**Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Board Meeting**

**September 23, 2021**

**7:00 AM Via Zoom**

* **Attendees:**  Wendy Heck, Rick Heidick, Roger Ruetten, Barbara Tischart, Sara Letourneau, Lonny Stormo, Jeanne Matlock, Eli Grenier, Ed Boeve, Mark Fisher, Dave Waldschmidt, Don Schuld, Janis Donnelly, Ted Nesse, Margie Horning

President Wendy Heck called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

* **August Board Meeting Minutes -** 
  1. Jeanne moved to approve the Minutes from the August 26, 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed, voted on and approved.

* **Finance Report - Roger Ruetten** 
  1. **Financial Review** – Roger provided the current financial update.
* **Christmas Party** 
  1. The question of charging for guests was asked. While this decision can be made by the President, it was briefly discussed and the Board was in support of charging members for their guests. There is no charge to members as this is in lieu of breakfast that week.
* **Question of Promoting other organizations through an email distribution to all members** 
  1. Wendy received a request by Zephyr Theatre to promote their upcoming gala to our members via email. This prompted some discussion on how best to use our membership email for those organizations who have also supported our events, i.e. Zephyr Theatre with the BTV Bike Rally. Overall, Sara suggested this support be handled through social media and she would post the information.
* **New Treasurer and Compensation**
  1. Paula Williams is willing to be a candidate for this role in the upcoming year. (The slate of Board Members will not be voted on until December.)
  2. The question of our traditional compensation for the roles of Treasurer and Secretary was brought up. We learned that historically these roles have a reduction in their membership fees as some compensation for the efforts of those roles. Margie (previous Secretary) and Roger (current Treasurer) told us that last year they together decided not to take the reduction in membership dues because of our Club’s concerns of over overall funding given COVID restrictions.
  3. Ed put forth a motion to reinstate the reduced dues for the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. A second to the motion was made by Mark. This motion was restated, voted on, and passed.
* **Climate Pledge - Don**

Our SSR Climate/Environmental Action Team requested the Board consider the following pledge on behalf of Stillwater Sunrise Rotary, and their recommendation that members take the pledge individually.

*“The Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Club takes the Global Climate Pledge.  By taking this Pledge,*

* *We recognize that we have the power to make a positive difference in our climate crisis*
* *We will use our power to do everything we can, through our actions and our voice, to bring about change*
* *We will lead and encourage others to work as a team to solve this challenge”*

Discussion was held on this topic. Questions were raised along the themes of: what does this mean in actual behaviors; how does a member or potential member interpret this pledge; Rotary does not require/have a pledge but rather guidelines of behavior in the 4-Way test; should the other 6 focus areas of RI have a pledge, is this pledge required of members, etc. The proposal was tabled to allow time for consideration.

* **Bylaws & Visioning Process - Rick**
  1. Rick presented a draft of a SSR Org Chart outlining how our various functional areas are connected to the results of our visioning outcomes, and how that might all be represented in an org chart showing how these areas could be aligned with our voting Board members. Agreeing to a structure will also impact the updating of our Bylaws. Rick’s draft chart was sent to all members of the Board. Feedback and recommendations can be made direct to Rick. Again, this is a draft at this time, so please provide your input to Rick.
* **Literacy – Dave**
  1. Dave provided an update on the VESL program. Right now, volunteers are not allowed in schools, other than the VESL program in elementary schools, provided the volunteers are masked. This is to provide assistance in book repair, restocking shelves, etc. It is hoped that reading to the kids/ with the kids will resume in November.
  2. Dave updated the ALC Boat Builders project telling us Mary Parchetta has led that for some years and remains passionate about continuing to do so. A meeting is being set-up with ALC, Urban Boat Builders, and SSR to discuss goals and options.
* **Membership – Sara**
  1. Sara reported a new member this quarter. She will have a report on membership next month.
* **Foundation – Lonny**
  1. Lonny reported $8,000 donated to the Foundation against a goal of $20,000. Historically, RI has noted November as FoundationMonth, but this is transitioning to February under “Share the Love” theme.
* **Website – Ted**
  1. Ted reported updates will be coming to our website. Key areas include: adding new/current information; moving historical information; reducing the density of the pages to better fit handheld devices.
* **Ending Human Trafficking – Eli**
  1. Eli reported $205 of gift cards recently delivered to Youth Drop-In Center
* **Public Image and Brewers Bourbon Bazaar (BBB) Promotion – Mark**
  1. Public Image has sent 4 press releases for BBB
  2. Our public image booth will be set up at the event – needs 2 volunteers to staff
  3. Planning a booth enticement contest of a $250 drawing ($125+$75+$50) to listen, learn, fill out name and contact info, and choose your voting box answering the question of what impact did SSR have in the past year

The meeting ended with Lonny moving to adjourn, Roger seconding the motion, it was voted on, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is October 28th, 7 am, via Zoom.

Submitted by Barbara Tischart  
SSR Secretary