

ROTARY CLUB OF SWARTHMORE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 15, 2022

		Attended	Excused
President	Kathryn Jones, MD	X	
President-Elect / Fund Raising	Heather Saunders	X	
President Nominee	Greg Brown	X	
IPP – Past President / Sergeant-of-Arms	Bill Hale	X	
Club Executive Secretary	Brian Casey	X	
Treasurer	Theresa O'Malley		X
Secretary	Brian Craig	X	
Rotary Foundation Chair	Barbara Whitaker-Shimko	X	
Membership Chair	Carr Everbach	X	
Speaker Program	Hillard Pouncy		X
International Chair / Gundaker	Anne Hansen		X
Service Projects Chair	Lori Markusfeld	X	
Public Relations Chair	Perri Evanson	X	
Grants Committee / Rotary Trust Chair	Betty Ann Flynn	X	
CTEP Chair	Ken Wright	X	
Climate Chair	Dave Firn	X	
Karen Mazzarella-Russo, Assistant District Governor	District Updates	X	

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Kathryn Jones, President 2021-22.

Opening Remarks: President Kathryn Jones

- Kathryn welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Secretary's Report: Brian Craig

- On a motion by Ken Wright, second by Greg Brown, the minutes of January 18, 2022, were approved.

Committee Reports:

Chester Trades Education Project: Ken Wright

1. Cohort 1 started with thirteen (13) people, there are now ten (10) who have completed final exams.
2. Ken pointed out that is not a final number. Extenuating circumstances are involved and some of the students may come back. DCCC does not take people off the rolls just because they are not completing every course.

3. The CTEP committee learned only about 70% of student enrolled at DCCC complete their programs. If the current ten (10) in the CTEP Cohort complete the program we will be ahead of that figure.
4. Some people are not attending class but this is not necessarily a requirement to complete the course. The CTEP committee is working with John Linder and Riverside Futures to identify the reasons and provide mentoring help.
5. Cohort 2 will hopefully have an information session in July 2022 with classes starting in August 2022 with fifteen (15) students.
6. CTEP presentations to other Rotary clubs are ongoing and being presented by Kathryn Jones and Betty Ann Flynn.
7. The fund-raising goal has been achieved and is ongoing.
8. Kathryn clarified that nationally it is common to have a 30% to 35% drop out rate in college, particularly community colleges as they generally have students with more challenges to stay in school. Kathryn also pointed out students at DCCC are not graded on attendance but rather their performance in technical exams.

Climate and Environment: David Firn

1. The Energy Transition Task Force that Swarthmore Rotary had hoped to work with has disbanded.
2. Heather Saunders put Dave Firn and Carr Everbach in touch with Susan O'Donnell who is associated with the Swarthmore EAC and the aFewSteps.org. Nothing concrete has yet emerged but the conversation is ongoing. Carr Everbach commented that Phil Coleman from aFewSteps.org would like to address a Swarthmore Rotary meeting. Carr will work with Hillard Pouncy to get that done.
3. CRC does an annual streams clean and there are some sites in Swarthmore including Little Crum Creek Park and CADES Crum Swarthmore. There are also some legacy sites that have not been looked at for years including the South Ridley Creek Railroad Trestle. Dave will work with CRC to see if that could be taken over but our club.
4. The three watersheds clean-up is March 26, 2022.
5. Dave has talked to the master watershed stewards to let them know Swarthmore Rotary has an emphasis on climate and the environment to see if we can further their mission.
6. Heather Saunders asked if one of those projects would be eligible for the Rotary at Work service projects. Karen Mazzarella-Russo responded anything having to do with the environment would be appropriate and referred to the grant application.
7. Kathryn Jones asked Dave Firn, Lori Markusfeld and Carr Everbach to look at the options and come up with a proposal within the next two (2) weeks.

Fund Raising: Heather Saunders

1. Heather is planning to give an update at the Thursday assembly on the progress of the strategic plan.
2. At the last assembly the results of the member survey were presented. Over the past few weeks the committee has been working on the community needs assessment, talking to community leaders to determine the image or perception of the Rotary Club and what is needed in the community. It could be service projects, grants, or opportunities to collaborate with local organizations.

3. The committee has also reached out to District 7450 leaders to get ideas about issues that were coming up in the member survey.

