

Rotary Foundation of Media

Minutes – July 16, 2019

Members present: Dennis Slostad, Ted Pleibel, Larry Smoose, Gary Zebrowski, Michael Campbell, Walt Woerheide, Rob Hancock.

Others present: Susan Garrison

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Minutes – The June minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Gary reported that \$11,633.09 is available for grants and expenses. This does not count the \$1050 from sponsorship checks for Bingo held in reserve. It is anticipated that additional Bingo funds will also be received next month and become available for grants.

He also reported that he sent a check for \$4375 for the Media Elementary Playground which included \$1875 for the district grant, which has been approved but not yet received. That check has helped put the project over the amount needed for phase I, which will begin work soon.

The board voted to receive the Treasurer's report.

Grant requests –

The board reviewed the request from **Transition Town Media (Circles of Aunts and Uncles)** to help set up a micro-lending program for new and existing local entrepreneurs for projects that "sustain the environment and promote the health and wealth of the community." Gary had been asked to contact the principles and provided a good report on the organization working with Transition Town Media to oversee the funds and collect the payments and interest.

There are two levels of donors, the "Aunts and Uncles" who commit \$2000 initially and pledge \$1000 a year for three years. This group is able to help determine who receives the loans. The second are "silent" aunts and uncles who donate whatever amount they choose, and do not participate in the governance or choice of recipients.

A motion was approved to provide a grant of \$1000 to Transition Town Media for their "Aunts and Uncles" microlending program as a "silent" aunt/uncle for the 2018-19 Rotary year. (Ted/Walt)

Project C.U.R.E. is a District 7450 project being administered by the Great Valley Rotary Club. The request is for \$2000 to help ship \$500,000 a medical equipment (already obtained) to the Avissawella Base Hospital in Sri Lanka. The Rotary Club of Colombo West in Sri Lanka is collaborating in the project and the Sri Lanka embassy has ensured that the C.U.R.E. containers will not be levied any customs charges, fees or taxes. The hospital with a staff of 3 Physicians and 325 nurses treat 321,000+ patients a year.

A motion was made to provide a grant of \$2,000 to the Great Valley Rotary Club as a partner in Project C.U.R.E. (Ted/Michael). Susan noted that Glenn Chelliah, the contact for Great Valley Rotary will be speaking to our club on August 1 about this project and can receive the check at that time.

RTM School Backpacks has become an annual club service project to provide backpack and school supplies for children in the RTM school district who are financially challenged. Rob and Susan noted that we provided 48 backpacks last year and this year they are requesting 60 backpacks. The amount they are seeking is \$1000 to purchase the supplies and the backpacks. The school counselors determine the recipients and there is no advertising or acknowledgement of a donor on the packs.

A motion was made to provide \$1000 for the 2018-19 Rotary year for school backpacks. (Ted/Gary)

Officers election: Dennis was commended for his years of service on the board and particularly his good work as president. After some discussion it was moved that Walt Woerheide be elected President of the Rotary Foundation of Media, with Gary Zebrowski continuing as Treasurer and Larry Smoose as Secretary. There is one additional board member to be appointed and that will occur at the August meeting.

Rotary Foundation of Media Circle of Donors was discussed with favorable impression by the club board and the foundation board. It would recognize members who donated directly to the RFM with various levels of gifts. It will be moving forward in the coming months and club members will be kept informed about it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Will be called by the President.