

Calgary — Issues and Future Naheed Nenshi

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As our speaker, Mayor Nenshi, had a 'fairly unimportant' afternoon meeting with Premier Kenny and Deputy Prime Minister Freeland, the order of our meeting was changed to make way for the Mayor to leave early. Bart Dailey introduced him as follows:

"Our speaker today is His Worship, the 36th

Mayor of Calgary, Naheed Nenshi. Mr. Nenshi was born in Toronto and raised in Calgary. While at the University of Calgary, he earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree. While there he was President of the Students Union. Later, at Harvard University, he became a Master of Public Policy. Later, at Mount Royal University, he was an instructor in the Bissett School of Management. Our guest's first foray into politics was not a victorious one, as he ran unsuccessfully for a seat on Council in 2004. Realizing he was aiming too low, he went for the top job in 2010 and won over Ric McIver and Barb Higgins. He was re-elected in 2013 and 2017. Today he addresses the Chinook Rotary Club for the third time in his tenure."



Mayor Nenshi told us that this was his third visit to our club. He recounted how the city has changed since his election in October 2010. From a population of approximately 1million, we have grown by 1/3. This is the equivalent of 3 Lethbridges. We have struggled since 2014 and are still in recovery. He emphasized that our valleys are other city's peaks, although none were identified. In the 5 years since the downturn began, the city has found \$640 million in cost efficiencies. Compared to cities of similar size, our residential taxes are the lowest, and business taxes are in the lowest 5.

In mid year of 2019, Council mandated \$6 million in cost reductions, which he believes was a mistake, because of who was effected. In November, much of this was reversed. He commented on the shift in the tax base from the downtown business district success, with a 0% vacancy rate to 30% vacancy in 18 months. To help



balance the books, Council has taken \$200 million from reserves. This cannot continue, as reserves are running out; thus, the shift of the tax burden from business to residential. This year, Council froze costs except for the police budget.

He emphasized that all citizens can help by supporting local businesses.

The Mayor spoke extensively about transit — the new MAX Yellow Line, connecting the southwest with downtown and points in between. Also the complications of the proposed Green Line rail project, and its route through the city centre.

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President Paul opened the meeting, and Ruth led us in the National Anthem and Rotary Grace.



Following lunch, Prez Paul made

the following announcements:

- There will be a Rotary Leadership Training session on March 7, 8am - 3pm. All interested Rotarians are welcome.
- The club mentorship with Fairview School begins January 17th. Volunteers are needed for alternate Friday afternoons for 2 to 3 hours.
- The Fish Creek Club is holding a fund raising "Pub Quiz" on Saturday, January 25th. Cost is \$50.



- The Millennium Club have an open invitation to their January 29th meeting. The speaker is Todd Hirsch, VP and Chief Economist at ATB Financial.

Following lunch, greeter Michael Spears introduced 17 guests.

Chase the Ace: Bill Churchward was the lucky winner of \$150 in the daily draw, and the unlucky loser of the \$1,500 pot for not drawing the Ace of Spades. There are only 2 cards left, so the odds are great for next week!



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President Paul called our meeting to order at 12:15 pm with O Canada and Rotary Grace, accompanied by Ruth Wylie on the piano.

Anne Dale and Maureen Tynan had a warm greeting for members on this very cold January day. There were no visitors at today's meeting that focussed on a review of club business, and reports from club

Directors.

President Paul announced that Rotary Grace would be discussed at the next Board meeting, looking for a decision to continue or delete this practice as part of our club opening at each meeting.

Bev Tonkinson passed along January birthday wishes to Bruce Bohnet, Jack Steen, David Irving, Tom Sorenson, Dick Snel, and George Van Schaick at today's meeting.

Rob Wolfson distributed more hockey pool winning funds to Ron May, Neil Beatty, Tom



Sorenson, Michael Spears, and Terry Green. Rob also presented winning hardware to Anne Pick and John Charrett for the best bowling scores at our club bowling "Glow in the Dark" event at Toppler Bowl.



Rob also reminded club members the new year Networking Meetings begin at Limericks Pub on Thursday January 23 at 5:30 pm.



Anthony Tonkinson presented Dave Wylie with a Paul Harris plus 7 pin, and thanked Dave for his continuing Foundation support.



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Vocational Service Month

January 21st Stephen and Anne Pick — Northern Travels
 January 23rd Networking Night @ Limericks Pub, 5:30-7pm — contact Rob Wolfson
 January 23rd Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham
 Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30
 January 28th Ann Marie Lurie, Chief Economist, Calgary Real Estate Board

Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

February 4th International Service
 February 11th Chris Maderson, Urban Conservation Lead, Calgary Parks
 — Bobcats in Calgary
 February 13th Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham
 Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30
 February 18th Keith Blake, Chief, Tsuu Tina Police Force
 February 25th Dr. Richard Frayne and Dr. Linda Andersen — Brain Aging
 February 27th Cribbage @ Horton Road Legion — contact Peter Bickham
 Fellowship @ 5:30, games @ 6:30

Water and Sanitation Month

March 3rd Wilner Pagaling, Founder, Bread Beyond Borders



Meeting Minutes

.... cont'd from page 3

Dave Wylie was the winner of Chase the Ace lottery today! The daily total was \$160, with the accumulated funds of Chase the Ace to be announced at next week's meeting.