Grants: Betty Ann Flynn

1. Betty Ann is still working on the \$1,000 grant for Sanctuary Village and will be in contact with the committee to move the process along.
2. Grant requests have been received from the Swarthmore Fire and Protective Association in several categories including \$1,000, \$500, \$250 and \$100. This is an annual request. Betty Ann will work with the committee to facilitate the request and feels it is important for the Swarthmore community.
3. Kathryn Jones noted she talked with leaders of Boy Scout Troop 112 regarding grant requests for Eagle Scout projects.
4. Betty Ann added that the Steve Laxton Memorial Fund for CTEP has received \$818.

Gundaker: Anne Hansen

Anne Hansen was unable to attend the meeting.

1. Karen Mazarella-Russo reported Gundaker is doing fund-raising.
2. Karen suggested Swarthmore Rotary work with other Rotary clubs to make Gundaker requests for CTEP.

International Service: Anne Hansen

- Kathryn Jones reported Anne Hansen was on a call with the Chester Club regarding the Liberia Project. It was noted it is not for Swarthmore to define the project. Swarthmore can provide input and assistance but the final decisions are up to the Chester Rotary Club.

Membership: Carr Everbach

1. Carr reported two (2) new members (Sarah Pita and Norm Ledwin) will be inducted at the February 17, 2022, assembly.
2. Carr noted Sarah has grant writing expertise and is willing to use it for Rotary.
3. Elena Adams has agreed to join Carr on the membership committee as she has contacts with younger community members who may be interested in membership.

Public Relations: Perri Evanson

1. Perri has been doing the Rotary Minute in *The Swarthmorean*. She is looking forward to participating in events in the spring to report on them.
2. Perri asked to be notified if anyone wanted more publicity for any events so she can get it into various publications.

Rotary International Foundation: Barbara Whitaker-Shimko

1. Barbara thanked George Whitfield and Elizabeth Church for their work on the committee.

2. Barbara noted six (6) Swarthmore Rotary club members need to make their donation to meet the EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) goal.
3. Barbara reported there is an upcoming training and the club is required to have two people attend. The training is virtual. Heather Saunders responded she is planning to attend as well as Joy Charlton.
4. Barbara remarked she has been the Rotary Foundation chair for three (3) years and feels it's time for someone else to take the position. She suggested Elizabeth Church as she has been a member of the committee for the past two (2) years.
5. Barbara noted it was previously decided to contact those who have not contributed to the Rotary Foundation in mid-February so that process will start soon.
6. Barbara also noted she waits about six (6) weeks after a person joins the club before she encourages them to donate to The Foundation.

Service Projects: Lori Markusfeld

1. Lori reported the Rise Against Hunger group had contacted her last year so she reached out to them and they have some days coming up. Swarthmore Rotary could participate with other groups at the events. The issue is the expense as it costs \$100 per person to participate. The \$100 pays for the supplies and items they package. An extended discussion resulted in a consensus our club cannot do this now but may consider it later.
2. Brian Casey noted events such as Rise Against Hunger attracts service-oriented people and would be a good opportunity to make such people aware of Rotary by wearing Rotary items (vests, hats, shirts, etc.) and perhaps recruit new members.
3. Perri Evanson asked if there was a location for Adopt A Highway. It was noted we historically have done the work on Yale Avenue. There is discussion of performing a clean-up on April 30th.
4. Brian Casey reported he has placed an order for safety vests. Some sizes are on back order and he opted to wait until the entire order can be fulfilled.
5. Dave Firn reported CRC provides t-shirts, work gloves, water, etc. for their events.
6. Perri Evanson noted the roadside cleanup provides an opportunity for Swarthmore Rotary to be visible while performing the service.
7. Lori reported there is another opportunity at the Heinz Wildlife Refuge in the spring to do a clean up and it would be a good time to wear Rotary gear while participating. Theresa O'Malley is a member of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge and Lori will contact her about upcoming events.
8. Brian Casey asked about ordering additional vests and using the \$500 anticipated from the grant. Karen Mazzarella-Russo reminded the club the grant is a matching grant so it would also require a \$500 contribution from our club.

Speaker Program: Hillard Pouncy

Hillard Pouncy was unable to attend the meeting.

- Kathryn noted Hillard has asked her to think about the "dream" person she would like to address the club. Kathryn has a Philadelphia Orchestra subscription and would very much like to have Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Philadelphia Orchestra music director, as a speaker. She recognizes that is a remote possibility.

