**Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 30, 2023**

**7 – 8:30 am Family Means**

**Attendees:**  Rick Heidick, Barbara Tischart, Sara Letourneau, Kris Bowditch, Wendy Heck, Mark Fisher, Ed Boeve, Greg Otsuka, Lonny Stormo, Dave Waldschmidt, Ted Nesse.

President Rick Heidick called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

* **Approval of Agenda –** Agenda as provided by Rick moved forward.
* **February Board Meeting Minutes -** 
  1. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from the February 2023 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved.

* **Finance Report – Rick** 
  1. Financial Review– Paula was not present so Rick provided an overview.
  2. $1,000 had been approved for local grants this past month.
  3. Rick had a question on our payment for Turkey relief fund through the District and will check with Paula.
  4. St. Croix Valley Foundation balance remains at $19,600.
  5. Rick addressed the El Corozo monies which should now be balanced out to $60 positive.
* **Old Business -** 
  1. **Club Brand/Image –** Lonny led a discussion on Club Goals.
     1. **Members and Engagement –** input from RI PETS training brought up issues of dues concerns that could limit membership and inclusivity. Currently annual dues are $680 annually of which $449 are weekly meeting costs. An idea to reduce costs to be more inclusive could be a separate Service Club. This service club would meet differently and still be members of Rotary. Lonny has been working with Rick Robbins on this idea for some months and together they are proposing to focus on corporations sponsoring employees at around $230 per person to become Rotarians of a Service Club. A suggestion is to pilot this next Rotary year. Lonny proposed company employees (Rick Robbins spoke with Royal Credit Union & Anderson Windows as possible members and Royal Credit Union has strong interest). Ed told us RI has approved increasing membership dues by $10 per year which will be in effect next year. Our District is proposing an increase as well, so the actual dues amount would need to adjust accordingly. Discussion was held with pros and cons of pursing this.
     2. **Feedback included:**
        1. Any group should have some level of engagement with SSR
        2. Corporate involvement is an interesting concept and the employer would need to understand this is new for us, too, and we would need to create this together
        3. Involvement in the community is likely important to the corporation
        4. A Service Group would need meetings at some level
        5. As a separate Service Group, should a Spouse membership be pursued?

Lonny moved and his motion was amended, so the motion now brought forward was: to approve Rick Robbins and Lonny to scope the pilot plan for at least one employer and their employees to participate in a Rotary Service Club with a one-year trial, and to bring that model to the Board meeting in April for further discussion before any full approval. This motion was voted on, and while not unanimous, the motion passed.

* 1. **Alight Call to Action –** Dave presented the findings of his investigation on sponsoring a Ukrainian family who would come to the US to stay for up to 2 years, then return to Ukraine. Earlier, Dave has proposed a possible joint effort with Stillwater Noon club. Dave presented to Stillwater Noon’s Board recently and will be presenting to Noon Club membership 4/20. SSR has 4 members who have expressed interest in the project and Dave is coordinating information with them to begin a dialogue. If the energy is here to do this, Dave will bring an Alight member to speak to both SSR and Noon Clubs. Timing will likely be May to make a decision on our involvement with this effort.

Reference: Alight, formerly known as American Refugee Committee, is working with people/organizations who could be potential sponsors. An introduction to this effort was provided at previous meetings (see last month’s Board Minutes).

* 1. **District Governor Installation Committee –** Committee members are: Ed, Kris, Nancy Lyner, Bethany Cox, Lenny Snellman, and Lonny. Plan is to be cost neutral.
  2. **Status of Dave Spencer Memorials –**
     1. This memorial is still in the plan, but not yet established. Rick and Tim Trooien are working with the family to determine their preferred memorial.
* **New Business**
  1. **Board and Budget for 2023-2024 – Lonny**

Lonny plans to continue this year’s goals into next year. Lonny provided a list of the goals expected by RI. Lonny wants to bring both the current Board and the new Board together at the April Board Meeting to discuss Club Goals for our RI submission of goals. Some of the new Board members include:

Bethany Cox - Foundation

Tina Swanson - Secretary

New Treasurer, as Paula is unable to continue in that role

* 1. **District Club Awards – Rick**

District 5960 offers Six Club Awards, a Signature Project Award, and a District Governor’s Citation award. Rick applied for 5 of the 6 awards and the DG Citation. Signature Project is due in April, and could be Bridgeview Park or El Corozo Water Project. Some discussion was held about the value of the citations and certificates compared to the effort to summarize and submit all of the data. Ed had some feedback on Service Projects “short sheets” to capture engagement throughout the year making this easier for our entries.

