



Thursday, April 29, 2021

April 27, 2021

The Rotary Club of Washington met by Zoom

Present were: **Brad Montgomery, Tom Drewitz, Dave and Shirley Moore, Dorothy and John Tecklenburg, Kathy Sabol, Bill and Susan Price, Dave Hart, Angeline East, Mary Jo and Rich Podgurski, Ken Baker, John Quayle, Lars Lange, Joe Marsh, John Hopper, Joe Piszczor, and Susan Priest.**

Pre-Meeting

Susan Priest commented on the lovely weather and said she looked forward to a bit of sandal wearing before things got more seasonable. At this **Tom Drewitz** revealed by camera that he already has his sandals on. Susan then asked why he was not joining us from outside as he has done in the past. Turns out the it was too bright and too warm for his tablet, which fades in the heat. And his wind chimes would interfere with the meeting.

Conversation turned to our busy road construction season, especially Jefferson Avenue. At this point the Prices joined us and **Susan Price** said: don't talk to me about Route 18 and Jefferson Avenue. Coming in from Burgettstown is obviously quite a trek for the Prices right now. **Rich Podgurski** commented that **Susan Price's** camera was only showing the top of her head and the upper part of her face. To which Susan replied: The mouth still works.

The topic came up of reaching a person whose voice message said that their in-box was full, and how frustrating that could be. **Susan Price** said that a friend had told her that her (Susan's) message was in Chinese. Upon testing this out with the help of **Tom Drewitz**, it turned out to be Italian.

John Hopper joined and informed us that he had just finished a three-mile walk, which turned out to be to Krecy's and back. Based on his purchases, someone said that it was a demonstration of a zero-sum game.

Joe Marsh arrived and **Dave Moore** said that the last time they had met it was at the tractor store and he asked Joe if he had bought one. Joe said that since his old one had died on him in the middle of a meadow he did make a purchase.

John Quayle popped in and someone said something about working the base lines. **John Hopper** said that it was his understanding that John worked behind the plate, calling balls and strikes, to which John replied in the chat: with cataracts. **Dave Hart** said the secret is to call them loud, and **John Quayle** replied: I told that dead people can hear me.

Joe Marsh reminisced about officiating for football games with **Ray Dami**. Ray would stick Joe on the sidelines near the coaches. Guess who got an earful whenever any official made a call which they did not like.

Getting Started

Since it was now noon, **President Brad** rang the bell and asked **Dave Hart** to give the invocation. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The photo he used this week was from a Holiday Inn Express. Last Saturday, when he and **John Hopper** attended the District Assembly in person, Brad made a wrong turn and ended up in the Holiday Inn Express lot before successfully finding the meeting.

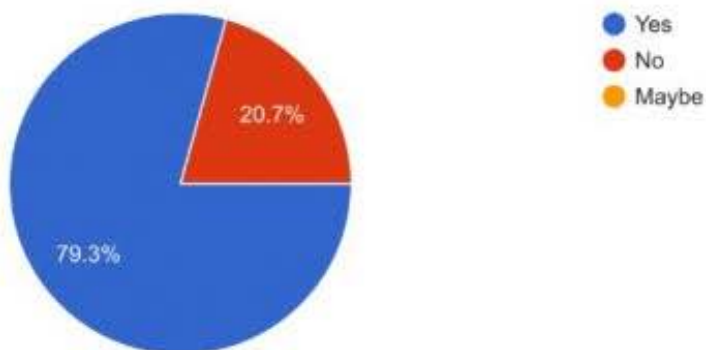
Announcements

- Last week the board met following the regular meeting and made a couple of decisions. They wanted the club to plan to tackle the Jessop exit later this spring. While we participated in the city clean-up this past Saturday, the exit does have our name on it, so Angeline East will be setting a date for clean-up at the Jessop exit. Secondly, although the club has been cutting back, it was decided to continue to be a sponsor for the Main Street Farmers Market, and voted to pay \$1,500 for the sponsorship.
- President Brad then asked Rich Podgurski to speak to us about the Main Pavilion project we undertook. During his presentation, this writer's pen died, so here is the summary from Rich, which he sent to me:
 - Original estimate to renovate pavilion - \$800,000
 - Rotary collected \$600,000 which included 2 Casino grants, Community Foundation grant and tourism grants plus donations from community and individuals from Rotary. There is \$22,000 left to spend out of this total.
 - We fixed the roof, the ceiling inside, repainted the whole structure, electrical work and fixed two bathrooms and built a new one.
 - City has applied for and gotten a grant from DCNR (PA Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources) - \$150,000 plus another \$150,000 they had lined up.
 - This \$300,000 will be used to fix the walkway around the upstairs area of the pavilion, pave a parking lot, sand and refinish the main floor of the structure and fix the playground nearby.
 - If there is money left over the staircase will be built as it was originally in the structure 100 years ago.
 - This work will be done in the last 3 weeks of July (hopefully). Bids will be going out shortly.
 - Rotary signage will be put up after the work is done. (noted above)
 - Assuming we don't need to do anything with our \$22,000, I would suggest a flag pole and lights near the entrance.
- Last week Rotarians received a three-question survey, and President Brad presented the findings:
 - 79% of the respondents have been vaccinated. 73% would be open to resume regular in-person meetings, 13% are unsure, and 13% are not willing at this time. And finally, 69% say that they would be more active in club matters if in-person meetings resumed.

