Minutes of Board Meeting for Rotary Club of Western Forsyth  --  January 17, 2023

Attendees:

Gene Blackwelder                         Mike Swain

Anant Venkataraman                   Mike Baley

Andrea Misel                                 Tim Johnson

Bill Hoyle                                        Ben Sessions

Don Baker Richard Harrington

Our President Gene Blackwelder started the meeting by saying that the club had asked members to suggest projects that our Rotary Club should support. One of the main purposes of the meeting was to vet the different proposals before presenting them to the club members for a vote at the January 24 meeting.

The following proposals were discussed.

**Foundation Andrea Misel**

Clean Water for Jamaica. One third of the people in the world do not have access to clean water. Lack of access to clean water causes disease and sickness. Rotary Clubs in our district are joining together to build a clean water system in one village in Jamaica. The larger clubs are sending engineers and money. We can assist by sending $1000. Rotary will provide ­additional funds in the form of a district grant to leverage our dollars. Amount $1000.

**Youth Services Mike Swain**

South Fork Elementary. Under the leadership of Youth Services Chair Mike Swain, we are forming a partnership with South Fork Elementary. We provide supplies for the food pantry and tutoring. South Fork is starting a Safety Patrol to teach leadership. We can pay for their Safety Patrol sashes for $200. Many of the children at South Fork Elementary do not eat breakfast at home or at school. The first food of the day is a snack period at 10am. We can provide snacks for two months for $360. Total amount of our donation to South Fork Elementary will be $560.

Safe Sober Prom Night. Richard Harrington shared that the Safe Sober Prom Night Program works by creating awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol consumption. By educating our youth about these potential dangers, Daggett Shuler strives to improve the health of our community. The program has evolved from just Prom Night to a year-round awareness of drug and alcohol consumption. Students who sign a pledge card receive a t-shirt indicating their commitment. $500 donation.

Project Birthday is a project that makes sure foster children receive a birthday present on their birthday. We donate $500 to pay for presents for a designated month and wrap presents.

**General Community Service Mike Baley**

Pet Food Pantry. Pets are an important part of people’s lives. Things happen to pet owners. They get sick. They get laid off from work, etc. When these events happen, pet owners need help feeding their pets. We can encourage our members to collect and bring pet food to meetings in May which is National Pet Month.

The House of Prayer. Don Baker shared that this organization is an organization that helps people rehab from drugs and alcohol abuse. It is accredited by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This organization has a record of success. $1000

Professionals in Transition. Gene Blackwelder shared that this is a local nonprofit organization with an international reputation whose mission is to reach out to unemployed and under-employed people and help them deal with the experiences of re-employment in an atmosphere of confidentially, integrity and trust. Our club member is the Executive Director. $1000 donation.

All of the above proposals were approved to be presented to the general club membership for a vote. Gene requested all committee chair people to rehearse their report to the club for  next Tuesday

Membership

Rotary suggests that each club organize a Rotary Discovery Hour to invite prospective members as a way to attract new members. . The four clubs of Clemmons, Reynolda , King and Western Forsyth agreed to each host one of this Discovery Hours. It is our turn. Gene suggested that we hold our Discovery Hour at the Winston Cup Museum.

Quarterly Social

We schedule a social every quarter for our members. SECCA and Reynolda House were suggested as possible sites for the social.

It was proposed by Bill Hoyle that the Club should allocate monies for the president and a new member to attend the District Conference.  Gene indicated that this year’s budget has funds allocated for the club president and that we could look at adding additional funds for another person to attend.

Treasurer Anant Venkataraman reported that the club has more than $20,000 in the bank as of January 17, 2023.