

# Rotary Club of Mendocino

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Minutes of Meeting of June 18, 2020

Present: Jeff, Jerry, Dean, John P., John C., Jesse, Pete, Gary,, Matt, Toby, Harold, Brandt, Susan, Mike, Ray

Next meeting: June 25, a Board Meeting in the Park at 12:00

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## 1. Announcements

After the Pledge of Allegiance Matt introduced our Speaker of the Day, Sharon Davis, the CEO of the Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce who spoke on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on businesses on the coast. Her very well-informed and helpful presentation ranged from the cutbacks in staff she had had to make to keep the Chamber afloat, efforts being made by organizations such as Visit Mendocino, the Mendocino Community Foundation and the West Business Development Center to help businesses of all sizes, recent developments in tourist arrivals and Covid-19 testing, and adjustments being made by area businesses to develop the new business models necessary to survive the pandemic-related slowdown. We were shocked to learn that the Covid-19 testing facility previously located at the hospital had shut down due to a lack of business and that the only surviving facility in the County, which is in Ukiah, could face a similar situation. A spirited Q&A followed her talk.

Jeff mentioned that we would be starting a membership drive soon, asked all members to identify two or three acquaintances they would like to invite and suggested they send the names of such persons to Sean, copy to Toby and Jeff. He noted that Jesse had been doing a great job on the Mendocino Rotary website, and asked all members to have a look at it, identify areas where additional or new materials were needed, and send in photos or text.

## 2. Golf

There was a discussion of whether and when the annual golf fund-raiser could be held. Although it was confirmed that August 22 had been reserved for the event at the Little River golf club, there was a concern that it would have to be substantially changed to conform with present Covid-19 restrictions, and there was no assurance that the club would commit to the tournament given that other organizations putting on events for the public were cancelling. It was concluded that we would have to start planning as soon as possible, and work out problems such as how to avoid clusters of persons in excess of the present limit of 12, and how to get players around the course given that carts would only be allowed to carry one person. Jeff reported that Jody had said he would help out as he had in the past, with support from other club members. Ray suggested we check with Gary to see what he would like to do.

### **3. Park and Fourth of July**

The Park is looking good after Matt spent time cleaning it up and getting the grass mowed. We discussed how to handle the Fourth of July, with the general sentiment being that we should do something to commemorate the occasion, while maintaining a relatively low profile and not causing people to gather around. We decided to place a sign in the park that would welcome people to Mendocino, while urging them to wear a mask. Matt will get the sign prepared and place it in the Park asap.

For the 4th of July we will place a simple booth in the Park with flags and Rotary banners to offer simple masks to those without them as well as Rotary promotional materials. Jeff and others will get the booth organized and set up.

Carstens Zehn had sent a gift of \$840 plus eight no-contact thermometers. To recognize this generous contribution he would be provided a sponsor stone.

### **4. Covid-19 Mitigation and Masks**

Jeff reported that the response of club members and others to requests to provide funding for Covid-19 mitigation had been overwhelming. The John Porter/Toby Wade letters had generated funding of more than \$5,000 from non-members, and the President's Challenge including commitments to fund mask purchases had generated well over \$1,300. Altogether, it appeared we would have generated around \$10-12,000 for Covid-19 mitigation.

As decided last week, Jeff had purchased 100 Rotary masks with the motto "People of Action" from Russell-Hampton. These were on back order and could be expected if all goes well to arrive just before the Fourth of July. It was decided that 30 would be reserved for club members and spouses, 20 held in reserve and 50 allocated to members to give out as a way of promoting the club and saying thank you to those who had contributed or were in need. At this stage, 20 were reserved for John Porter, and 10 each for Toby, Dean and Matt.

After some discussion it was decided that Jeff should purchase another 100 Rotary masks at a cost of \$5.00 each and 300 ordinary masks at a cost of about \$1.00 each.

Covid-19 response projects/ideas were discussed. Jeff said that he had compiled a list of possible expenditures including masks, sanitizers and support for caregivers and it came so far to about \$10,000. Susan referenced her work with Briana Handy of Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt Caregivers and said she had received a request for support with a detailed list of needs from Briana. With over 200 people providing services they might be a good NGO partner for us. Susan volunteered to talk further with Briana to confirm their needs, and ensure that what the club provided would be useful. She would also reach out to other caregivers, clinics and homes with the aim of putting together a project or projects that would use the funding available. Amongst others, she would contact the Anderson Valley Medical Clinic. She will also look into

the possibility of supporting the Great Plates program now taking meals prepared at Flow restaurant to needy seniors in the area.

Once again it was noted that the schools were likely to require support for Covid-19 mitigation as and when they reopen. Jesse would reach out to the High School and Interact Club and explore ways we could help.

## **5. Club Meetings**

Our next meeting will be a Board meeting on June 25, in the Park. It will be Matt's last meeting as President, so it is hoped that all our members will reach out to him and thank him for his outstanding service. Having said this, the primary purpose of the meeting will be to confirm the proposed new Board. Jeff would after the current meeting circulate a list of proposed Board and committee assignments, and asked all members to let him know if there were any assignments made that did not reflect the member's expectation and also if there were any omissions.

Although only existing Board members can vote in this meeting, it is expected that all proposed new Board members and other persons who would like to observe or comment will attend the meeting.

The meeting will weather permitting be held in Rotary Park with social distancing. Pizza and water will be provided. If this reopening is a success then the club can consider having our subsequent lunch meetings in the same way.

6. The meeting closed at 1:10 with thanks to all.

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Prepared by Jeffry Stubbs

Checked by Mike Sandys

June 22, 2020