The screenshot shows a digital survey interface titled "Rotary Club Survey". At the top, there are navigation icons for a menu, chat, play, and a profile icon. Below the title, there are two tabs: "Questions" and "Responses", with "Responses" being the active tab and showing a count of 30. The main content area displays "30 responses" in large text. On the right side of this area, there are icons for a plus sign and a vertical ellipsis. At the bottom right, there is a toggle switch labeled "Accepting responses" which is currently turned on. At the very bottom, there are three buttons: "Summary", "Question", and "Individual".

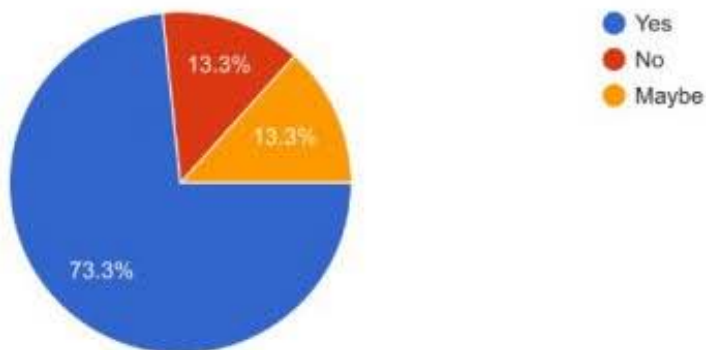
Have you received a CDC approved Covid-19 vaccine?

29 responses



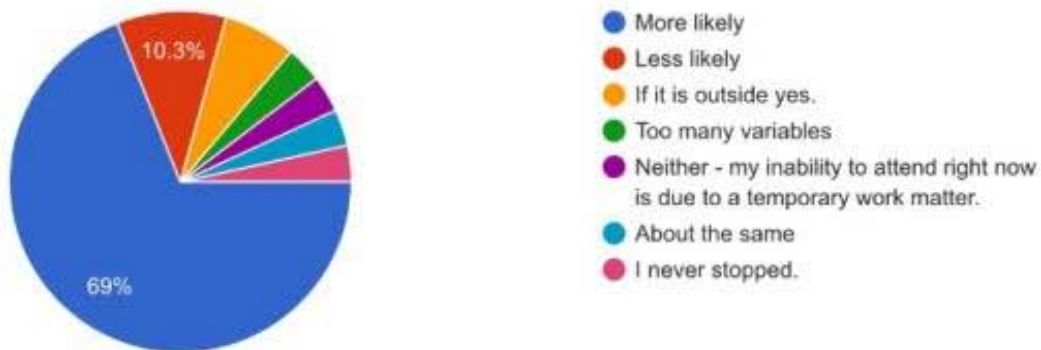
Are you in favor of the Club beginning the process of getting back to in-person meetings? (In compliance with current government guidelines of course)

30 responses



Would the return to regular in person meetings make you more likely or less likely to participate in club activities, and Rotary in general?

29 responses



Program: Joe Marsh Discussion On Club's Future

President Brad then turned the floor over to **Joe Marsh**. **Joe** began by saying that he is seriously concerned about the future of the club. He has had conversations with un-named members who are seriously thinking about leaving the club. Every week that we do not meet in-person gives members time to establish a new routine which does not include Rotary. He feels that it is time for the club to consider moving forward. He has approached Julians and the George Washington Hotel. Julians has given a quote for serving us at their facility at 229 South Main Street, next to Hungry Jose's. The cost for two entrees, two vegetables, salad and bread would be \$13.50 per person with an additional room fee of \$50 for the club. If we do not resume in-person meetings we not only risk losing current members, we make it impossible to attract new ones, and we risk dissolving over time.

Susan Priest raised acoustic issues the club has faced before with both of these venues, but **Joe** said that she was confusing the Julian's large space with the venue at 229 South Main.

