

ROTARY CLUB OF PORTLAND MAINE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2019 1:45- 2:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Curran, President, Amy Chipman, 1st V.P., Patty Erickson, Scott Blakeslee, Treasurer, David Small, Erik Greven, and Bruce Moore via Proxy. Elise Hodgkin attended as Administrative Coordinator

GUESTS: Charles Frair, Bob Martin, and Bowen Depke

ABSENT: Ellen Niewoehner, Gracie Johnston, Don Zillman, Nan Heald, and Dave Putnam

BUSINESS: The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 15, 2019 meeting were approved as is.

Charlie Frair presented two items for information and discussion. He and Paul Tully have had to move next's year's Veterans Luncheon from the Holiday Inn By The Bay, to Season's on Riverside St. due to a scheduling conflict. They have already booked HIBB for 2020. Season's will hold a similar number as attended this year, but we cannot look to grow the event beyond the 335 +/- attending in 2018. They also want to respond to many comments from veterans who had trouble hearing the speakers and/or seeing the video presentation. Charlie and Paul want to address this issue, likely by hiring an Audio/Video specialist to provide better equipment and monitor the event. All were cautious regarding

spending money on the purchase of equipment due to obsolescence.

Their second thought relates to a new fundraiser that is becoming quite popular with Rotary Clubs throughout the Country. Charlie and Paul have graciously volunteered to get it off the ground this year, with the expectation that some one will take it over thereafter. It will be called the American Heroes Event, and will involve the purchase of American flags and display poles, along with a substantial hang tag or plaque, which will display the honorees name. We would promote purchasing/honoring a hero for \$50, and the flags and honorees would be on display at someplace such as the Maine Mall for a week, or possibly a place like the Rotary Grove on the East End, although there is some concern about the exposure to theft and the elements. The flag assembly costs about \$25, plus the expense of the name plaques, but the flags can be reused year after year, so the fundraiser should do very well after the first year of purchases. They would hope to buy/sell 100 in the first year.

A motion was made by David Small and seconded by many to support these efforts, which passed unanimously.

Scott presented the Treasurer's report for the club, and all were pleased to see that the fundraisers have made a significant difference, bringing in \$3753, with another planned. The reduction to 45 meals guaranteed from 50 has also made a big difference as the YTD subsidy is \$394 vs. last year at \$1296 and ballooning. Our Net Surplus through Feb. 28 is \$11,480 vs. \$3969 last year.

Our Rotary district is asking each club for donations for this summer's conference, called Rotary Fest, to be held at Fort Williams this summer. The donations are necessary as

attendees will not be charged individually. We carry a budget line item that is rarely used completely, so a motion was made by Amy Chipman and seconded by David Small and passed unanimously to donate \$500 to the District Rotary Fest.

The next discussion addressed something that was touted at the national convention and district conferences regarding the sponsorship of a Rotaract Club as a way of attracting college students and young professionals who might prefer to meet in more youthful and less expensive settings (such as a bar), and as a stepping stone to future Rotary membership. A lively discussion followed, and the general consensus was that we should work on/with young groups to structure some interaction and recruitment, but within the club and outside the Rotaract Club label. Establishing Interact Clubs, such as the current initiative at Baxter Academy, remains a priority.

The last topic was primarily informational regarding the City's plan for significant improvements and enhancements to Andrews Square where our club has a memorial monument. The City will be creating some esplanades with trees, adding a number of plantings, and will be installing benches. There might be opportunities to honor individuals, veterans in general, and/or purchase some of the benches and have Rotary identification on them. Further updates will follow.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Small, substitute for Bruce V. Moore, Secretary