**Minutes**

**Merced Sunrise Rotary**

**Board Meeting of JULY 21, 2015**

Meeting convened at 5:45 PM at President Cathy’s home

Board Members Present: Cathy Paskin, , Mike Cuchna, Tim O’Neill, Theresa Cesar, Dortha Chu, Rich Miller, Sam Traina and Galen Chastain

Board Members Absent: Bob Casey, Betsy Donovan, Mark Lutz

Guests Present: Ross Simone and Bob Harmon

Approval of Agenda: M/S/C Theresa, Tim

Approval of Minutes of June 29, 2015 meeting: M/S/C Tim, Mike

**Leadership Reports**

**President:** Cathy announced that the club assembly will be held Friday. Directors will be asked to make a “pitch” for members to join their respective committees. Mike Cuchna is preparing a list of committees that he will share. President Cathy indicated that she wants everyone to have a job this year. She will announce that any member who fails to sign up will be contacted personally to assure that every member is fully participating.

Bylaws are important and every board member should be well informed on their content. Rich pointed out that, theoretically, there are two sets of bylaws, one for charities and one for operations. Cathy mentioned Betsy’s concern about her job description.

It was pointed out that there doesn’t seem to be an Interact or Rotaract budget. Previously Sunrise wasn’t using the $750 Rotaract and $500 for Interact so it may have been purposely deleted. However, we need to budget for these. Under Youth services the $950 that the Jr. High All Star Baseball Game raised was plugged into the budget by Cathy. Given that Cathy just received the budget from Mike this afternoon, it was suggested that we revisit the budget at the August meeting. Lots of opinion was offered regarding income and expenditures from various sources but no definitive identification of these sources was made. Cathy will talk to Bob Casey and Mark Lutz to shed light on Youth Services budget. Tim clarified questions that Dortha had regarding Homeless Connect event. Bob Harmon asked about carry over amounts. What was carry over? Tim explained how surplus revenue was handled historically, e.g. don’t use one time money for ongoing expense. Charities vs. operations was clarified by Rich and Sam. Bob Harmon reminded everyone that it’s $185 for dues with breakfast vs. $135 as previously was the case during Rich Millers tenure as club President.

**President-Elect:** absent

**Treasurer:** Rich announced that he will have Director’s budget available to each Director in the near future, said budget to reflect any carry over. Rich stated that he will be very demanding when it comes to getting signatures on appropriate documents such as Request for Reimbursement/Payment forms. These are mandatory prerequisites for processing and are essential in providing an audit trail. Invoices for named members of the club must be verified as actual members of the club. Rich opined that the club is in serious need of a Chief Financial Officer and suggested that Mike Altomare be named as such because he has all of the necessary qualifications for that position. Rich went on to state that we have had that officer previously, and were at risk of a huge fine if we were not operating in accordance with established IRS guidelines while dealing with the IRS and California FTB to establish our tax exempt status. Rich proposed an agenda item for the next meeting. Sam volunteered to serve on the Finance Committee. Rich propose that Mr. Spinardi’s audit fee be split between operations and charity.

**Secretary:** Galen urged the board to push hard to get maximum attendance at the Membership and Foundation workshop scheduled for August 29th. He also stressed the importance of obtaining a conscientious member to serve as Membership Chair. Galen also shared various documents with the board as evidence or our need to improve our attendance record. He suggested that someone on the Membership Committee be assigned to contact individual members who have an anemic attendance record to encourage better attendance and hopefully, to prevent their becoming a drop out. .

**Activity Reports**

**Community:** Dortha: approached by Merced theater and Merced Playhouse to explore our potential for support of their mission. She suggested that we might have a Community event for which we would all buy tickets. Sam is on the symphony board and is interested in exploring ways we can interface with the Merced Symphony, possibly by combining Thirsty Thursday with a symphony performance. Theresa volunteered to help Dortha in whatever way she can.

