Virtual meeting (due to Governor Inslee’s order Stay Home. Stay Healthy. Re COVID-19 virus) called to order at 4:05 PM. A quorum was present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Note: The Consent Agenda was approved in one motion, with discussion only on those items where there were questions or changes.

- Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Board of Directors meeting
- Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Executive committee
- Emergency Board Meeting March 12, 2020

Linda Kaye motioned, Jan seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Motion Carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK.

Membership Report. 269 members. Harrison reported four members for ratification. Pam Duncan, Greg Beals, Sarha Commet, and Ruthann Howell (transfer). Nine Members are in the queue to be introduced. 22 new members this year.

Carol Webster motioned, Linda Kaye seconded to ratify the 4 new members as presented. **Motion Carried.**

Communications with members.

Calls from the Board. Linda Kaye, Jim, Cindy Niemi, Jan and Cindy Grady shared that the members they called loved it. Kathryn shared we will continue to make these calls throughout this crisis.

Gearshift and weekly meetings. Linda Kaye will lead this Thursday’s meeting featuring Carla Santorno. A question arose regarding off-site meetings on the second Thursday – do we continue during this
timeframe? Chris suggested a virtual Happy Hour. Kathi reminded that we have a speaker lined up for the April 9 meeting. Maria suggested that a virtual Thursdays at 5 meeting might be a great way for those who can’t host an on-site meeting to host a virtual one. Could be held from anywhere. This was tabled for now since April is covered. Will need to revisit for May.

**Auction Status.** Christina shared they had their auction committee meeting. They postponed the May 2nd auction date and are looking for new dates, potentially June 20, sometime in July or August. Kathi shared they are looking at a potential Sunday and wanted people’s thoughts. Several said a Saturday would be better. Gil suggested that we consider combining our auction with other area Rotary auctions for one large auction. He will ask other Rotary clubs what they think, knowing there will be many logistics to review if this were to happen. Jan suggested we consider dates after July, and possibly a virtual auction. Some shared they have heard that virtual auctions are not as productive, and others heard they can be very successful if done right. Kim shared she is not rebooking at her venues before August. In the meantime, the auction committee is still procuring items and if we haven’t donated to the Board basket, we can do so any time.

**Status of Office Operations.** Kathi shared she is conducting business as usual, although remotely and Joy is also working remotely, but has cut her hours to 10 per week rather than 20.

**Other.** Kim thanked Debbie Regala for stepping to help with Programs along with Kathi. This has been a big help for Kim and Hunter.

**COMMITTEE REQUESTS AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**Requests from International Service.** Kathryn shared that the International committee would like approval for the following projects which have been previously budgeted for this year:

- Shelter boxes for Syria. ($2,000)
- Water project for mountain villages in Guatemala. ($5,000)
- Malaria Partners project in the Copperbelt Province, Zimbabwe. ($2,300)

Kathryn shared that one of the things the board could do is redirect any of these moneys to support programs for COVID-19 needs.

Kim asked if these Rotary projects are continuing in light of what is happening globally or if we can redirect funds to Tacoma right now. Kathryn shared that the projects are moving forward, to her knowledge. The shelter box and malaria project funds are slated to be spent this year. She was unsure about the funding for the water project in Guatemala.

Kathryn motioned to have the International Service committee move forward with funding for all 3 requests, a total of $9,300. Carol Webster seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**Other Liaison Reports:**

**Projects Request.** Diane shared that projects are on hold for now. Daffodil Dash is still scheduled for May 23rd. Moving forward with Paint Tacoma beautiful in June and they just need funds for food. Next in-service is with Lutheran Community Services, Santa for Seniors, slated for June 18. Gil just received approval to submit $2,500 for supplies, but he thinks we need to wait to see if it’s going to happen. Diane would like to leave it as is for now.

Gil talked to Jim Whitacre and Jim Harris who want to donate money for COVID-19. Starting with a $500 donation. Christina mentioned the fund through UWPC and GTCF called Pierce County Connected, a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund where funds are allocated by a committee to help people in need in Tacoma. Christina has been asked to serve on this committee. Lots of discussion was had on member donations and funding from the Rotary Foundation, using the grants committee’s expertise to allocate to nonprofits they know or to donate the cumulative funds directly to Pierce County Connected Fund. Carol shared that Clay suggested to wait until September to see how the stimulus package pans out for nonprofits. Consensus by those present were to give an extraordinary gift to support COVID-19 from the Rotary Foundation and have a short campaign for members to add to this dollar amount which will be allocated to Pierce County Connected. To ensure the process is smooth, a small, ad hoc committee was formed to create and oversee the process comprised of Linda Kaye, Christina, Carol Webster, Diane, Jan, and Kathi.
Linda Kaye motioned for the board to recommend to officers of the Rotary Foundation that they make an extraordinary COVID-19 grant of $25,000 to Pierce County Connected, a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund through United Way of Pierce County and the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation benefitting those in our community impacted by the virus. This gift is to be supplemented by Rotary members who choose to donate towards this contribution through a fundraising campaign implemented within the next week. Carol Webster seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Cindy Niemi to forward the new website from MultiCare for community hands-on projects called Hope Grows Here to the Projects Committee to review and share with membership.

**Youth Protection Training Plan** – Kathryn shared that 50 members have taken the Youth Protection Training.

**Other:**

**Committee Fair.** Kathryn asked how to move forward with the Committee Fair slated for May 7. There was discussion about using the Gearshift with committee chair(s) to recruit new members and highlight their work. Kathryn will ask board liaisons to request their committee chairs to prepare a video/solicitation about their cool committee. It was also discussed if this should just be the content of our May 7 meeting and it was agreed to go forward with this plan. Board liaisons will tell committee chairs they need to have something ready to go – 1 min. max. Kathi Willis will send out parameters to Committee Chairs, copying the Board Liaisons and the Board Liaisons will follow up with the Committees Chairs to discuss details.

**Business Expo.** Kim shared we had four members signed up and have slots for ten. If we still want to do this, one idea is to focus on businesses on the front line of COVID-19. This might be coupled with the appeal for the Covid-19 response. Date is set for April 23. Send ideas to Kathi and Kim for potential presenting businesses.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

**Next Board meeting:** Date April 27, 4:00 pm, virtually.