

Club Assembly meetings don't have to be dull, boring business meetings that many of the members don't really want to concern themselves with. They know the current events and trust that the board is guiding the club in the right direction. Well, let me just say,..... this meeting was not one of THOSE meetings.

First, we heard from Lara Esteche, our Student of the Month for February. Due to illness and scheduling conflicts, we were previously unable to catch up with her. Lara is a crazy, busy senior who has accumulated 325 community service hours while being Vice President of Interact, President of Helping Hands, a cheerleader, competing with the tennis team, and earning an AP scholar with honors and Golden Scholars. Her 4.9 gpa indicates the level of commitment she makes to her education, and she is currently FSU bound to study biology. Another future leader, she brings hope for a brighter tomorrow. Next, John Murphy and Lace Blue-McLean gave us their full presentation of the Bryant Park Project. Financially, we currently have about \$150,000 in the Park Project account. Donations from Joe Brannen/Fran Brannen, Trish Thomas, and an anonymous donor (\$90,000 from a required minimum draw from their IRA) along with funds from the Brewfest have kickstarted the project. The city and club will work together to get it all going, and John and Lace will be meeting with potential donors to secure more contributions. The park playground is our concerted effort, and it will take \$500,000 to get the equipment we want. Oh, and by the way, the equipment will be rotary colors – blue and gold! The city is hoping that construction will start in later 2024/2025 with bathrooms, sidewalks, improved parking, etc. Our playground will change the face of Inverness by helping provide a fantastic place for ALL children to play. And play is one of the essential elements for development to adulthood. Finally, Tom shared that the board had approved a recommendation by Eloy that our club possibly participate in the Peace Building program, and perhaps integrate a peace pole at our new park, and maybe even the schools.

Other News:

5/4 – Trash the Trash – Our Boy Scout Troop 457 roadside cleanup (Haven St), 9-12, J. Murphy

5/4 – Fun Bike Ride – Sponsored by the Downtown Club

5/24 – Club Social at the Cove, 6pm, Lora Wilson

6/25 – Uninstallation/Installation Banquet, Blue Water Drafting, door opens at 5:30

Also, congratulations to Dr. Cynthia Long for her induction as a new member to our club.

50/50 - \$24 to Lisa Cino

Happy/Sad - \$175 (thank you Paul Wheeler for turning 70!)

Reminder: no meeting for two weeks. We will see you all on May 14. Enjoy your time off, but please find your way back!