Mary Jo Podgurski asked if a hybrid virtual/in-person solution could be considered. **President Brad** remarked that Saturday's District Assembly was hybrid and, while there were a few bobbles, it went well.

Susan Price raised the issue of buffets; having several persons in a line all using the same implements. She has seen places where there are servers who fill plates for diners so that only one person touches the implements, and that person is masked and wearing gloves. **Mary Jo Podgurski** said that that is how it is done at the teen center.

Ken Baker raised the issue of parking. At this point **Kathy Sabol** spoke up and advocated for meeting at the park, as we did last June. Parking would not be an issue there. **Susan Price** said that getting box lunches would work for the meal. Of course this would only be of use during mild weather.

Joe returned to the current situation. Apparently as the vaccines are now available to all, and many areas are opening up, some members are looking at their quarterly bills and wondering why they are still members when they cannot meet in-person. The bills just sent out are pushing people to evaluate what their membership is doing. The next quarter's bills may lead to an exodus.

At this several members spoke up advocating for the park; not as a permanent solution, but as a step toward normalcy, which we can take while we pursue a permanent solution. The idea coalesced around a time-table: May and June in the park while we work for something more permanent by July. **Joe Marsh** said that this might work for a while but we need to find a permanent answer.

John Tecklenburg said that we need more data. We are just into this period of open vaccination. We need to be cautious. We need more data points which we should get over the next month.

Dorothy Tecklenburg said that she was willing to set up a hybrid option to be used at the park to allow remote attendees to participate in the meetings. **Susan Priest** said that she would need to know where we would be meeting when so that she could inform speakers. She clarified that she did not mean that speakers would determine decisions, only that they would need to prepare for whatever venue we will be meeting at. If a speaker does not want to do so, then we will find someone else.

Joe Piszczor said that he agreed with everyone who spoke, but said that right now we should not be tied to returning to our old model. As he has shared before, we are not reaching his generation. Lunch time meetings are not fitting the way they work, and the cost of buying lunches has been a deal-breaker for many. If we go back to meeting for lunch every week at noon, we will not be growing, even when the pandemic is no longer an issue. We need to use this time to reexamine what a club is and what it does. There are people who would make great Rotarians who will not be drawn to our old meeting model. Consider things such as one meeting a month held as a happy hour. We need to change or we will die off. We have an opportunity. Think outside the box.

The issue of how we bill for meals led **Bill Price** to say that when he and **Susan** visit other clubs, those clubs charge persons who attend for their meals, not every member. Others spoke up about our model as being a stumbling block for new members.

Dorothy Tecklenburg said the question should NOT be about how we get back to where we were. The club needs a strategic plan. We need to use this time as an opportunity to reinvent ourselves.

President Brad said that we definitely need to include **Brandi Miller** in all this planning, since she will be taking over the presidency in July.

Tom brought up the discussion about India in the pre-meeting period. That country was considered to be able to open up, and now they are facing a horrible crisis. We are still not in charge, Covid is. Remember that any solution needs to be beneficial to all concerned.

President Brad asked for a show of hands on moving to in-person meetings in the park, starting on May 11. It was overwhelming endorsed. We need to get a screen for the park and be sure that the meetings are hybrid. We need to have Zoom available at every meeting.

President Brad thanked **Joe Marsh** for raising this and beginning the search for a meeting solution.

The meeting ended with the Four Way Test, led by **President Brad**.

Speakers

May 4th
Rea Andrew Redd
Abandoned Tracks: The Underground Railroad in Washington County

May 25th
Brad Montgomery
Club Assembly

May 11th
Betsy West
Main Street Farmers Market

May 18th
Club Members
Memories of Mothers

Events

No Events found

Club Leaders

[David Bradley Montgomery](#)
President

[Lars Lange](#)
Secretary

[David W. Moore](#)
Treasurer

[Diane L. Ambrose](#)
Club Service Chair

[Dorothy Curley Tecklenburg](#)
International Service Chair

[Brandi B. Miller](#)
President-Elect

[Susan E. Priest](#)
Assistant Secretary

[David A. Hart](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Thomas C. Drewitz](#)
Webworker

[Antonio Zuloaga](#)
Assistant Governor

[John P. Hopper](#)
Vice President
Vocational Service Chair

[Robert K. Wicker](#)
Assistant Treasurer

[William J. Mesler](#)
Membership Chair

[Angeline Anyango East](#)
Community Service Chair

Club Meeting

Washington
Meets at W & J College, The Commons
60 S. Lincoln St.
Washington, PA 15301
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM