



Rotary
Passport Club



Notes: Passport Club

November 15, 2017

Bellingham Public Library - Fairhaven Branch

1117 - 12th Street, Bellingham @ 6pm

We had a decent turnout of 16 people. After introductions, a review of what Rotary and the Passport club are about, we broke into two discussion groups.

As there were no minutes taken, I'm summarizing the discussions. Any of you who were there may want to add, clarify or correct.

I asked the groups to discuss the club's engagement model - both internally (how can we connect with the club members) and externally (how do we connect with the community and public).

The consensus was that the club should have monthly meetings rather than quarterly meetings. There should also be some other opportunities for members to get together outside of the club meetings - one example was to have people who live close to each other get together from time to time either socially or for a project. Rotary e-clubs, which meet online, call those smaller groups "pods".

A suggestion that appeared to have general support was to not have people appointed as club Directors but instead use committees with Chairs.

So we discussed committee structures such as an Engagement Committee (setting up meetings, social get togethers, membership and internal issues), a Projects Committee (community, international, youth projects) and an Outreach Committee (website, Facebook, social media).

In addition we will need executive members such as a President, President-Elect and Treasurer at a minimum.

We also discussed having club members engage with other Rotary clubs. The original concept from Sacramento was that members had "passports" to be involved in activities by other clubs. Those present liked the idea of the Passport club taking on its own projects, they still liked the idea of connecting with other clubs - which would require someone to contact those clubs to obtain and share information about their service projects, socials and activities.

That lead to the discussion about external engagement. Several people had ideas for community projects that members could be involved with.

I suggested that we should include volunteer work with non-Rotary groups and activities - whether it be volunteer work with a food bank, sports group, church group etc - be included in our engagement model. Our members would be Rotary ambassadors to other community groups.

I noted that since the concept of the Passport Club is new, we can be creative.

We also discussed using a name other than the Rotary District 5050 passport club. I suggested the Pacific Northwest Rotary Passport Club. Some thought that implied too large a geographical area, others that the name was too lengthy. Other suggestions were using local names such as Salish, Cascadia or Peace Arch. But no one liked my suggestion of the "Border Line" Passport Club. :-)

As for future meetings - of the responses that I received most people preferred a Saturday meeting. That wasn't possible in November due to US Thanksgiving, Remembrance/Veteran's Day and the District Foundation dinner today.

So I am suggesting two Saturday meetings in early December on both the 2nd and the 9th. I would like one on each side of the border.

Since I have a commitment on the morning of Dec 2, I'm suggesting a 1pm meeting time. For December 9, we could do either morning or afternoon.

I would prefer one meeting in the Fraser Valley area (such as Coquitlam,

Maple Ridge or further east) and one around Burlington, or further south for the other.

So I am looking for feedback on:

Saturday, December 9 - do you prefer a morning or an afternoon meeting

Meeting location suggestions.

You can respond on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Passport5050/>

You can also email me if you prefer that instead of Facebook (but I really want you to visit and "like" the Facebook page).

Sean