**\*\*\* Meeting held via ZOOM Webinar \*\*\***

**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Sung Lee, who recognized that there was a Board Quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Moment of silence for Martha Simonds

**Board Members in attendance**: Bill Armstrong, Mark Henne, Sung Lee, Ody Norkin, Chris Nugent, Ger Schultink, Keith Thomas, Bill Webb.

**Board Members Absent**: Kristin Shelley

**Other Members in Attendance**: Ingrid Nova (ex-officio)

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

MOTION by W. Armstrong, second by C. Nugent, to accept the minutes from the June 11, 2020 Board Meeting. Motion PASSED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Armstrong reported that bottom line, we came in at a loss of $3,378, instead of the expected loss of $11,000. We did not need to access the savings account, which is a very good thing.

There was a question whether there is a further commitment to the East Lansing Library. Bill Armstrong will reach out to Kristin Shelley to ask.

It was reported that the Pat Boog resigned from the Club, possibly to come back when the club becomes more active. Bill Webb will follow up with Pat for more details about why he left the club, and what can be done to bring him back.

MOTION by M. Henne, second by W. Armstrong, to accept Pat Boog’s resignation effective as of June 30, 2020. Motion PASSED

Motion by G. Schultink, second by W. Webb, to accept the Treasurer’s report as written. Motion PASSED.

**President’s Report—Sung Lee**

President Lee reported that he is honored to be the Club President, and will work hard to bring back the club. There are funds in the reserve and money coming from the District. There are many options and ways that we can help the community. President Lee would like to have another Club Assembly on July 27 to discuss these options and to review the recent survey.

President Sung thanked Ingrid Nova for her recent self-reduction in pay of $600 annually.

Steven Melnyk has come back as a member of the Club.

**President-Elect Report—Chris Nugent**

PE Nugent is on vacation currently, but will be back in the office on July 13.

David Mittleman is an attorney that attended the Club meeting on July 6. He is a potential member/speaker and Chris Nugent will follow up with him.

There was discussion that instead of doing another Club Assembly on July 27, we find a great speaker that will bring the members in, and then have 30 minutes to discuss the club business, including the survey discussion and membership priorities.

Ody Norkin made the point that since we do not have to eat lunch, we would still be able to have a great speaker for 40 minutes and have time for the club discussion/assembly.

Chris Nugent will start working on August programs. There is currently a speaker set for August 10. There will be no meeting on September 7 for Labor Day and DG Triplett will be the program on September 14.

It was suggested that Mark Henne invite the local political candidates (Elissa Slotkin and her contender, once decided) to come and speak to the club.

We should potentially look at creating a policy regarding political speakers, or speakers regarding local policy issues. The policy is that Rotary is a non-political organization and will not endorse any candidates.

Discussion was held regarding Zoom meetings, including whether or not to send and/or post the speakers on the website, and the ability to gain extra Zoom storage.

**Secretary Report—**

No report

**The Rotary Foundation Giving Report —Keith Thomas**

Keith is looking forward to belonging to the International Committee and working with Ger and promoting the Foundation going forward.

**Community Service- Chris Nugent**

The committee has not met in June or July. They will try to set up a Zoom meeting to meet before the fall. If the Club owes the Library $2500, the Committee may try to fundraise to get the money, instead of using the Club’s general funds.

**International Committee—Ger Schultink**

The East Lansing Rotary Club received a recent request from the South Haven Rotary Club regarding Dr. Martin Graber, who has worked a long time in Kenya. He is a long-term member of the club, and is approaching his 86th birthday. In his work with one of the rural hospitals in outline Nairobi, the issue came up about the freshwater supply one of the hospitals. A very modest proposal was made to develop a cistern which would accommodate the freshwater needs of one of the local hospitals. It would serve about 50% of one community, roughly translated into about 250,000 people. The total for the request was in the neighborhood of $70,000. What he has done is basically reached out to the District’s Clubs, including ourselves, and requested if we would be willing and able to support the initiatives, and donate around $300 to that program. That would be the basis for cost-sharing for this application to a global grant from Rotary International. Ger wants to put this forward as an initiative and wishes the EL Rotary Club to donate $300 to this global initiative.

It was discussed that perhaps the donation would be best served coming from the East Lansing Rotary Club Foundation. Ger would be willing to donate $300 of his own money and giving it to the club to give to this project on behalf of the Rotary club. Bill Armstrong will meet that, donating half, $150. As the money is in hand, it is approved that the club should send the money to the South Haven Rotary Club on behalf of the East Lansing Rotary Club.

There was discussion about the projects in Ghana, potentially working with the micro lending programs. In Guatemala, there was an invitation for $3000 donation for a grant. It would involve the initiatives with the smokeless stoves. They would be working with the sister club in Guatemala.

It was reported that the Ella Pad Project is nearly done. The East Lansing Rotary Club donated $3,000 to that project, which was matched with the district funds. The $6,000 went to the community of Dakar in Bangladesh. Over 3,000 women received benefit from that program. $3,000 was also donated to high school students in Dakar.

There needs to be discussion about how to set priorities for the international arena, and how we reach out to the clubs to find commonalities in terms of international projects.

It was discussed that District Gov. Nathan Triplett should be in contact at the District level to see if we can get a financial report for the Bangladesh Ella Pad Project.

Ger sent a couple of emails to Karen at the University club, but has not heard back. Things are in transition there, so it may be difficult for her to respond. It may be best for president Sung to contact her directly. We need answers before we can decide where to move, if at all.

Discussion was held briefly about the survey results, and whether a moving location is the best route. It was also discussed whether or not to have weekly meetings, or to have fewer meetings in the summer, or even through the winter.

Mark Henne report that the University club will likely be raising their lunch rates regardless. Pres. He reported that he is also checking with other venues.

Discussion was held, and a member stated that in general, the issue with international projects has been the lack of a game plan with international projects that we do not go piecemeal board meeting by board meeting approving projects of $200 or $300 apiece. That way we have a hard time controlling the budget in the whole that we are in. As a committee, we need to bring forth to the Treasurer and the President and the Board, an annual plan. We need to have a budget including a discretionary spending plan.

It was noted that there are empty Committee Chair positions; if anyone knows of anyone, please let President Sung know. Visioning and Public Image Committees may combine into one committee.

President appointed Steven Melnyk as Visioning/Public Image Committee Chairperson, if Monica Michaels refuses her appointment (President Sung has not received any response from her yet). Rotarian Steven is appointed as the Chair of Vision Committee until we have response from Monica. If she refuses the appointment, then Steven will chair both committees.

**Membership Committee—Bill Webb**

Bill Webb reported that he wants to make sure the Board is on board with the Committee’s priorities. The Committee’s number one priority is two-prong- to maintain current members and to obtain a balanced budget. Until we have the mechanism agreed to keep a balanced budget. Our first priority is to obtain current members and balance the budget. The second priority should be recruiting new members and the third priority would be to enhance current policies and procedures.

Treas. Armstrong asked if, while creating the budget, he should create goals for the different committees. Alternatively, should they go with what they have?

Ingrid should market the July 27 as a good speaker day, and to have a chance to talk about membership priorities.

**East Lansing Rotary Club Foundation**

**Adjournment**

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on August 13, via Zoom webinar unless otherwise noted.

There being no further business to conduct, Sung Lee adjourned the meeting at 1:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid Nova, Club Administrative Secretary