

**Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday January 19, 2023**

**~~Mid Maine Chamber Board Room~~ (via Zoom)**

**Attendance:**

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| **Hannah Bard** |  |
| **Bob Barton** | **Present – online** |
| **Roger Crouse** | **Present – online** |
| **John Dalton, President** | **Present – online** |
| **Dan Eccher, President-Elect** | **Present – online** |
| **Peter Garrett** | **Present – online** |
| **Chris Gaunce** | **Present – online** |
| **Buffy Higgins, Secretary** | **Present – online** |
| **Kim Lindlof** | **Present – online** |
| **Tom Longstaff** | **Present – online** |
| **Jeff Melanson, Immediate Past President** | **Present – online** |
| **Michele Prince** | **Present – online** |
| **Suzanne Uhl-Melanson** | **Present – online** |
| **Sarah Wadick, Treasurer** |  |
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**8 Needed for a quorum**

**Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM.**

**Consent Agenda (see below): *motion, seconded, approved unanimously***

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 12/19/2022 Meeting
2. Approval of the Treasurer’s Report
3. Approval of Committee Minutes and Reports

**Old Business:**

2022 – 2023 Charitable Budget has been revised based on the amazing results of the Auction. John will update the club on the revisions which are very exciting. Related to this is under new business- Support for Two Ukrainian Families.

**New Business**

**Best Western Request for a Meal Price Increase** – current price is $16.50. We charge $15. Price includes everything including space, storage, linens, service, coffee & dessert. They will accept $19. Motion to increase price of lunch to $17 and subsidize the $2/meal, seconded, and unanimously approved based on hearty discussion and lack of better alternatives. As Kim pointed out, they went up much more on her breakfasts.

**Support for Two Ukrainian Families** – we skipped ahead to this item based on the “Old Business” discussion of the 2022-23 Charitable Budget. With the higher than expected results of the Auction, we are able to modify the budget to offer $4,000 + cups&fines for January and February so **roughly $5,000 and possibly a bit more** to Dan Parks in his efforts to support 2 Ukrainian Familes who are staying with him due to Russian invaders/war. All funds raised through a multitude of organizations that Dan is working with goes towards travel to get the families (women & children) to the US, all basic necessities, childcare and efforts to help the families transition to the US (legally). This includes the legal efforts of immigration, obtaining a job, transportation, food, utilities, etc…this proposal was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

**Making Food Insecurity a Focus of Our Annual Fund-Raising Efforts** – there was discussion in regards to the recommendation of making “Food Insecurity” a focus of our annual fundraising efforts. While this is an extremely important issue to focus on everyone agreed that flexibility in club priorities/projects is very important. Each President is typically allowed to focus on what is meaningful to them within the context of the Rotary areas of emphasis. For instance, Dan’s year could be focused on Education, Children’s Issues, Women’s Rights, and/or Environment. One of John’s projects, Reading Nooks at Children’s Discovery Museum was very focused but tied to Children’s Literacy.

**January 30 Club Assembly** – John will plan to present many of the topics discussed today including the finalized Charitable Budget, the updated meal price as well as the focused Community Service and Volunteer efforts that are expected of all Rotarians.

**Officer and Board Succession (if time)** – Dan shared that he is challenged to finalize his Board. The two positions that he is struggling to fill are: President-Elect and Vice President. He is striking out on those two specifically. Adding another wrinkle is the criteria of Corporate Memberships where the person is not the Primary Member and therefore cannot be an officer of Rotary. This limits the pool unfortunately. So John and Dan are going to discuss the definition of Corporate Membership and what exactly it is. They would like to have more female leaders, grow the membership in general, and Kim commented that she trained 7 people for Sargent at Arms role but they don’t do it often enough so they forget how to do it. That has been a challenge.

New member John Palmer was unanimously voted into the Club. Again, this membership will need to be clarified due to the fact that he is Alfond Youth Center but Kathryn is already primary on the corporate membership at that organization.

Suzanne pointed out that the approved new members since August have not had orientation. Technically, proposed members are supposed to have completed their orientation to Rotary prior to them being voted on. Dan will address this with an orientation to catch them up and going forward.

Our next meeting is off sight at KVCC and there will be a Membership Committee meeting for Jan 30 that will go out to all Club Members.

**Next Rotary Board Meeting:** Thursday, February 16, 2023

**Motion to adjourn, seconded, all in favor: 5:00 PM**

*Submitted by Buffy Higgins*