

Rotary



**Rotary Club of Merced Sunrise &
Merced Sunrise Rotary Club Charity
Zone 26, District 5220, Area 8, Club 22798
PO Box 3262 Merced, California 95344
www.mercedsunriserotary.org**

Date: March 20, 2019
Time: 6:00PM
Location: Guinevere Court, Merced
Roll Call:

Officer	Title/Charge	Present	Absent
Mike Cuchna	President	X	
Pope Lawrence	President Elect	X	
Doug Forte	Vice President	X	
Mike Altomare	Past President	X	
Eric Moore	Secretary	X	
Robert McGhee	Treasurer	X	
Director			
Ruth Alejo	Community		X
Steve Hobbs	Vocational		X
VACANT	Club		X
Regina Cherf	International	X	
Butch Hughes	Youth		X
Chair			
Alan Arnold	Membership		X
Donald Barclay	Foundation		X
Nancy Edmiston/ Dwayne Young	Field of Honor		X X

Guests: Bob Casey, Past President, Stuart Rawling – by recording.

Reference: General Monthly Board Meeting

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Mike C.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** M/S/C, Robert/Doug/Aye.
- 3. Approval of February 13, 2019 Board Minutes:** M/S/C, Mike A/Pope/Aye.
- 4. Leadership Reports.**

A. **President.**

1. **Tree Project Update.** Mike C invited Bob to give an update on the Tree Project. Since 2018 Bob met with Area 8 clubs, City of Merced, Merced College and Merced Union High School District managers. Bob thinks the project requires \$10,000 to be meaningful and effective. Short-list locations include Merced, Atwater and Golden Valley high schools (33 trees each), Merced College Veterans Center and City parks. After discussion it seems the most likely solution is to partner with Merced Union HS District to plant 100 trees divided at served campuses. Irrigation may be a material cost and the Club is compelled to source its own trees. The Board voted to move a larger vote to the Club for an official \$10,000 budget to plant 100 native and drought tolerant trees with related infrastructure with the goal of building a “Rotary Grove” at every location. M/S/C, Mike A/Pope/Aye.

2. **Nuevo Latino Rotary Club of Winton.** Mike C invited Stuart, as Area Governor, to send the Board a recorded explanation of this club's financial situation and need. Stuart explained the subject club maintains a “huge debt” stemming from the organization's failed first fundraiser six years ago. The fundraiser organizer and club's first President (unknown party) purportedly paid-off the failed event's expenses personally. Some agreement was purportedly entered into between the prior President and the club to inculcate and pay-off this debt. That first President is no longer a member of the club. The club currently struggles to pay \$1,000 per year toward the remaining \$6,000 balance. The Board discussed and tabled the non-emergency matter based upon no official request from the club President and the possibility that the District might intercede with a comprehensive District-wide financial solution. The club's sustainability, vitality and dignity are important to the Board.

3. **Designating District Conference Delegates.** Mike C announced the need to appoint two voting members for the District Conference. Pope and Doug will both attend and vote of various measures on the agenda with other members present. M/S/C, Robert/Mike C/Aye.

4. **Rose Bowl Parade Support.** The Club historically sent support to support Rotary's participation in the annual event. An extra \$50 will be sent this year. Mike A requests some kind of accounting to understand the need expenses. M/S/C, Pope/Robert/Aye.

5. **Boys & Girls Club Grant Request.** Mike C brought to Board attention an email request from the Boys & Girls Club Chairperson for a \$1,500 to \$5,000 request for support. The Club already budgeted \$500 for this fiscal year. Doug, Gina and Mike A wanted to exactly know what the funds would be used for – which was described as too general. Mike A mentioned the Club also provides certain “bar support” *gratis* during their annual fundraiser. Pope suggested the grantee make a normal request through the

Club's grant website allowing more information to be captured for a formal vote. A formal response will be generated to the grantee. The Board firmly supports the grantee's mission and looks forward to entertaining any request supporting Merced-area youth.

6. **Grantees, Annual Granting and Fiduciary.** Mike C brought up the annual budget and grant complexities facing every President and associated Directors. Pope added the Club needs to balance sustainability, new community needs with supporting established institutions in order to remain engaged, but also mandating grantee accountability and effectiveness. Pope also stated that making grants too difficult to obtain was counter productive. Doug enunciated that grants are not onerous to apply for and that the Club and its Board are responsible for best practices to address community needs. The Club should do a better job compelling grantees to report their effectiveness to the Club before disbursing new monies. The Club should also allocate a formal discretionary fund for *ad hoc* granting. The Club does have monies set aside for contingencies, but not strictly dedicated for grants.

