

## Rotary Monday 23 October 2017

**Editorian:** Sandy Bliesener assisted by Bob O'Boyle

President Tim Kilmartin called the meeting to order and our pianist immediately led us through a respectful rendition of our National Anthem. Steve Charnley gave an appropriate invocation and included a reminder that this was the eve of World Polio Day. Chris Schram gave the Art News and then received his new member packet.

**Visiting Rotarians:** There were two, but the editors missed them – sorry about that!

**Guests of Rotarians:** Jeremy Sampsel was a guest of Thell Woods; Denny Stults and Christina Dorrett were guests of Deb Harris; Nick Boyd was a guest of Rob Peterson; Christopher Schram was a guest of Cindy Trout; Denise Crawford was a guest of Bob Tower; Josh Fitzgibbon was a guest of Dann Sytsma; Nancy Stoddard was a guest of Keith Mumma; Lisa Moore and Natalie Valentine were guests of Heather Isch; Mariette Lemieux, PP George Lennon, Sue Brockelbank, and Andrew Haan were guests of Chris Shook; Jim and Martha Hilboldt, Andy Dominianni, Wendy Podd, Kevin Ferrara, Nate Leo, Mike Flynn, Brandt Iden, Jay Eichstaedt, Emily Petz, Melissa Fish, and David Taylor were guests of Greg Taylor.

**Songs and a Polio Plus Pitch:** John Dillworth and Susan Sunday were primed to lead into a song but gave us a bonus minute as Susan introduced a new and fun sounding fundraising event in the form of a bike race - indoors or out - and is based on a successful similar event in Tucson, AZ. Susan indicated that there will be a Kalamazoo Rotary fundraiser for Polio Plus November 10-18. You can email, text or phone Susan for more information but the idea is to get pledges for per minute, per mile or lump sum for a ride that you would take on a stationary or road bike for Polio Plus.

Remember the Gates Foundation will match two for one for all donations through Rotary.

**Membership Minute:** Mary Zoeller and Dan Sytsma announced that next week is a Fifth Monday Fun Day, so come prepared for something new and different. Shout outs were given to Dan Hartlieb, Deb Chope-Hughes and Diane Schaeffer for their dedication and contributions to Rotary.

**Grant Presentation:** PP Bob Tower presented a check from Rotary Charities to Denise Crawford, President and CEO of the Family Health Health Center. She indicated that the Family Health Center serves as a safety net for community health; Medicaid and undocumented individuals. The Center serves some 40,000 people in the county from five locations. This donation will be used for two, age-specific "Back to School Bashes", which will include a back pack of school supplies, games, food and fun, with the price of admission being a health screening program and immunizations as needed.

Zaf Khaja announced that the Rotary 6360 Foundation annual dinner was a success. Now 25 years old, the Foundation was started by our own "Mr. Rotary", PP PDG Karl Sandelin, who had the vision for the District that it would become the success that it is today. The Foundation has now named the grants the *Karl Sandelin Grants* in his honor

**Program for the Day:** "Kalamazoo's Changing Skyline, The Exchange Takes Shape" by Rotarian and Developer Greg Tayler

Rotarian Chris Shook introduced Rotarian Greg Taylor as the lead developer and Greg in turn introduced several people in the audience and in the community including several Rotarians who were vital resources and supporters in getting the project off the ground and into the construction stage.

Greg credited PP George Lennon with a statement that he often uses; "Who you do business with is more important than the business you do". He also expressed gratitude for everyone who has made the project possible, and for putting up with the crane.

Greg indicated that the project took over seven years from the initial announcement to groundbreaking, and it should be ready for occupancy between April and June 2019.

Some stats Greg shared:

- 345,000 sq. feet of floor space
- 133 rental Apartments ( $\pm$ 200 new residents downtown) 600-1600 sq. feet/apt
- 65,400 sq. feet of new retail and office space
- 289 enclosed parking spaces (each floor capable of conversion to office or apartments)
- A total project cost of \$52.4 million dollars