Minutes

Merced Sunrise Rotary

Board Meeting of February 10, 2016

Meeting convened at 5:38 PM

Members Present: Rich Miller, Mark Lutz, Tim O’Neill, Theresa Cesar, Betsy Donovan, Cathy Paskin. Mike Cuchna, Dortha Chu

Members Absent: Bob Casey, Stuart Rawling

Guests Present: Butch Hughes

Approval of Agenda: M/S/C Tim, Theresa as amended by Tim to add FOH funding committee.

Approval of Minutes of: M/S/C Theresa, tim

Leadership Reports

**President:** Cathy reported the resignation of Vince Roos due to change of employment venue from Merced to Fresno; announced that Dewayne Young will be inducted on Friday; announced the Area 8 Regional Speech Contest that will be held on March 16th at the North Merced Rotary Club. Cathy initiated a discussion about the possible use of a donation request document. Such a document is used by the Atwater club for budget planning purposes. Cathy said that we have a similar document but have seldom used it. A discussion followed; Theresa suggested that we give it to the program speaker after they speak if they intend to ask for a donation and may be considered for the following year. It was generally acknowledged that Committee chairs need to have all budget requests in front of them when budget considerations are being entertained. Live scan at District Mid-Year Assembly was announced. Some members who had a live scan last year have not received any word as to pass/fail. By laws: Mike announced that the committee has met four times. Based on input, a document has been prepared and was circulated to board members electronically. A lengthy discussion followed. Rich clarified that the bylaws are for the club and the operation thereof, not for charities. The governing board has had ample opportunity to review the proposed bylaws. M/S/C: Mike, Rich to take the bylaws to the membership for consideration. Several dates were considered. After much discussion, a consensus was reached that March 4th may be the best date, but given the proximity of the Shrimp Feed and the fact that Tim had already scheduled a vocational tour on that date, March 4th was not an ideal time to have a vote on the bylaws. Tim discussed our protocol for selecting stand-ins for the President when s/he is absent, i.e. President Elect vs. any Past President. After Rich amplified regarding what the bylaw committee had entertained in its discussions, there was a discussion regarding a potential change to the newly proposed bylaws to address how meetings are handled in the absence of the President, but it was generally agreed that we need to have the club first pass the current proposed bylaws and then have a full club discussion on the issue.

**President-Elect:** No report.

**Vice President:** No report

**Treasurer:** Rich shared hard copies of operations and charities budgets and clarified that the one with the Balance Sheet is for the entire organization. Theresa started discussion about line items. If a request is not found in a line item, can we move money from another item? The term slush fund was bandied about. Discussion followed, but no consensus was reached.

**Secretary:** Galen reported that our attendance pattern has be running at 80%. He also reported that election of new officers for the 2016-17 Rotary year was overdue, that it should have been conducted in December and that it is important that we hastily move toward closure on this issue.

**Activity Reports**

**Community:** Dortha announced that she has met with Michelle Allison to discuss what we can do with Boys and Girls Club. They have a poorly equipped teen room. There is nothing in the small room, just a table and chairs, no radio or TV, no technology devices. Dortha opined that she is considering a campaign to raise funds to upgrade the room for which she would enlist the participation of other local Rotary clubs as well as the Interact and Rotaract Clubs. The goal of the campaign would be to create an inviting characteristic to the room to which teens would be drawn, e.g. maybe a coffee lounge, a mini version of Starbucks. The general concept was warmly received by the board. Dortha stated she is still working on doing something with Merced Playhouse.

**Vocational:** Tim announced that FOH funds total about $60K that are available. He posed hypothetically: how much would be needed for startup and how much would be needed annually to fund the usual and customary groups that we assist? He posed further: what about a larger project, e.g. Veterans Stadium at Golden Valley High School or changing name of a street. General consensus was to set aside $20K for startup, $30 for major projects and $10K for local ongoing projects with $1,000 maximum for the latter. M/S/C Tim, Mike Tim announced that the Vocational Services Committee had budgeted $1,000 for Thirsty Thursdays this year, that two Vocational Scholarships would be awarded to Merced College students as in the past and that 180s will continue; “My Vocational Hero” will be the new theme. Tim introduced another project that Mike Altomare found at a recent zone meeting. It is called Rotary Rotisserie and has been used by a Rotary club in the Seattle area. Tim spent some time explaining the workings of this project. M/S/C Tim, Mark to reallocate $1,000 of the Miscellaneous Projects allocation, $300 of which would go to support the Rotary Rotisserie project and $700 to “Service Above Self Awards,” ($500 for 10 $50 gift awards to deserving individuals, and $200 for support materials if necessary) Tim also mentioned that two vocational tours remain for the year, one at Merced Screw in March and one at Kellogg Supply in June.

**International:** Theresa reported that our Global Grant to remodel the bathroom at the Juan Brenes Hospital in Nicaragua is in the final process of being fully approved. Matching funds have been solicited and collected from Madera Rotary and North Merced Rotary Clubs, and through the efforts of Dr. Dennis Cesar, Mercy Hospital has donated the remaining $4000 needed to meet our match. There will be a delegation planned for Rotarians to travel to Nicaragua in July, to participate in the inauguration of the project.  Upon their return, an event will be planned to host the administration of Mercy Hospital and all members of the participating Rotary Clubs, to show them photos of the project and our appreciation of support. The event will be sponsored by a local physician of Merced's community.

Theresa reported that a small group of Rotarians from our club and North Merced Rotary met at her house on Feb. 8th, to do a test run on the building of the WAPI kits.  The event will be held on March 19th at Theresa's home. It is our expectation that we will have approximately 35 Rotarians, 20 Interact Students from El Captain and MHS, and 15 UC Merced Rotaract students participating. Theresa will be showing a brief video to the club, that demonstrates the process of assembling the WAPI kits, at the meeting on Friday, March 18th.

Theresa gave a report to the board of the current status of our KIVA (Micro finance) account. Our club's continued participation in supporting individuals seeking loans through [KIVA.org](http://kiva.org/) will be presented in a program by Madera Rotarian, Jim Pierce to Rotarians attending this weekend's District Assembly. We currently have approximately $350 available in the account to re-lend and another $500 budgeted for this Rotary year. Theresa is going to work on a project that our members can help decide how we re-lend the funds.

Theresa announced that she will be contacting the Merced Theater to reserve a date in April to host an event for District 5220. The film "Every Last Child" will be shown and Rotarians and their guest will be asked to buy a $20 ticket for the event, which will include a pre-movie cocktail party. Because the film is a documentary about the ongoing efforts of Rotarians, who risk their lives every day to administer the polio vaccine in Pakistan, all proceeds above our expenses, will be donated to Polio Plus.  Theresa will be printing flyers to distribute at this weekend's District Assembly.

**Club:** Mike reminded the board that district reports due on March 24th.

**Youth:** Mark announced that he and Rich are driving students to RYLA this weekend and reminded the board of the Area 8 speech contest on February 16th, a noon lunch meeting at Merced Elks Club, the meeting venue for the host club, North Merced Rotary. Butch announced that the second Junior High All Star baseball fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 7th.

**Foundation Update:**  No Report

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 M/S/C Rich, Theresa.

Respectfully Submitted,

Galen Chastain

Secretary