Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting covered financial updates and organizational structure discussions, including review of funding sources, membership fees, and legal arrangements for managing funds through a donor-advised fund and foundation. The group discussed various service initiatives and programming, including speaker presentations, rotary projects, and potential volunteer opportunities with local charities and schools. The conversation ended with strategic planning discussions, including updates to corporate documents, plans for new member involvement, and exploration of new service opportunities such as blood drives and scholarship programs.

Next steps

- Steven: Lead the Program Committee as the new chair and coordinate upcoming speakers
- Program Committee: Reach out to Democratic candidates for an October meeting and also invite the Republican candidates to ensure equal opportunity for both sides. These could be two meetings.

- Program Committee: Consider inviting the Commissioner of Parking and Department of Public Works representatives to discuss parking issues and infrastructure issues within the City
- Program Committee: Follow up with Amy Bear Shields' suggestions for speakers as she was unable to attend this meeting
- Program Committee: Follow up with David Howard from Summit High School about potential civics initiatives with Summit High School. Coordinate with new Member SHS Principal Grimaldi
- Program Committee and Jim Fleischmann: Contact Judith about revitalizing the Interact Club
- Club members: Brainstorm and propose new service project ideas beyond writing checks
- Eugene: Prepare for "This Is My Life" presentation at Next Monday
- Steven: Give a "This Is My Life" short talk at an upcoming meeting
- Donna: Follow up with the speaker Anjali McCormick, CEO of the Y, from the last meeting to receive their membership application
- Cheryl: Reach out to various existing charities in Summit to explore volunteer opportunities for Rotary members
- Rotary members: Follow up with Connection CEO Chris Bonner regarding membership and his offer of a meeting room

- New Providence Rotary members: Reach out to ~~Phil~~ Joe Eberle and Mayor of New Providence Al Morgan to explore community involvement opportunities as well as membership prospects.
- Club Service: Consider reaching out to existing Summit charities for volunteer opportunities

Summary

Rotary Financial Updates and Funding

The meeting covered financial updates and organizational matters for the Rotary group. The treasurer reported two main financial sources: $13,150 in a checking account at Peapack Gladstone Bank and $99,219 in a foundation account at the Community Foundation of New Jersey. The group discussed their funding sources, including annual dues and fund raising efforts. Traditionally we have received approximately $1,500 in available grants from the Rotary Foundation. Scholarships are being managed through the foundation rather than directly paying students.

Rotary Financial Operations and Structure

The discussion focused on financial operations and legal structure, with ~~participants~~ Jim Fleischman explaining how ~~they~~ we manage funds through a donor-advised fund and foundation. They clarified that while donations to Rotary are not tax-deductible, business expenses remain deductible, and the organization has sufficient funds to support various initiatives including scholarships and service projects. The conversation also touched on the flexibility of their financial instruments and the ability to conduct various programs through their established structure.

Membership Updates and Pricing Review

The meeting focused on membership updates and processes. The group discussed current membership numbers, with 42 total members, and reviewed the annual dues structure of $495 with an optional $100 additional fee for The Rotary International Foundation. The discussion clarified that new members joining mid-year can be charged pro-rata based on the month they join, and the organization aims to maintain flexibility in membership pricing while not actively pursuing larger numbers of new members.

Speaker Programming and Rotary Initiatives

The meeting focused on two main topics: speaker programming and rotary projects. Steven was introduced as the new chairman of the speaker committee, which will continue hosting "This Is My Life" sessions where members share personal stories. The committee discussed securing speakers for upcoming months and established a backup plan for emergency situations. Regarding rotary projects, the group discussed potentially expanding beyond just writing checks to more hands-on activities, with suggestions to focus on affordable housing and public safety initiatives. Two inter-club luncheons were confirmed for December with the Summit High School and New Providence Music Departments.

Rotary Volunteer Opportunities Discussion

The group discussed potential volunteer opportunities for Rotary members, with one member proposing [who was that] to reach out to various existing charities in Summit to organize rotating

volunteer experiences. Another mentioned that similar volunteer initiatives had been done in the past, including activities at veterans' organizations and bingo events. The discussion highlighted the need to engage more ministers in Rotary activities and noted that Grace already had a robust volunteer network, suggesting they might not need additional help.

Local School Engagement Expansion Plan

The group discussed expanding their geographic reach and engagement with local schools, particularly focusing on civics education initiatives. They explored opportunities to collaborate with Summit High School and New Providence schools, including reaching out to David Howard, the social studies supervisor, and potentially reviving the Interact club program. The discussion highlighted a need to increase their presence in New Providence and establish better connections with local educators and administrators. All of these initiatives should be coordinated with our members from the schools – Supt Scott Hough from Summit and Lori Zirpoli of New Providence.

Updating Org List and Blood Drive

The group discussed obtaining and using the Chamber of Commerce organization list, which includes officers and key contacts from various local organizations, and its importance for reaching out to new groups. They also talked about the upcoming MLK Day blood drive, noting the need for more volunteer support and potential collaboration with the Interact Club to recruit volunteers and promote the event. The discussion touched on past blood drives at Brayton School and the possibility of scheduling more drives throughout the year. Francie Cho volunteered to assist with the blood drive efforts.

Expanding Service Opportunities and Reach

The meeting focused on identifying new service opportunities for the organization, with speakers emphasizing the need to move beyond routine activities and provide more meaningful services to recruit new members. The group discussed social media presence, and creating new Instagram and Facebook pages to better reach younger demographics.

They also explored the possibility of organizing a nonprofit mixer event, similar to one held 11 years ago at Central Presbyterian Church, which successfully involved nonprofits and provided value for both the organizations and attendees. The group discussed organizing events for nonprofit leaders, including a past event where presidents of organizations had 30-second opportunities to present.

They debated scholarship distribution, with a proposal to maintain $2,500 scholarships while increasing the number of awards rather than reducing the amount per scholarship. The discussion also touched on the administrative challenges of providing multi-year scholarships, as well as the possibility of expanding eligibility to include current college students in the local area.

The group discussed strategies for supporting scholarship recipients, including sending care packages during exams and maintaining regular touchpoints throughout the year. They agreed to consider keeping the current scholarship amounts rather than increasing them to $5,000 annually, as this would allow them to help more students if needed.

The discussion concluded with plans to update the strategic plan to be chaired by Melanie Cohn. Melanie has requested volunteers to help her revise the existing plan that was created before COVID-19.

Rotary Club Documentation and Planning

Secretary Steiner advised that updates to Rotary club required constitution and bylaws have been received. He reported changes to Rotary's corporate documents now include a requirement for

weekly meetings, though clarification is needed regarding whether the previous COVID-era allowance of two meetings per month still applies. Steiner will follow up with Rotary International and then refer any needed changes to the club's attorney members for review.

Steiner further advised that all required tax documents have been properly filed.

The meeting ended at approximately 10:20 am.

T