

Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

May 26, 2020

<http://www.redhookrotaryclub.org/>

Marking the 10th week of “stay at home” meetings required by the coronavirus outbreak, Jen Van Voorhis opened the “zoom” meeting at 8am. Eleven members were present plus Duda Serpiao, our Brazilian exchange student. Jen provided appropriate screen backgrounds for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Four Way Test as we work to recoup many of the trappings of our pre-Covid 19 meetings.



Fred Cartier, photographer, provided the complete group in a single screen shot of the meeting. We are, from top left to bottom right: Jen Van Voorhis, Fred, Bud Weaver, Tim Lynch, Susan Ezrati, Jonah Triebwasser, Susan Simon, Jen Munn, Duda Serapiao, Chris Chale, Linda Greenblatt, Michael Shafer. Jen was our first speaker. NOTE: Tilt your screen so that you show up in the center of the frame!

After a brief review of ongoing club business, we turned to the agenda for the day, which was to hear from the three candidates for the school board elections. Two candidates will be added to the board with this election. The speakers were Jennifer Munn (a current board member), Jenna Seeley, a Red Hook Mom with a strong background in education, and Russ Crafton, a candidate with strong financial institution experience.

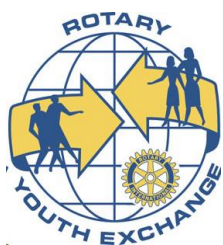
Jenn Munn, currently the Board VP, spoke first. She noted of the challenges that the board faces at this time, including an incoming School Superintendent, new board policies, re-opening and/or remote learning continuation. She is very positive about the incoming superintendent and hopes to establish a collaborative relationship between her office and the board. She noted that the current pandemic, the CDC guidelines provide opportunities to modify current policies such a school hours, support for remote learning and other issues that were static and now can create opportunities for change.

Jenna Seeley spoke second. She emphasized her strong link to education -through her own education, as well as her relationship with teachers and educators in her family. She also has served as a program director at the Red Hook Community Center and is raising three children, two of whom are already benefitting from Red Hook schools. She hopes to bring an awareness of opportunities to address the needs of low-income families and special needs children. She sees the school as the center of the community, in a unique position to serve as the nexus for larger community needs.

Russ Crafton, is the third candidate. He noted that three things matter to a successful school system: financial viability, capacity to meet individual learning needs, and support for teachers. He noted that he attended public schools and that these institutions were key to developing his self esteem. In his case, wrestling was the key. He reviewed his business background in developing financial services firms. He affirmed his particular interest in at-risk kids. In terms of the challenges facing the Red Hook School district at this time, he said meeting the needs of the system in a timely way was key. Setting the direction requires a vision of what you want to achieve, for him, it is important to maintain the reputation that the Red Hook School system has achieved over time for developing the well rounded child, who is self confident and has strong self esteem. The board should be aware of the financial status of the district and anticipate the challenges presented by a stressed state budget and property tax stress locally.

Club members are reminded that the school board is comprised of five members. Currently, all five are women. There are two openings.

Happy Dollars are suspended during the “stay at home” requirements of the Pandemic. Checks may be sent to Rotary Club, PO Box 88, Red Hook, NY 12571



On June 2, 2020, the school superintendent will join our zoom meeting to update us on the school budget for the coming year, which will be up for vote on June 9. On June 9, Elisabeth Harmor will tell us about the remote Red Hook Festival that is being planned (see notes below). Member spotlights on local concerns and issues will replace speakers as appropriate. Let Rob or Jen know if you have a special suggestion for the next meeting.

[Radio Rotary](#) Watch for new Zoom interviews on Radio Rotary.

Proposal:
“Red Hook Together” Online Festival

What:

- An online festival in which Red Hook businesses and organizations will participate by streaming live content such as music, tours, workshops, demonstrations, and games.

Why:

- The purpose of the festival is to combat social isolation and renew our sense of community.
- Although the county is re-opening in phases and small, socially-distanced events may take place later this summer, there will not be any large events and some people still may not feel comfortable leaving their homes.

Goal:

- The goal is to recreate the feeling of a large-scale community festival and offer exclusive, Red Hook experiences. Additionally, we intended to promote our local businesses by giving them a virtual platform through which they can attract virtual tourists from outside of Red Hook.

When:

- A Saturday in August, timing TBD, an all-day festival with live-streamed content
- Events will be rebroadcast to allow people who couldn't attend the first time a chance to see content

How:

- Create a Facebook Page with multiple Facebook events
 - Each page is a themed booth → see PDF for mock up of pagesNOTE: all times and dates on mock-up are arbitrary filler
- Red Hook organizations will host Facebook live events/ or pre-registered Zoom meetings at scheduled times on the themed event page
- To increase access to those in our community who do not use Facebook or have internet access, use local TV station and radio to rebroadcast events
- We will put out a call for proposals for content. Examples of themed booths and content include:
 - Music, “The Stage”:
 - Schedule live streaming performances from different local musicians