

**VISALIA ROTARY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FRANCIE'S MOST EXCELLENT MINUTES AND VIEW OF THE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. Community Room
500 North Santa Fe Avenue, Visalia, CA
May 27, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:02 am by President Gerry Schneider.

PRESENT: Gerry Schneider (President), Duane Scott (Executive Secretary/Treasurer), Shirle Reynolds (Executive Assistant), Francie Langley (Secretary), Dale Bruder (Immediate Past President), Donn Ritter (President Elect), Steve Chrisman, Susan Lucas, Gary Paden, Ryan Purkiss, Dru Quesnoy, Paul Sonier, Lee Goldstein (VRC), Wendy Anderson (VSR President Elect), and Bill Mathis (VBR). **ABSENT:** Eric Shannon (Executive Chairman), Larry Benevento (Treasurer), Peter Golombek, Phil Hornburg, Don Hutton, Gene Yunt, Jim Sullins (VCC), Russ Desch (VSR), Consuelo Maravilla (LRC), and Juan Hernandez (LRC).

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 22, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Duane Scott reported the total balance in all the accounts was \$4,744,894.54 at May 21, 2015 compared to \$4,700,586.64 at April 14, 2015. Duane also reported that as an accommodation for Foundation member clubs, the Foundation acts as 501(C)(3) recipient for charitable contributions given to the member clubs. On behalf of the Visalia Sunset Rotary Club, \$1,000 was received and donated to Shelter Box (affiliated with Rotary International) and \$500 was donated to The Sweet Nectar Society located in Tulare. **(Reminder)** The Foundation is now registered with Amazon Smile Foundation. Shop online at smile.amazon.com for eligible merchandise and .5% of the purchase will be donated to our Foundation; **Club Representatives** please remind your clubs.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A.) Respite House – Gerry Schneider reported the old house has been demolished. Many thanks to the Bryan Company for the \$11,400 donation of in-kind services. Fundraising Committee is organizing and developing a campaign to raise funds in support of construction of the Respite House. Announcements are planned for individual club presentations to increase awareness. It was moved by Don Ritter, seconded by Susan Lucas, to name the facility "The Rotary Respite House - Al's Place." APPROVED.
- B.) Scholarship Committee – Susan Lucas reported the presentations for the spring scholarship awards have been completed. Work is moving forward to encourage more public school vocational applications. July 1st will be another round of vocational applications. Thank you, Susan and your committee, for all your hard work and a wonderful job!
- C.) Website – Gerry Schneider said the website is a work in progress and is being updated with recent progress on the Respite House (Al's Place) and other news. Thanks to Doug Arnold, Gerry Schneider, and Dru Quesnoy for all their work on the website! Well done!
- D.) 2015 Grants - Steve Chrisman thanked the Grant Committee for their arduous work reviewing the 26 grant applications received. Of the seven grants awarded, four requests

are recommended to be fully funded. The Committee aims for “bricks and mortar” applications rather than requests for operational funds. \$100,000 for grants has been presented for approval by the Foundation. Dale Bruder suggested the website explain the parameters of grant awards (i.e. not operational, specific description of the purpose of the funds if received, local to the greater Visalia area, etc.) Duane Scott moved to approve \$100,000 in grants be awarded as follows: \$5,000 to Act for Women & Girls, \$6,500 to Associated Charities, \$25,000 to the Bethlehem Center, \$9,700 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias, \$20,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Tulare County, \$13,800 to the Tulare County Library Foundation, and \$20,000 to The Visalia Players. The motion was seconded by Ryan Purkiss and APPROVED. Discussion followed concerning the method of presenting the awards. Paul Sonier suggested the awards be presented at the organizations instead of at the Foundation member club meetings in an effort to extend awareness of the Foundation. After discussion it was decided to continue the practice of presenting the grant awards at the club meetings, and for the committee to consider making additional presentations at the board meetings of the respective recipients. The cumulative total of Grants awarded since inception in 1997 is now close to \$1,200,000. Thanks to Steve and the Committee for all their hard work. Special kudos to Steve for efficiently keeping the Committee on task. ☺

NEW BUSINESS:

- A.) Dick Watson Scholarship Fund – Duane Scott reported that Marilyn Watson and her family want to establish a college scholarship in memory of Dick Watson. The plan is for two scholarships a year of \$2,000 each for one male and one female high school student from Visalia Unified who will be going on to college to study science, technology, engineering, math (STEM.) The Foundation has a policy that it doesn't accept donor advised funds, so it would be the decision of the Foundation Board to use the funds in this way and would retain the ability to sweep the funds into the general fund if so decided in the future. Paul Sonier moved to accept a contribution from the Watson Family of \$110,000 and to use it for STEM scholarships as outlined above under the name of The Rotary Foundation Dick Watson Scholarship. The motion was seconded by Steve Chrisman and APPROVED.
- B.) Acknowledgement – President Gerry Schneider will be absent from our June meeting, making this meeting the last of his term. A special “Thank You!” to Gerry for his “Most Excellent” leadership this past year!

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 24, 2015, 7 a.m., Buckman-Mitchell, Inc. Community Room, 500 North Santa Fe Avenue, Visalia, CA.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:42 a.m.

Francie Langley
Secretary