

Minutes
Rotary Club of Whitehall, MT
November 30, 2015

Members in attendance:

Arlene Weber
Ed Handl
Joan Jones
Erv Hedegaard
Paul Buckley
Helen McCarthy
Marlene Sanborn

Dustin Lewis
Karen Burtch
Ann Geiger
Judy Schwab
Beth Billings

Ed Handl, club president, called the meeting to order.

Club Assembly: Business items –

1. Marlene Sanborn, treasurer, gave the financial report.
2. The club received a thank you letter from Gwen Quesnell, secretary of the Whitehall Parks, Trees and Cemetery committee. She thanked us for the \$150 gift certificate for replacing a tree that was moved during our remodel of the Fish Pond. She said the Whitehall City Council had already replaced this tree did but the PTC committee will use the money to replace one of six other dead trees in the Legion Avenue park.
3. The club discussed our recent fundraiser, the first annual Harvest Dance. Motion was made and seconded to make the Harvest Dance an annual event. We discussed the need to attract more attendees. Ideas: More advertising, sooner. More involvement by Interact, maybe encourage them to bring in high school age kids to dance and have fun. Beth noted that a “first annual anything” is likely to have lower attendance because people are not familiar with the event, but heard feedback from one attendee that many folks from Boulder might like to attend this event next year. The band we had for the event, the Dirt Farmers, was felt to be an excellent choice in every respect. Ed asked how many hours each member put into dance – the average was about 5 hours not counting the dance itself. Erv cautioned against the club doing so many that members become burned out. It is hoped that the time we spent on tasks this year may be less next year because much of the planning is now on paper.
4. Ed mentioned our other new fundraiser, the International Dinner, reminding the club that the date for the next one is set for January 31, 2016. Ed asked volunteers to stay after the regular meeting to discuss plans for the International Dinner.

5. Ed asked for club feedback: evaluation of club since July 1, 2015. Members said they really like the fellowship activity during meetings. The Harvest Dance was a fun event but was not a great fund raiser this year. Fun is a valuable factor. Harvest Dance and International Dinner were thought to be more enjoyable than Casino Night.
6. The club discussed our contribution to the Food Bank of Whitehall. It is on the approved budget, and we will go ahead with making this donation. It was noted that we are still within the time guidelines given for the matching grant from Town Pump.
7. The Christmas Stroll is scheduled for the weekend of December 12-13. The Christmas Stroll committee (Beth Billings, Dustin Lewis, and Terry Ross) will make personal calls during the next week to Rotary Club members to set up our schedule for manning the booth on Dec 13.
8. Next Monday's meeting, on December 7, 2015, will be our club Christmas party and will be held at Joan's house. The club talked about inviting more people to the party – folks who have been past members, or potential new members.
9. Cub members were encouraged to utilize the new Rotary Club of Whitehall website. By a show of hands, it was found that about half of the club members have visited the website so far. Again, the website address is www.rotaryclubofwhitehall.org and a link to the website has been posted on the District 5390 website. Your password to the Whitehall Rotary Club website will be the same as your password on the District 5390 website.

Dustin spun the wheel and the house won the pot.

Meeting was adjourned by Ed.