries to operate in a business-like manner, so this would not necessarily be overly transactional.
  + Mr. Higgins suggested that the membership application could be updated to include a clearer statement of this policy, to avoid misunderstandings.

**Vice President/Membership**

Ben Horne, Vice President, gave an update on new membership activity.

* Prospective new member Hayden Ardrey will complete orientation soon.
  + Eddie K. mentioned that he is recruiting Roger Johnson with the county economic development department.

**Club Service**

Dan Alley, Service co-chair, presented the following update:

* Salvation Army: Two meals have been served this month, with about 12 different volunteers involved, including new faces.
* Upcoming Projects:
  + McIntire Park Cleanup: Have enough volunteers for this.
  + SPCA: Still need volunteers for this even on Nov. 6.
  + Salvation Army Store: Mr. Alley will connect with the store manager to set up volunteer opportunities.
  + Kiwanis Joint Effort: Mr. Alley is meeting with Kiwanis later this week to arrange a joint volunteering effort.

Ty Cooper, Public Relations co-chair, asked for a list of upcoming service opportunities so they can publicized.

**Club Adminstration**

Wayne Murphy, Club Admin co-chair, gave the following updates:

* Oyster Roast: This event was a huge success – the Takach’s (hosts) felt it was one of the best ones yet.
* Christmas Breakfast: This will be on Dec. 15. An RSVP will be requested so that Amy Hart can plan gifts for the children.

**Program Chairs**

Amy Hart, Programs co-chair, noted that the calendar is now booked through the end of the year.

Ms. Andrews noted that the meeting in the first week of December will be for official club business, including Mr. Higgins’ board slate for the next year.

**International / Foundation**

Susan Evans, co-chair, gave the following update.

* Rabbit Run: CACF will manage the RFPs for Rabbit Run grant recipients. We will use the same guidelines from 2019 (last time the race was run).
  + Ms. Andrews noted that Joe Varaksa will chair the Rabbit Run committee, which will include a sub-committee to select the grantee, which should include the Vice President, Foundation chair, and additional members.

**Public Relations**

Ty Cooper, Public Relations co-chair, noted that he and co-chair Jamie White are still looking for interesting projects to publicize, such as community service projects. Ms. Andrews suggested that a slide could be created for the Hospice of the Piedmont donation.

**Diversity Committee**

Eddie K., chair of the committee, gave the following updates.

* Committee: Jason Eagleburger may be invited to replace Olga Boucher (resigned from the club) on the committee. Andy Jenkins, a new member, may also be invited to join given his prior DEI experience with his employer, the CFA Institute.
* Survey: Survey results have been collected and will be shared in November.
* Speakers: Eddie has lined up UVA’s director of DEI to come as a speaker in February.
* Training: Eddie has been in touch with a trainer from Roger Higgins’ company, who is expected to speak in January.

**President’s Report**

No report

**President Elect**

No report

**Club Executive Secretary**

No report

There being no further the business the meeting was adjourned at 9:27am.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Markham, Secretary