

## Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club

### February 17, 2021 Minutes

**In Attendance: By Zoom:** Ray Gadd, Todd Ash, Terri Hilderhoff, Linday McVicar, Shawn Bendig, Wally Horlacher, Matt Jarrard, Ted Propes, Andy Trinkle, Donna Drakes, Neill Ferrill, Michael O'Reilly, Betty Smith and Tony Lazzaro.

President Ray Gadd called the eighth board meeting of the year to order at 10:49 a.m. on February 17, 2021.

**Secretary Minutes:** Receiving no comments or corrections, Terri Hilderhoff motioned to approve the Board meeting minutes from January 21, 2021, as previously sent to the Board for their review. Michael O'Reilly seconded and the board unanimously approved. Terri also stated that an amendment to the Club's Best Practices was sent to the Board for review related to extending the time frame for Club Presidents to use their \$3,000 funding to 24 months due to Covid cancellation of events. Wally Horlacher had provided some revised language that Terri read for comment. It was suggested to remove the deadline date of 2022 and use the language as Wally suggested. Terri will make the revision and send out to the board for further review and vote at our next meeting.

**Grant Opportunities:** President Elect, Todd Ash announced that the deadline for our Club to apply for a District Grant for next year is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Todd has a charity out of Cummings, GA that supports entrepreneurship among youth. Each youth selected is given \$100 and they have one year to raise money to support their business endeavor. We have a \$1,500 Grant and there is opportunity to apply for additional District Grant money up to \$10,000. Todd also asked for other charity grant suggestions that would give our members an opportunity to participate in a project as well as providing money. Mike O'Reilly suggested the North Georgia Domestic Violence Center. He would call to see if they have a project we could get involved in. Matt Jarrard mentioned The Kyle Pease Foundation that the race supported with a Grant this year to provide wheelchairs to children with Cerebral Palsy to attend a camp at Camp Twin Lakes. The organization promotes success for young persons with disabilities by providing assistance to meet their individual needs through sports and competition. It's a unique opportunity and he will check to see if they have any projects that we could get involved in.

Donna Drakes asked if this year's grant had been closed out yet. We would not be able to apply for this coming year until that is closed out with documentation and final approval. Lindsay said she was not aware that she was responsible for that and her time is extremely limited right now due to new job responsibilities and she would need help in closing it. Ray will reach out to Gillian and get back to her. Shawn Bendig offered assistance if needed.

Along with our usual District Grant opportunities, the District has notified us that there is additional grant money available this year. Wally Horlacher would like to submit an application for LaAmistad for their English as a second language program. They will provide a grant writer for us. We can submit for more than one grant, but there has to be a separate application for each grant. He also suggested that we contact Rotary Clubs to see if they are working with a charity that we could partner with them on. Ray said that he could check with the Cobb Council and put the opportunity out there for them to consider.

**RFTK Update:** Betty Smith, Race Sponsorship Chair, stated that she and Jolene Northrop have met and developed goals and Jolene is developing a spreadsheet. Betty has decided that rather than email each sponsor, she will call them each personally, thank them for their sponsorship and tell them what their money did this year to help charities and the community. If no answer, she will leave a voice message and try to follow up later. We will continue to offer the Charles Heinz Memorial Sponsorship for the 2021 race. There are several items that need to be resolved this year, such as whether it will be an in person event and whether Lovett will allow us to finish in their parking lot. If we have to change the course, it requires recertification and that takes time because it opens up a number of issues that require numerous changes to the race.

**Announcements:** President Ray stated that our District Governor, Kirk Driskell, is returning to our Club on March 10<sup>th</sup> with representatives from his charity, Vision Warriors, that he founded. It is an organization that serves addiction recovery to individuals. We made a \$1,000 donation to his organization the last time he visited us, and Ray asked that we make another \$1,000 donation on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Ted Propes motioned that we make the donation, Todd Ash seconded and Board unanimously approved.

**Health Update:** President Ray said that the Medical Advisory Group will be meeting again soon to discuss when we can return to in person meetings. In the meantime, Ray asked if the Board thought it would be a good idea to reserve our new board Induction date of June 24<sup>th</sup> and the first Friday in December for a holiday party at the Chamber. Shawn Bendig said she already made a request inquiry and is waiting to hear back. Depending on where things are with Covid, we would still have the option of using someone's home for our holiday party if it is appropriate but the Chamber is a good back up plan. The board agreed.

Dr. Mike O'Reilly reported that the Covid cases are headed in the right direction. If we get under 15 per 100,000 in Cobb County, we can return to in person meetings. We are not sure yet if those over 65 that have been vaccinated can carry the virus and be asymptomatic. There is not enough data out there yet. We should know more in 6 months. Tony Lazzaro stated that he is 89 and he is not going to risk in person until we meet Herd immunity.

**Vinings Rotary Charity Fund:** Ted Propes reported that the Investment Advisory Board met and rebalanced the Charity Fund portfolio. We had a nice recovery after the draw down earlier in the year. The current balance is \$526,427. Since the market is poised for a pull back, the Advisory Board made a slight adjustment from a 70% equity position to a 60% equity position and 40% bonds. There is so much liquidity in the market and values are extremely stretched. The Feds are committed to keeping interest rates low for at least 2-3 years.

Ted is working on getting the Board the forms to sign related to their positions for Oversight of the Charity Fund.

**New Business:** President Ray stated that he is working on updating the Club Goals on the RI and District websites. He will also be sending out a list of items related to the Governor's Citation and would like us to review any items that are not checked and let him know if he missed anything. We have a great story to tell. Please also send him any pictures you have of projects we were involved in.

Lindsay McVicar, Ross Henderson and Ray are working on planning a fun college favorite team day. They are working on a date and will send out more information once the details are available.

PDG Ted Propes asked that we consider updating our club's Best Practices and Procedures on our donations for deceased members to be similar to what we did for Charles Heinz and Harry Porter and for any other long outstanding quality member. Our membership, community and families, especially our new members, will be able to see what our club does in reverence to our long standing members. Having this in our Best Practices document will be guidance for future boards going forward. Tony Lazzaro said that he agreed and feels we should take Ted's suggestion. Betty suggested that we consider a PHF contribution of \$500 plus points as a policy norm. We may not want to lock into a PHF contribution because the deceased family may have other wishes or a charity preference that we would want to honor. Matt Jarrard said that our club has over 27,000 points so we could easily do a PHF with 1,000 points plus a \$500 donation. Ted suggested that it doesn't have to be locked into either/or. Terri Hilderhoff will work on revisions to that section of our Best Policies and Procedures and send to the board for review and vote at the next meeting.

Mike O'Reilly was wondering if we could use the club's points to honor international people in poor countries working on Polio that never get recognition. Ted stated that there currently is no precedence for that and the Foundation does have some restrictions. Matt Jarrard will check on whether there are any stipulations or restrictions against doing that.

**International Projects:** Dr. Mike O'Reilly announced that another Typhoon has hit the Philippines. We had financially supported an earlier Typhoon back in November. This Typhoon was even worse. He wanted to know if we would be interested in making another donation of \$2,000 that would provide help for another four villages. As in the past, the funds will provide a hot meal at a center, a toiletry kit and for kids notebooks, pens, markers and crayons. \$750 will reach about 500 people and the money goes directly to a Rotary Club there. The board suggested that Mike make a motion for \$2,000. It was seconded by Donna Drakes and the board unanimously approved. Mike will get us more details and send the information to President Ray.

Prior to adjourning, Ted Propes stated that a future Presidents training session will be held Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 pm. An email with a Zoom link will be sent to those involved.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Hilderhoff  
Secretary