

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB of The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2021

Opening

A regular monthly meeting of the Hometown Civitan Club was called to order at 11:30 a.m. at Evans Prairie Country Club by President Mary Anderson who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 16 members, one guest Chickie Holtzman, and the speaker Nina MacMullen in attendance. All were welcomed by Mary who then passed the Happy Box with \$19 being collected.

Prior to the Call to Order, the Secretary took attendance and handed each person a club roster and a two-sided sheet listing current projects and project leaders with a list of all club-funded projects.

Moments of Inspiration

Tory Palivoda was out of town so Mary presented Tory's selection.

Old Business

The HCC Membership Directory for 2020-2021 has been completed and printed copies were made available to everyone in attendance.

A reminder of the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, March 10 at Lake Miona Regional Center. We are asked to be there at 6:30 p.m. for check-in and seating. The Villages Homeowners Advocates organization will present Hometown Civitan Club with their annual Volunteer Award. Laura McLaughlin reported that she has about 20 names for approved admission to the event. John Higbee will take pictures for our newsletter and website.

Beth Halstead reported that the collection box and display continues for Patriotic Service Dogs at Winn Dixie in Pinellas Plaza.

Shirlee Thaler reported that the New Members orientation is still tabled until a later date.

Newsletter items should be submitted to Editor Diane Seymour one week before the April 6th meeting. dseymour612@comcast.net

A reminder of our outing to the Sumter County Fair on Saturday, March 13. We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in Building A for the Livestock Auction – the club will purchase an animal (up to \$1500), the money going to the 4H/FFA youngster who raised it. We'll have a group picture. Masks are required in all fairgrounds buildings. Wear comfortable clothes for the weather and walking shoes for grass and gravel. The midway opens at noon and starting at 12:30 there are three free shows for entertainment. More info at www.sumterfair.net

Directions: US-301 south to SR-471 south (just before Sumterville). It is about 5 miles to #7620, out in the middle of nothing – you can't miss it!! (just north of Webster) Free parking.

New Business

Due to health issues, Pat Rusk has had to resign her position as club secretary. Judi Higbee is her official replacement and will be 'pinned' at the next meeting.

www.HOMETOWNCIVITANCLUB.com is our new website! It is up and running with many, many thanks to Judi's husband John Higbee, Webmaster. His web design is evidence of the tireless work and hours of fine tuning it has taken to complete this critical piece needed for our club. It is easily changed/added to and your input/suggestions are most welcome. Judi is the Website Administrator.

Mary offered a new Hometown fun fundraiser idea – Tote bag art. This would be an all-member participation project – we would purchase several of two or three different sized tote bags then paint them with individualized artwork. Sale options would be at a booth at the Farmers Market or town square, or in toto to another vendor for them to sell. Think about it – discussion to continue.

Speaker

President-Elect Beth Halstead introduced Nina MacMullen of the Sumter County Fair Association who was invited to talk to the club about our newest charity project. Nina is the only paid employee of the SCFA, everyone else is a volunteer. She explained the whole operation, especially how the Livestock Auction works and all of the different ways to donate to the 501(c)(3) groups such as 4-H (youth-serving organization promoting STEM curricula and agriculture) and FFA (Future Farmers of America). Nina is a former teacher who loves kids and agriculture/farming/country living and so was most enthusiastic about sharing her knowledge and encouraging those in the audience who have never been to a county fair, to come and experience what Sumter County is all about outside of The Villages. She was most patient answering our many questions and handed out brochures containing a free entry pass to anyone who wanted to go to the fair to support our special donation/purchase at the Livestock Auction on March 13. Laura will email more info.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m. by Mary who led us in the Civitan Creed and thanked us all for coming. The next club meeting will be April 6. The next BOD meeting will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 16, at Bob Evans Restaurant at Colony Plaza.

Minutes submitted by: Judi Higbee, Secretary

Approved by: Mary Anderson, President