

Rotary Club of Portland, Maine
Portland Rotary Club /Portland Rotary Club Charitable Foundation
Board Meeting Agenda
September 17, 2021

Board Members in Attendance:

Bob Martin, President, Bruce Jones, President Elect, Dave Putnam, Sgt-At-Arms, Michelle DiSotto, Secretary, Director Bob Clark, Mark Foster, Jennifer Frederick, Alice Alexander, Administrative Coordinator, Ellen Niewoehner, Immediate Past President.

Absent:

Nan Heald, 2nd Vice President, Howie Herodes, Treasurer, Roger Fagan

Guests:

Tom Talbott; Patty Byers

Business:

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Portland, Maine was called to order on September 17, 2021, at 1:06 by President Bob Martin and a quorum was established with proxies.

• **Approval of Minutes (Action) (5 minutes)**

The minutes of the August 20 2021, board meeting was approved.

• **Report from Club Administrator Alice Alexander (Information) (10 minutes)**

Alice Alexander had no new information to report.

• **Treasurer's Report (10 minutes)**

No additional information to report in this meeting.

• **Update on meeting in person (Information) (10 minutes)**

Still a challenge. This will be a topic of discussion on Sept 28th at the Leadership meeting discussion. Bruce Jones suggested the club have a fellowship in person meeting to test the waters to see who is comfortable. Ellen Niewoehner reported that the Sunrise club is trying to meet once a month. Bob Clark suggested we recreate the trivia night that we had last year. President Bob announced that ideas & suggestions are welcome.

• **Update on dues structure (Information) (15 minutes)**

Bruce Jones reached out to 3 local clubs to get a sense of what other clubs are doing. Additionally, he interviewed several members under 30 years old in the club to get a sense of how they feel about fee structure in the club. Here's some information about the results:

Portsmouth Club: Dues are \$150 per year. They also charge a \$150 one time join fee. They are currently looking into hiring a bookkeeper. Members make many opportunities to mention they are the local, community-based service club. They also have city leaders as members. They focus on the younger members for photos on social media.

South Portland/ Cape Elizabeth Club: Dues are \$185 per year. Virtual meetings only – two times in person. Two big fundraisers.

Biddeford/Saco Club: Dues are \$200 per year. \$100 of that goes to the foundation. Trades with other non-profits. Zoom only meetings.

None of these clubs have different dues for different members.

Members under 30 were asked, "How do you think we could get more members like them?" One of the first points made is Friday lunch meetings are tough for younger members to attend – pressure from their jobs to deliver work on Fridays is palpable. The perception is, it's a generational thing. They said speakers & presentations are fantastic and relevant.

One person said we need to speak more publicly about our think local, act local organization. Others pointed out that our organization is a great networking opportunity.

President Bob said we have long been discussing changing the meeting time & date – this will be discussed further at the meeting at the end of the month. Bob said, "Who we are, what we are about is something we must define and refine going forward.

- **Update on designated gifts project (Information) (5 minutes)**

No Discussion.

- **Update on Board & Committee Chair meeting (5 minutes)**

No Discussion.

- **New Business: Banking Relationship**

As you may recall, the Club's banking account was setup 30 years ago as a "personal" bank account. A structure that does not work well with our needs as a nonprofit business. In the last several weeks, we have encountered several instances where extra steps were necessary. Consequently, we would like to move to a "business" account. TD Bank is not convenient for everyone involved and we have determined that a business account at Bangor Savings affords us the services and flexibility we need.

Creating an account there can be accomplished quickly. The new bank requires a Board minute approving the new relationship.

A Motion to direct Michelle DiSotto as Secretary to establish business bank checking accounts at Bangor Savings for Portland Rotary Club (EIN: 01-0152188) and Portland Rotary Club Charitable Foundation (EIN: 22-2571797) made by Bob Clark, second by Ellen Niewoehner; motion unanimously approved.

• **New Business: QuickBooks online version**

We currently use a desktop version of QuickBooks. This limits our flexibility and the ability of officers to view bank statements and financials. The online version of QuickBooks provides these abilities and a way to link the bank accounts online. Our membership in the Maine Association of Nonprofits provides us a discount for an annual subscription. As a member of MANP, we would pay an annual fee of \$75 for the online version as opposed to the normal \$50 per month.

A motion to approve an annual expenditure for a subscription license to the online version of QuickBooks is made by David Putnam, second by Bruce Jones; motion unanimously approved.

NOTE: Planning packet out to board soon.

• **Meeting Adjourned at 1:35 pm by President Bob Martin.**

The next Board meeting will be October 15th at 1:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle DiSotto, Secretary

Approved by: Bob Martin, President