7. **Grant Request.** An honorary member approached Mike C about supporting their daughter for a house building project in Mexico. The Board discussed and invited the family to “pass the hat” during the next Club meeting to support this last minute request.

8. **Field of Honor Grant Requests.**
 - a. **US Navy Recruiting – Pocket Constitutions.** Tabled.

 - b. **Merced PD – SWAT Communications.** Eric noticed the Board the MPD finally responded with material information regarding this \$10,000 request to purchase 15 tactical communication headsets for SWAT operations. MPD also recently obtained \$400,000 in government grants to support local emergency communications, but purportedly that grant will not cover this equipment request. The MPD annual budget is estimated to be \$20 million. MPD SWAT obtains an extra \$20,000 budget each year to purchase extra equipment and ammunition for training. Having finally enough information, the Board approved receiving the request and open discussion. M/S/C, Pope/Mike A/Aye. Mike A questioned using Club funds to support government operations – that is what taxes/budgets are for. Supporting first responders (which includes SWAT units) is in the minds of every Board member. Pope made a salient observation about “where” does buying police equipment fit in Rotary's six Areas of Focus – Peace and Conflict Resolution? The amount of money was not in controversy. The Board discussed forming a committee of active and former law enforcement/government to obtain their insight to support/not support this grant. The Board needs to understand how to firmly address other similar requests in the future. Eric stated that he and the Club were also available to write grants and send a letter to the City

Manager/political authority to advocate for all first responders. The matter was tabled pending further input from an expert committee.

- c. **Staff and Faculty of Color Association of UC Merced – Graduation Caps and Gowns.** The \$500 request supports a larger indigent college students graduation cap and gown program. The matter was brought forward by a Shrimp Feed volunteer and UC employee submitted through the normal grant process. After a lively and thoughtful debate the request was approved. M/S/C, Eric/Gina/Mike C/Aye – Doug/Mike A/Nay - Pope Abstained.
9. **Field of Honor – The Wall that Heals.** Mike C brought to Dewayne, Pope and the Board a traveling wall program available as tribute for a future Field of Honor event. The general cost is \$10,000. Mike C thought it valuable to consider for future planning and local veterans as well.
 10. **District Awards.** Mike C completed most forms for timely submission.
- B. **Treasurer.** No Report.
- C. **Secretary.**
1. **New Member Nomination.** Eric nominated a new member under Family Membership. It is hoped the husband and wife team would make great additions to the Club. The Board approved. M/S/C, Eric/Doug/Aye.
 2. **Terminated Member.** Eric asked for guidance on terminating a member with an outstanding balance. The Board already received notice from the subject member and no vote was necessary. The amount due (estimated to be \$819) will be presented and a final demand issued for record-keeping.
- D. **Immediate Past President.**
1. **TGTSFIO.** Mike A is planning a party for the Club.
- E. **President Elect.**
1. **Shrimp Feed.** Pope had a few questions regarding tax filing for winnings and other reimbursements. About 56 tickets were not turned in so far. Estimated fundraising revenue is \$57,000. More to come.
- F. **Vice President.**
1. **Climate Change Feedback.** Doug, Mike A and Pope had some comments about the recent presentation and its political agenda. The struggle is how to bring information to the Club without being polarizing.
- G. **Club Service.**
1. **Appointment of New Director.** The Board voted to appoint Sam as Club Service Director for this and next fiscal year. M/S/C, Doug/Mike C/Aye.

H. **Youth Service.** No Report.

I. **Vocational Services.** No Report.

J. **International Service.**

1. **Human Tracking.** Doug stated he and Mike A and Mike C would be meeting with the California District 21 Assemblymember Adam Gray and Modesto-based NGO Without Permission in the coming weeks about the future of community action on this matter.

K. **Community Service.**

1. **Peace Pole Update.** Mike C stated in Ruth's absence the project is moving along well with Cristian getting important participation from students. April is slated to have an opening ceremony. In related news, Kurt is said to be in hospital. The Club will issue support.

Mike C closed the meeting.

5. **Next Meeting Date:** April 17, 2019

6. **Meeting adjourned:** 8:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

/Eric A. Moore

Secretary

April 14, 2019