**Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Board Meeting**

**March 24 ,2022**

**7:00 am Via Zoom**

**Attendees:**  Wendy Heck, Rick Heidick, Roger Ruetten, Barbara Tischart, Sara Letourneau, Ed Boeve, Nancy Lyner, Kris Bowditch, Mark Fisher, Lonny Stormo, Greg Otsuka, Jeanne Matlock, Dave Waldschmidt, Janis Donnelly, Brent Voight, Margie Horning

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

* **February Board Meeting Minutes -** 
  1. Ed moved to approve the Minutes from the February 24, 2022 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded, voted and approved.

* **Finance Report - Roger Ruetten** 
  1. **Financial Review** – Roger provided the current financial update including a review of the P&L, and the Balance Sheet. Some discussion was held regarding the amount of funds in our St. Croix Valley account which is where contributors desiring a 501(3)b account were able to send their contribution. The El Corozo Water Project is funded and this money is expected to be spent 4Q this fiscal year, perhaps some in 1Q of next Fiscal year depending on the timing of approval and contractor completion. The Bike Rally fundraising results are in both last fiscal year as well as this fiscal year; however, our expenses for the 8/2022 event will largely fall in to 4Q of this fiscal year.
* **Old & New Business**
  1. **District 5960 new Signature Project 2021 Recognition Award submission** – Dave submitted a draft of our VESL (Volunteers for Elementary School Literacy) entry for this Recognition Award. Dave reviewed some details of the program and of his draft which was close to completion. A few suggestions were made to Dave with overall positive and complimentary comments regarding the program and the detail Dave provided in his write up for submission.
  2. **SSR Meetings with both in-person and Zoom attendees** - It was brought up that our hybrid meetings are losing some of the previous spontaneity of in-person only meetings in the process of accommodating the needs of Zoom attendees to see and hear individuals as they speak. Discussion was held. Wendy and Rick were very interested in input relating to meeting management and technical equipment issues that could improve this situation both immediately as well as long term solutions. Overall, everyone was supportive of the desirability of having hybrid meetings and interested in solutions to improve the experience. Wendy suggested further discussion after the Board Meeting for brainstorming.
  3. **Youth Exchange (YE)** – Kris brought forth a new request she received to add one more youth exchange student to our current student expected from Japan. This student would come from Spain. This request is made because of the difficulty of placing YE students in Eastern Europe this Fall; therefore, a shuffle of students has resulted in asking some Clubs to take more than one student. We typically share the cost of 1 student with Stillwater Rotary (Noon Club) and Lake Elmo Rotary. This cost is $3,800 - $4,000 per student. Kris has had difficulty getting a response from the other 2 Clubs, so discussion was held about perhaps needing to support this cost from SSR alone. Points brought up included the likelihood of getting host families, and if Stillwater High School is able to reserve 2 exchange students for the slots they have. Overall, there was support from the Board for this second student. A motion was made and seconded to accept one additional YE student at full SSR cost if necessary. Kris will work out the details of host families and continue to engage with Stillwater Noon and Lake Elmo Clubs to hopefully share the cost and effort of finding host families. This motion passed.
  4. **Request for SSR to support solar energy for the Stillwater School District** – A letter from Solar for Stillwater Schools Advocacy Team was sent to SSR asking for our Club endorsement of their letter directed to Stillwater Area Public School District 834 Leaders. This letter was sent to Wendy who provided it to our Board for discussion this morning. After discussion, there were enough open questions that no motion was put forward. Wendy will provide feedback to Solar for Stillwater Schools Advocacy on our decision.
  5. **Shark Tank** – Lonny informed us the District will once again hold a Shark Tank Grant event. The purpose of this event is to encourage clubs who have not initiated a District Grant for some time to present their project. The structure of the event is that participating clubs will commit to a minimum amount of dollars that they are able to distribute among approved grants through this process. Our commitment would be for $3,000. This is money we would give to District grants as a partner anyway. Using this format, it encourages new grant writers/clubs to give a presentation in front of a group of club representatives knowing they may get their funding commitment that very day. Lonny has served as our “shark” in the past, and he will do so again, unless someone from our Foundation Committee would like this experience.
  6. **Foundation celebration –** Lonny talked about having a Club Foundation Celebration for our club members, guests, and community members. The purpose would be to celebrate the good in the world that we are able to do through contributions of dollars to the Rotary Foundation, or through volunteer hours. When we make financial donations to the Foundation, we also received “Club Points” which allow us to award Paul Harris awards to people who have provided invaluable service to our mission. This would be an opportunity to celebrate all! Lonny is working with the Foundation Committee and will get back to the Board with a plan and budget.
  7. **New Member Candidate –** Tina Swanson submitted an application for membership. She is sponsored by Kris Bowditch. Tina is with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management where she is a Financial Advisor. She lives in Stillwater and has visited our club a few times. A vote was taken and Tina was approved as a new member. Welcome Tina!

The meeting ended with a motion to adjourn, a second was provided, a vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Barbara Tischart  
SSR Secretary