

**Rotary Foundation of Michigan City  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 19, 2015**

Members present in person: Susan Pound, Jim Scott, Suzy Vance, KP Nfr

Members absent: Mike Hackett (ex officio), Jim Welborne, Bob Rose

**Call to order**

Ms. Vance called the meeting to order at 1:15PM

**Scholarship Awards**

The meeting explored the previous discussion with members of the Rotary Club of Michigan City Scholarship Committee with respect to a proposed change the past practice of awarding only scholarships to high school seniors by including a new In Kind Scholarship

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A suggestion was made by **Suzy Vance** and a consensus was reached. We agreed to provide funding for the Robotics High School Team ("Robotics Blitz") during the fall of 2015 program with \$2000. These funds would be used to promote their successful Quite Room for emotionally challenged students.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, July 30 , 2015 at Harbour Trust 3:00PM - 4:00PM**

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by  
Jim Scott, Secretary

**Rotary Scholarship/Foundation Meeting  
March 19, 2015**

Committee Members present: Suzy Vance, Jim Scott, KP Nfr, Susan Pound and Blake Applegate

**MINUTES**

**Call to order**

Ms. Vance called the meeting to order at 11:10 PM

**In Kind Scholarship Discussion.....**

The meeting continued exploring changing the financial scholarship awards to include “in kind” scholarships for such programs for STEM Education - ROBOTICS, Ryla, International students programs that provide positive benefits for a larger number of students.

Concerns discussed:

- Long term and breadth of impact must be perceived to be worthwhile to the club membership
- Need to see actual feedback of positive results to the Club Members

Consideration to provide funds for Robotics for Stem educational purposes was discussed.

Herb Higgin joined us to provide an overview of his Robotics program and its impact on students.

Robotics Budget - Cost for 2 competitions = \$5000 each with a Total Budget of \$22,000  
Robotics includes around 100 hours for each of the 20 students this year from 5 or 6 schools in and around Michigan City including Marquette, Westville and home school students. The first robotics members graduate this year and several have been accepted by excellent schools and are superior students. It was suggested that Herb be sure to advise them to apply for the Rotary Scholarship.

When asked for ideas of what a Rotary donation of \$500 to \$2000 might accomplish Herb suggested a Special Project for the fall season before the January - April robotic activities begins.

A Sensory room was organized by the students last fall to provide a facility for emotionally challenged students to improve their situation. That facility is considered to be exceptional in its value by the School staff and a model that other schools and organizations could copy to provide great benefits for the challenged students.

Herb envisions using the Rotary funds to assist in organizing a presentation of the Quiet Room Concept. It would likely include a Power Point presentation and a portable Sensory Room Replica to show other schools and other public venues to promote the concept. This would expand the involvement of the students and show the positive results accomplished by them. These tools could also be used by the students to gain public speaking experience and to promote the concepts to the Rotary club and other organizations. The concept of selling the design of the facility as a fund raiser was also suggested.

The consensus of the members was very positive with respect to the benefits of investing into Herb's proposed Sensory Room promotional program.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by

Jim Scott