

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary

Board Planning Meeting Minutes: November 1, 2016

(Prior to our regular meeting at the Westbrook Regional Vocational Center)

Board Members:

Present: President Jason Beaver, Treasurer Bill Gowen, President-Elect & International Service Bill Chadwick, Vocational Service Judith Reidman, Interact & Club Protection Dave Rolfe, and Past President & Club Service Christine Johnson

Absent: Secretary Michael Foley, Vice President & Community Service Kate Wight, Rotary Foundation Steve Rand

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present: Phil Spiller

Proceedings:

· *Meeting called to order at 10:35AM by President Jason Beaver*

· *Secretary's Report:* Secretary not present. Minutes of the last meeting are posted on our website. There were no objections to the minutes as posted.

· *Treasurer's Report:* Bill presented updated financials. Once the house is sold and club repaid for advance, finances will be in line with last year at this time.

Announcements

□None

Committee Reports

• *Vocational Service:* Judith Reidman reported we will close on the house next Tuesday November 8 (unless deferred one day due to election).

• *Vice President & Community Service:* Kate Wight was not present, but Christine reported that 5 people have been through the orientation training for volunteering at the Village School. 3 still pending. We will be reading with the kids, likely starting in early November.

• *Club Service:* Christine Johnson reported that our book boxes for the District Literacy Project are currently at the Gorham Rec Center and newly placed at the Stroudwater food pantries where they have been very popular. There is now a renewed need for books. Judith mentioned that she may be able to get us 50 books. Christine will follow up.

• *President Elect & International Service:* Bill Chadwick reported on Guatemala. He has learned that the same eco stoves we will be supplying are being installed in other communities by an existing Rotary project being run through RC Guatemala Del Este. Great news - due to donations of medical materials related to the trauma bag, our District Grant could go farther. Jason will have a discussion with Marty about this to determine how we can proceed.

Old Business

• *Christmas Trees have been ordered.* Bill Gowen suggested we get our tree sale signs up at the corner soon, well ahead of the Thanksgiving weekend. It was also suggested that we move the sales trailer onto the lot prior to Thanksgiving. Judith will contact the city to discuss how early that might be possible.

- *Dues/Meals Committee: Mike Foley provided an email report prior to the board meeting, excerpted below.
Bill G. and Mike have been talking about dues and Mike has developed a budget for our meeting and membership expenses. Their plan is to propose a basic dues increase and then offer an option to pay in advance for meals at a savings. They don't feel mandatory payment for meals in advance would be well received so we will continue to manage meals expenses as best as possible. Mike will organize a meeting, probably via conference call, with Jason, Bill, and Christine to go over the details in advance of the next board meeting. We should be prepared to present a proposal to the board at the December meeting for approval, and then present to membership in advance of our January billing.*

New Business

- Opiate Crisis Discussion: Bill has been in contact with Chief Janine Roberts of Westbrook PD. He has opened a discussion with the PD about creating an education program for younger kids (10-11) to help them navigate and avoid these drugs. Can we leverage existing relationships with MPTC and the Interact Clubs? The target age are children at the Middle School.
- Interact Advisor stipends: Dave, Judith and Bill G. will confirm how best to pay the stipends this year to both advisors. Can we pay directly or must we go through the schools. Also, Bill will confirm that we paid Bruce last year.
- Polio Plus: \$168.85 was raised from the canisters. Board voted to match this amount. Check has been written and will be forwarded to RI.
- Toys for Tots: Discussion about Nov 29 program. We will encourage members to bring a toy, book or check donation made out to WG Rotary Club Charities. We will forward any proceeds to Toys for Tots.
- Paul Emery: Discussion was had about making donations to organization(s) in his name (Walker Libray and/or MPTC). Tabled until next meeting.

Funding Requests

- One Book-One School Project: At Great Falls Elementary School. Board voted to send \$200 to support this literacy project which purchases the same book for all students at this school. This will supply approximately 50 of the target 500 books. Christine will ask Kate to inform the school and ask her to provide details on how to pay to Bill Gowen.
- Warren Outdoor Recreation Area Rehab Project was presented to the board by Phil Spiller. Phil is writing a grant application that will be submitted for Federal and State funds. Phil asked for our club to commit funds and man power to help strengthen the grant application. Resources will not be needed before at least next spring. The board agreed to commit \$500 to this project in support of the grant application. As the project moves forward, we will consider additional funds and possibly a district grant application. Our interest is in providing bike racks and/or benches that will be part of the larger rehab project.

Other business: None

Other Fundraisers: N/A

Meeting adjourned following completion of business at 11:30 AM.

Minutes submitted by Christine Johnson on behalf of Club Secretary, Michael Foley.