Sergeant duties were handled very well by Anthony Tonkinson citing penalties for missing Rotary pins, not attending the holiday social meetings at Peanuts, and other misdeeds to relieve members of donations.

George Van Schaick presented a detailed report as the Director of Community Service, outlining the many services planned and completed. These include the Salvation Army Kettles, volunteering at the Drop-in Centre, Samaritans Purse shoe boxes, volunteering at the Mustard Seed, and Brown Bagging for Kids. In addition, the future plan is to research the possibility of assisting with Meals on Wheels. These are just a few of the hands-on projects currently under review.

In addition, this directorate also includes a Community Donation committee focussed on supporting local charitable organizations with donations from our approved budget.

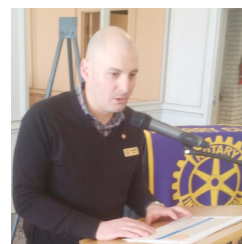
The Nature Park is the largest footprint of an urban park ever completed by a single club in Calgary. We encourage our members to enjoy this park year round.

We are represented on the Rotary Remembers Committee, and as well Chinook is also a supporter of Challenger Park in the Northeast.

Rhea Graham presented a report on Project Warmth. This involves a member of Friends of Rotary, Sabrina Plante, who is busy collecting warm clothing for Project



Warmth. The clothing is distributed to the homeless to help them stay warm and dry over the harsh winter months. Items needed include blankets, gloves, sleeping bags, scarves parkas and hats. Rhea has requested that we bring items to club meetings for the month of January for distribution.



Rob Wolfson reported on the RI Learning Centre on the RI website. This website has over 450 courses available for Rotarians to access through the Course Catalogue. One of Rob's goals for his year as President is to see 80% of our club members

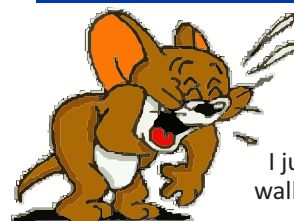
access an RI account on a regular basis for some of the valuable information that is currently available.

President Paul thanked the Directors for their presentations, commenting next week's meeting will feature the Northern Trip Adventures with Stephen and Anne Pick. Paul adjourned the meeting.

Photos courtesy George Van Schaick



Your Scribe this week



How to prepare Tofu:

1. Throw it in the trash.
2. Grill some meat.

I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web!

I don't mean to brag but ... I finished my 14-day diet in 3 hours and 20 minutes!

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

In the future, the Mayor feels that cornerstone issues are mental health and drug addiction.

As mentioned, Mayor Nenshi began his talk early, so he could attend an afternoon meeting. However, he actually stayed late. With questions and answers, he was at the podium for 40 minutes, much to the consternation of his aides.

Prez Paul thanked him with the presentation of a Polio Plus certificate.

Scribe's note: Regardless of your views of him, Mayor Nenshi is an outstanding speaker and champion of our city.



APU Malawi Education Foundation

A week before Christmas a Society cheque for \$ 12,500 was forwarded to the APU Malawi Education Foundation. The Rotary Club of Calgary West provided \$ 12,500 and the Rotary Club of Lethbridge provided \$ 25,000. Half of the funds were sent to APU (Girls on the Move) in Malawi to permit the construction of teacher housing duplex #5.

We have been advised that 10% of the unit has already been completed and construction should be completed in a few months. Four duplexes are already on site. A picture of one of them is below and duplex #5 should basically be a duplicate of it. These units should last 40 to 50 years so it represents good use of the dollars we had available to spend on international projects.

Graham Boone



RI Learning Center

I encourage all members (new or veteran) to take time to check out the Rotary Learning Center on the RI website. Only 57% of our members have a Rotary International account and my goal is to see this number over 80%.

LEARN EVERYWHERE WITH ROTARY'S LEARNING CENTER.

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There are a wide variety of informational courses to refresh your memory or learn new things about many avenues of service in Rotary.

There are now more than 450 individual courses available for Rotarians to access, and that you can learn from in the comfort of your own home, and when the time works best for you. Check out the Course Catalogue for all the great modules they have. They have a great Polio Plus refresher in advance of Foundation Month.

www.rotary5360.ca/50011/Page/Show?ClassCode=Page&Slug=the-learning-centre

Robert Wolfson, Learning & Development Committee

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