Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Farmington Country Club

July 21, 2021

**Directors Present**

Aimee Andrews, Roger Higgins, Ben Horne, Sam Caughron, Thomas Markham, Wayne Murphy, Rachel Burns, Amy Hart, Olga Boucher, Dan Alley, Ronda Puryear, Ty Cooper, Jamie White, Eddie Karoliussen

**Others Present**

Henry Weinschenck

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Aimee Andrews, President, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:29am. Ms. Andrews asked for the minutes from the June 23 meeting to be accepted.

***Motion****: Rachel Burns moves to accept the June 23 meeting minutes. Seconded by Dan Alley. Approved by the board.*

**President’s Report**

Ms. Andrews presented several issues:

* COVID relief fund: The club has been charging $15 per member per quarter since the start of the pandemic to provide “scholarships” for members affected by the pandemic. Several members have asked about removing the fee. It has served its purpose and the club has a reserve built up for any future needs.

***Motion****: Rachel Burns moves to remove the $15 fee from future billings. Seconded by Thomas Markham. Approved by the board.*

* Membership scholarships: The DEI committee has discussed subsidizing new members who might not otherwise be able to afford to join the club.
  + Olga Boucher, programs co-chair, noted that any recipient should be expected to pay at least part of their dues, to create buy-in.
  + Roger Higgins, president-elect, noted that subsidizing memberships out of the club’s general operating funds could be divisive. An alternative could be to allow individual members to sponsor the scholarships/subsidies for new members.
  + Ms. Andrews noted that the core officers will continue to discuss this issue. No decisions have been made yet.
* Induction dinner fundraiser pledges: Not all pledges have been paid and we need to be systematic about collecting these.
  + Rachel Burns, club admin co-chair, suggested that pledges should all be billed through ClubRunner.
  + Sam Caughron, treasurer, noted that we can do this at the next quarterly billing in early October.
  + Ms. Andrews will share a list of pledges that have been paid through CACF as this is tracked separately.
  + Jamie White, public relations co-chair, asked if the honorees from the induction dinner could be shared with the broader club, as many people may not have realized this was happening.
  + Ms. Andrews noted that she can get a list of honorees from Ty Cooper and share it with the club.
* Breakfast options: Several members have asked about being excused from paying for meals as they cannot or will not eat the food Farmington serves for various reasons (vegan, allergies, fasting, etc.).
  + Ms. Andrews noted that the cost we pay is for membership in a club, not just for food. Farmington has made a number of accommodations for member preferences and cannot be expected to do more.
  + Core officers have discussed are on the same page that exemptions like this cannot be allowed.
  + Ms. Andrews will follow up individually with members to communicate this decision.

**Secretary’s Report**

Thomas Markham, secretary, reported that attendance at meetings is trending upwards. We had been averaging in the low 30s, but the last few meetings have been trending into the 40s.

**Financial Report**

Ben Horne, Treasurer, gave a final update from the just-ended fiscal year.

* Overall, the club is at about break-even for the year, possibly with a small loss.
  + Approximately $9,000 was just expended for annual Paul Harris contributions to Rotary International.
* Induction dinner: Have collected about $3,000, of which about $2,500 will go back to CACF.
* Overdue balances:
  + Antonio Rice: Has paid $350 towards his balance, so chipping away at it.
* Draft budget
  + In the attached draft budget, the COVID relief fund fee will need to be removed per the board decision above.
  + Overall, comparison with last year’s budget is not that helpful and should be viewed with caution because last year was so unusual.

**Vice President/Membership**

Ben Horne, vice president, presented two items:

* New members:
  + A new member application for Sheriff James Brown has been approved.
  + Eric Nianouris, a 25-year Rotarian relocated from North Carolina, will apply for membership.
  + Ms. Andrews noted that we need to follow up with recently joined members to get them engaged.
* Rabbit Run: Planning for the Rabbit Run race with Joe Varaksa will begin soon.

**Club Service**

Dan Alley, club service co-chair, presented preliminary results of a survey of members about service opportunities.

* Salvation Army dinners remain the preferred choice of service opportunity for most members. Could be expanded to a second serving or working at the SA thrift store.
  + Ben Horne noted that a second serving would incur a financial cost as well, since the club spends approximately $5,500 per year to buy meals from Michie Tavern.
  + Ms. Andrews noted that we could buy dinner from other sources. Also we have cut the number of meals purchased in half, which frees up some budget.
  + The service committee will further discuss the second serving option.
* Building projects are also of interest to some members. The club may be able to work with Building Goodness to create these opportunities.
* Most members are not in favor of requiring participation in service projects, except for new members (about half in favor of this).

**Club Administration**

Rachel Burns, club admin co-chair, presented several items.

* Poolside party on August 14: Hosted at Nancy Barrett’s house. RSVP announcement will go out soon.
* Oyster roast on October 10: Hosted by Steve and Alice Takach, who are also hiring a Waynesboro band, The Sidewinders.
* Christmas breakfast on December 15: Question of what the budget is for this event and how we bill members for it.
  + Henry Weinschenck, member, noted that normally the Christmas breakfast is not billed separately. Surplus funds from members who miss breakfasts during the year are used.
  + Ms. Andrews noted that even if we don’t bill, we need to RSVP, particularly for guests (family members, etc.)

**Program Chairs**

Amy Hart and Olga Boucher, programs co-chairs, presented several items:

* Joe Krenn will present next week, including a tour of Farmington renovations. The meeting will close early to allow time for the tour.
* Ms. Hart has sent a list of upcoming speakers to Bruce Woodzell so they can be posted on the club website.
* New member talks: There are quite a few of these to get through. Given this, they will be given 7-8 minutes per talk.

**Public Relations**

Jamie White and Ty Cooper, public relations co-chairs, presented several items:

* District newsletter: Aiming to produce some articles for the district newsletter, possibly including photos (e.g., from Salvation Army dinners).
* Slideshow: Planning to restart the slideshow at meetings – will solicit photos from the club.
* External facing press: Mr. Cooper noted that he woudl like to create more external-facing press releases.
  + Dan Alley suggested that we might place bets with other civic organizations about who can do the most service hours, to generate public attention.

**Diversity Committee**

Eddie K., chair of the committee, reported that the committee is ready to administer a survey to the club.

**International / Foundation**

No report

**President Elect**

No report

**Past President**

No report

**Club Executive Secretary**

No report

There being no further the business the meeting was adjourned at 9:39am.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Markham, Secretary