Swarthmore Rotary Charitable Trust: Betty Ann Flynn

1. Betty Ann reported the information is similar to what was reported last month. There was a small increase in statement savings. The current balance is \$25,070.41.
2. CTEP has reached and surpassed its goal. All but one bill have been paid.
3. Betty Ann noted there is about \$7,000 left in the president's allocation.
4. Betty Ann reported there may be a grant request coming in from Chester East Side Ministries.
5. Betty Ann also cautioned the balance of funds has diminished due to the lack of Fun Fair revenues. The Trust previously had balances of over \$100,000. It is now down to \$25,070.41 as reported.
6. Perri Evanson will do a Rotary Minute on the availability of grant requests.

Youth / New Generations: TBD

1. Kathryn has reported the chair for this position has not yet been filled.
2. Kathryn also reported she heard from Josh Twersky and the World of Work appears to be a go for some time in May.

District Updates: Karen Mazzarella-Russo

1. Karen reiterated the importance of submitting the grant request for the matching grant.
2. Karen also noted the importance of having two (2) people attend the training so the club is eligible to submit grant requests.
3. The District Conference is coming up April 22 to 24, 2022 in Hershey.
4. Brian Casey reminded of upcoming MAPETS (Mid-Atlantic PETS). The deadline for registration is Thursday, February 17, 2022.

Treasurer's Report: Theresa O'Malley

Theresa was unable to attend the meeting. The following information was reported by Brian Craig from the committee report submitted by Theresa.

1. The bank account balance was \$18,862.23 as of January 31, 2022.
2. 3rd quarter dues invoices went out February 6th. This is the first time we've had the option to use PayPal and several people (14 so far) have used it to pay their dues. 17 people have paid this quarter's dues.
3. Theresa has NOT been invoicing new members for partial quarters. Should she be? Following a general discussion there was a motion by Brian Casey, with a second by Greg Brown, that new members be billed for membership dues at the end of their first full quarter of membership. The motion was passed unanimously.
4. Does anyone know how to send in Happy Dollars? Rotary International has a link to pay by credit card, but no address to send a check. Theresa submitted a question in their Contact Us form. Betty Ann Flynn noted Anne Hansen would be able to answer this question.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

1. Kathryn Jones reported she was contacted by Joe Lesniak who, in concert with Ken Wright and Marv Gelb, are concerned about the timing of holding the Fun Fair in May of this year. They are recommending we postpone the Fun Fair until September. There are multiple reasons including concerns around COVID (families may not be comfortable bringing younger children as they are not yet eligible for vaccinations), some of the suppliers are unavailable (the bouncy house and slides company has gone out of business), the ads and fundraising have been impacted by the pandemic and inflation, some of the participating non-profit organizations need more time to prepare, and more.
2. Discussion regarding the Fun Fair above also led to talking about moving the CTEP block party to May because it's a smaller event and participants are generally older.
3. The Fun Fair date would have to be determined to avoid conflicts with other events and other community concerns.
4. Brian Casey, Ken Wright, Heather Saunders and Betty Ann Flynn all expressed concerns and considerations supporting moving the Fun Fair to September.
5. Barbara Whitaker-Shimko started a discussion about a motion to Move the Fun Fair to September and the block party to May. Perri Evanson expressed a concern about moving the block party to May due to weather concerns and the effort involved may make May too soon.
6. Brian Casey recommended splitting the two events for consideration.
7. Heather Saunders made a motion, seconded by Betty Ann Flynn, to move the Fun Fair for 2022 to September. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Any action regarding the block party was tabled awaiting comments or direction from Joe Lesniak.
9. Kathryn started a discussion about weekly club meetings. With the COVID rates declining rapidly Kathryn recommended going back to some in-person club meetings. There is strong sentiment among members to resume in-person meetings.
10. Heather Saunders made a motion, seconded by Ken Wright, that weekly club meetings will now be a mixture of in-person and Zoom starting in March 2022. The motion was passed unanimously. The schedule will be determined by Hillard Pouncy's coordination with scheduled speakers.
11. Kathryn wanted the board to consider the timing of board meetings. No action was requested now, rather she asked board members to let her know their preferences including time and location.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Craig
Swarthmore Rotary Secretary 2021-22