**Vocational Service:** Tim announced that Merced Rotary is taking over responsibility for Thirsty Thursday, the first Thursday of each month from 5:30 to 7 and ongoing for the months of September, October and November. Tim indicated that Vocational 180 will continue. After every club member has had a first appearance for the Vocational 180, Tim will add a different twist to it. Feelers have been made for vocational tours. Tim is looking at other businesses that would be willing to host us for a breakfast tour. Harmon suggested that we might explore Gallo cheese as a possibility.

**International:** Theresa was in Nicaragua last week. She was hopeful that we will continue with grants, but stated that Dick Wyatt is not willing. She reported that John Price and Rich Rios want to work on a grant. Theresa has asked: If she does the writing, will their club do the fund raising? She announced that the next grant committee meeting is in August. North Merced, Atwater, Sunrise Interact, Rotaract may be willing to work jointly on a Literacy project in September. In October Theresa’s committee will do something related to Polio, given that October 24 is World Polio Day. In April, on world water day, she opined that we might have MID give the program*.*

On behalf of Paul Fregene, Theresa presented a water project to the board, to be performed in Africa. The project would cost approximately $18,000 and would provide a well for a community within the area Grace Outreach Coalition (Paul's non-profit organization) is working. Theresa and other members involved with Rotary International's grant process have explained to Paul the necessity of writing a grant for a project such as this. It would have to be done in coordination with a Rotary club in Africa through a Global Grant. Raising the necessary funds from our club and other local Rotary clubs would not be possible because of the high cost of this project. Because Paul has failed to make contact with a Rotary club in Africa, has not taken the repeated suggestions from Theresa and other Rotarians to seek out the assistance and advice of other clubs within our district (clubs that are already working on international projects in Africa) the project was not considered in a favorable light by the board. In short, the project is not ready for board consideration. It requires that some additional work be accomplished to build a structured grant application before the board can consider it for action.  All board members voted to support Theresa in deferring any action on this project until the proper application process has been completed.

**Club Service:** Because the duties of the Club Service Director are so varied and widespread, Mike indicated that he would prepare a synopsis of those duties and share them with the members at the club assembly on Friday. He also stressed the importance of having a Sergeant at Arms who would be responsible for setting up for the meeting and putting items away afterward. He indicated that it was not his job to do this.

**Youth:**absent

**Field of Honor:** The Field of Honor Committee met at 5:00 PM chaired by Theresa Cesar who sought input from committee members regarding the future of the FOH event. There was a discussion regarding several aspects of the event, e.g. opening and closing ceremonies, every year or every other year, chair nominee, sharing event with other clubs or entire Area 8, volunteers and sponsorships. A general consensus was reached that we could do without the opening and closing ceremony, that we should have the event every year, that sharing the event could weaken accountability and that sponsorships are the event’s major source of revenue. Given the need to move on to the Board meeting, Theresa proposed that we survey the full membership at Friday’s Club Assembly to determine the degree to which there is support for this event and to measure the time commitment that each member will make toward its success.

**Foundation:** Bob Harmon proposed that we dedicate one month to hit Foundation hard and to quit hounding members month after month for Foundation contributions. Rich proposed making everyone a Paul Harris Fellow by loaning them points that they have to pay back. Sam amplified on where the money for the Foundation actually goes. No action was taken on these matters.

**Other Business:** A discussion about Paul Harris recipients developed. Sam pointed out that we may be behind in recognizing Paul Harris recipients. He will check into this matter more thoroughly. Bob Harmon said that he had the Paul Harris pins if needed.

Rich pointed out that, pursuant to the bylaws, any member who is going through the “chairs” to become the club President must have been a Director. Betsy has not yet served as a Director. To satisfy this requirement, Betsy will be co-director with Theresa. M/S/C Rich/Theresa

Next meeting: August 10th, 2015 5:30 at Cathy’s home

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Galen Chastain

Secretary