* 1. **Grant requests – Rick**

Rick reports $13,000 spent for grants, not counting Shelter Box and earthquake relief. Rotary Club of Montreal, has a request for a water project for Ghana. This request was tabled until it can be determined if a relationship can be developed with Montreal that would be collaborative including Montreal club to participate in our India water project or a future LIFT project. Establishing relationships with other Rotary clubs is encouraged by RI, and can result in gaining matching dollars through RI Global Grants. Barbara will connect the Secretary of the Montreal Club with Ted Nesse for possible collaboration on the India water project.

* 1. **Fairy Falls - Sara**

Sara updated us with the status of Fairy Falls Park. It is in the National Park System as a part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Craig Hanson is Superintendent. Public comments ended yesterday on improvements to this park. Biggest problem is parking for visitors and how that fits with the neighborhood which has limited parking. With community input, there are 3 areas the National Park being addressed. Overall, Sara believes this could be an excellent project for us which could include “adopting” certain elements including ongoing visits to take photos of maintenance needs, etc. Sara and Bethany are currently in connection with Craig Hanson. Sara is willing to find a SSR liaison for coordination of this project if the Board is interested in pursuing it. Lonny moved that Sara work to find a liaison to coordinate this project. Greg has offered to help. The motion was tabled as there is not yet a scope of work proposal; overall there was strong support from the Board should we be able to find a fit with the National Park system.

* 1. **Project Leader Volunteer Need – Lonny**

Lonny is looking for someone to lead a project and has not yet been able to find a volunteer despite several asks. Lonny and Dave attended a grants management training to ensure we will qualify for a grant this upcoming year if we can find a leader and a grant project we wish to implement.

* 1. **India Water Project – Ted**

Ted plans to start asking other clubs for donations for the India Water Project. Perhaps there is a connection with Montreal Club that could be beneficial.

* 1. **Rotary Working T-shirts - Kris**

Kris proposed new shirts for all SSR members that include a message of “working Rotarian.” She estimates the cost at $1,000 for Rotary working shirts. There is a women’s option to the example Kris provided. Lonny moved approval of $1,000 + for 70 Rotary “working” t-shirts. It was seconded and approved. This money will come from this year’s budget.

* 1. **Foundation Celebration this Fall - Lonny**

Lonny moved to approve $500 to support a Foundation Celebration the 2023-2024 year. The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed.

* **Director Updates**
  1. **Membership – Sara**

Sara presented Christian Milker’s application. A motion for acceptance was made, seconded and approved. Welcome Christian!

* 1. **Service – Greg**

Respectacle volunteer opportunity will be scheduled. Local grants budget for 2022-2023 was set at $2400. This budget money has been spent, and Greg would like to increase this amount for next year. Because the funds have been spent, the application for a grant has been removed from our website. Greg is working to have several of the awarded grantees present their project at a future meeting.

* 1. **Foundation – Lonny**

Lonny reported $21,000 Foundation giving year-to-date.

* **Committee/Projects Update**
  1. **Literacy & Youth Development–** Dave reported Brookview Elementary VESL program is up and growing. Our newest member Christian will be volunteering at Brookview Elementary.
  2. **Youth Exchange/Youth Development** – Kris reported a search for a Camp RYLA candidate(s).
  3. **Website –** Ted has been continuing to post content as he receives it so keep the good news coming!
* **Bike Rally – Rick**
  1. We now have a new web design specific to this event. Jeff Nelson found a web designer who donated his time to create this new website. Check it out – it’s great!

The meeting was adjourned.

Note: The date for Dave Spencer’s memorial services is April 28th in the evening. More details will be provided at an upcoming club meeting.

**Note: Next Board Meeting is April 27th from 7 – 8:30 am. It will be held at Family Means. -**

Submitted by Barbara Tischart  
SSR Secretary