Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Farmington Country Club

April 28, 2021

**Directors Present**

Franklin Daniels, Aimee Andrews, Roger Higgins, Ben Horne, Thomas Markham, Erik Greenbaum, Matt Crane, Ravi Respeto, Susan Evans, Ty Cooper

**Others Present**

Eddie Karoliussen

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Franklin Daniels, President, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:25am.

**President’s Report**

Mr. Daniels gave the following updates:

* A fundraising initiative has been organized in conjunction with the June installation dinner. Members will be able to sponsor awards for fellow Rotarians, with funds going to a selected charity.
* The incoming board is preparing to take over. President-Elect Aimee Andrews and incoming President-Elect Roger Higgins will lead a few club meetings in the coming weeks to prepare the transition.

**President Elect**

Aimee Andrews, President-Elect, provided the following updates:

* The current plan is to resume full (without attendance cap) in-person meetings as soon as possible, but a hybrid option (Zoom videoconferencing) will continue to be offered.
  + To support continued videoconferencing, including remote speakers, Ms. Andrews and Director of Public Image Ty Cooper have been exploring a small investment in microphones, speakers, cameras, etc.
  + Discussion followed about the effect on attendance of continuing to offer a remote option. Susan Evans noted that the remote option can continue to be offered even if the billing opt-out is removed (returning to all regular members being billed for all meetings).

***Motion****: Ms. Andrews moves to authorize a budget of $2,000 for tech equipment for videoconferencing. Seconded by Ravi Respeto. Approved by the board.*

* Full indoor meetings will be able to resume as soon as the end of May, as restrictions are lifted. However, uncertain how members will feel about moving back indoors.
  + Matt Crane suggests taking a survey of membership. Ms. Andrews will follow up with Amy Hart to organize the survey.
* The installation dinner will be outdoors and have no attendance cap. A party favor of a hand sanitizer will be offered, and food will likely be boxed meals.

**Financial Report**

Ben Horne, Treasurer, gave an update on the financial situation.

* Overall, the club is doing okay financially, planning to approximately break even for the year.
  + The club currently has net income of ~$14,441, but this will decline as expenses accrue through the rest of the year (e.g., $9,000 for Paul Harris annual contribution, $6,000 for meals for the quarter). Other expenditures like $1,000 for polio or $3,000 for international activities have not been made this year.
    - One option is to tap into the endowment to cover operating losses, given this is an extraordinary year.
  + Margins are thin because not all members are being billed for all meals (opt-out option). Ms. Andrews suggest that we should prepare to return to regular billing by July, based on findings of membership survey.
* Overdue accounts
  + Jim Greene: Jim Greene has established contact and may be interested in returning to the Club. The question is whether he should be re-admitted after the prolonged difficulties with his bill.
    - Roger Higgins suggests that Jim be invited to pay off his current balance, at which point he can be re-considered for membership. Mr. Horne supports this step.
  + Other accounts: Jason Eagleburger and Antonio Rice are the two big outstanding balances at this point.

**Past President**

Ravi Respeto, Immediate Past President, gave the following updates:

* Ms. Respeto is meeting with Ms. Andrews to decide the recipient for the club’s spring grant (~$5,000) from a combination of endowment funds and member donations.
* Ms. Respeto would like to work with the Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Cville program to recruit members to the club.
  + Relatedly, Ms. Respeto suggests formalizing a process to recruit speakers to join as members.
* Ms. Respeto would like to see the club use the Cvillevolunteer.org platfrom to plug in to community events. She will liaise with Service chair Erik Greenbaum to make this happen.

**Secretary’s Report**

Thomas Markham, Secretary, presented a report on attendance (attached), as well as the minutes from the March 17 meeting for approval.

***Motion****: Roger Higgins moves to accept the March 17 minutes. Seconded by Susan Evans. Approved by the board.*

**Vice President/Membership**

Roger Higgins, Vice President, provided an update on the following issue:

* Diversity Committee
  + The committee had a meeting on April 26 and identified the following action items:
    - Formalizing a way to recruit speakers (e.g., Big Brothers Big Sisters)
    - Formalizing a way to welcome speakers to the meeting
    - Making new members feel welcome to the club
  + Susan Evans noted that new members have historically been assigned a sponsor to usher them into the club. Eddie K. notes that Wade Tremblay suggested that we all need a “refresher” on these practices.
  + Affordability is an issue that has already come up in discussions
  + Mr. Daniels noted that Eddie K. has been appointed to the board *ex officio* as chair of the DEIJ committee.

**Club Service**

Erik Greenbaum, Club Service chair, provided the following update:

* Monthly Salvation Army dinner is still on the last Monday of the month and Mr. Greenbaum will solicit volunteers.
* The COVID vaccine volunteers effor is continuing on a monthly basis with expenditure of ~$300 per month on snacks.
  + Eddie K. notes that Rotary is not currently listed at the vaccine site as a sponsor. Mr. Greenbaum will ensure that we are.

**International / Foundation**

No report

**Club Adminstration**

No report

**Program Chairs**

No report

**Public Relations**

No report

**Club Executive Secretary**

No report

There being no further the business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Markham, Secretary