BERKELEY ROTARY CLUB CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE: RCAC

MINUTES

December 3, 2020 5:30 PM ZOOM MEETING

Present: Ignacio Franco, Chris Ahoy, Ed Church, John Pardee, Tina Etcheverry, Anne Pardee, Steve Beckendorf, Mac Lingo and Katherine Wei

Meeting called to order at 5:34 PM by Chairman, Ignacio Franco

**\*= Action items**

**1.** Minutes of November 19, 2020, were approved as submitted.

**2.** **Rotary website update**

a. Ignacio updated the committee on the Climate Action tab on the <https://berkeleyrotary.org>

website (tab at top reads -Focus: Climate Action). With valuable input from Rotaractor, Karthik, Ignacio listed 5 areas of interest: **What is the Rotary Climate Action Committee**, **Climate Speaker Series**, **Links to Changing Information**, **Links to Articles and Videos** and **Join ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group**). The Speaker Series includes not only the presentation date but also a photo of the speaker and brief summary of the talks.

b. **Discussion**:

**\***It was decided to also include future speakers if they have committed to an upcoming date. (ie Denaya Shorter on January 20th)

Tina suggested using 5 thumbprints indicating areas of concern and including a temperature graph. John suggested including more links in the future. Chris suggested looking at his July opening Rotary talk when he launched Tikkum Olam.

**\***It was suggested the Freon project, the Meeting Minutes, and any implemented projects be included within the tab. Ignacio will continue to work on **What is RCAC**? **\***

He encouraged members to forward him any ideas or suggestions.

Steve said, in light of the stellar talk by Elizabeth Bagley, we should continue to focus on SOLUTIONS NOT PROBLEMS.

**3. Letter/call to Mark Roberts, contacting other clubs directly.**

a. John has forwarded to the Committee his letter to DG Mark Roberts in which he proposes Mark set up a district-wide “Committee for Supporting the Environment”. This would serve as a vehicle to not only to encourage and involve many other clubs in the District but also our Rotaractors. **\***As Mark has not yet responded, probably due to an over abundant schedule, it was decided that John and Chris do a follow-up a call.

b. **Discussion:** Ed reviewed the brief and unfortunately unsuccessful presentation to the BARSHEEP Presidents last month. Tina said it’s mandatory we find out who in each club we can contact about climate action – we need a name. Ed would like us to offer to be a speaker for the Clubs. We could offer a program that included how and why to join ESRAG, how to become involved in recycling of freon plus other ideas of what they can do as a Climate Action Committee. John emphasized involvement in RCAC could offer multiple opportunities for each club. John reiterated don’t forget to involve Rotaractors!

c. **Actions:**

1. \*Chris to email Grier – make sure he’s okay with us contacting the various BARSHEEP Presidents (obtainable from DACdb) and ask him for 5 minutes on the Agenda for the January 12th BARSHEEP Meeting. (2nd Tuesday of the month).

2. \*John to contact Yavuz to find out others in 5160 who have joined ESRAG

3. **\***Tina to help contact BARSHEEP Presidents, former trainers, & past presidents to find out a contact person for each club. We can offer collaboration on freon recycling and offer to be a speaker for their meeting.

5. \*Ed to work on creating a slide show for the presentation.

**4. Club Maxi grants proposal(s)**

a. Tina humbly admitted she advanced a proposal for rolling out Maxi grants before the Board had a chance to approve. However, it will be presented at the next Board meeting, December 16th. The concept will include a time line of presentation of abstracts (including program outline, justification, involvement of new/young members and promotion of Rotary) by February. Full grant proposal, budget and supporting partners by April. Funding by July 1st. She expects 4 (competitive) powerful projects – somehow, someway we will figure out a way to finance the one that seems the most feasible. \*Tina is encouraging us to come up with a different name rather than “Maxi Grants”.

b. One of the suggestions for a Maxi Grant from the committee was for electrical vehicle recharging stations for public use and multifamily dwellings. Ed emailed Timothy Lipman, Co-Director, Transportation Sustainability Research Center at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Ed sent us this response: After my email correspondence with Tim Lipman, he sent this announcement to me; “BAAQMD is putting money into public EV charging stations.” <https://www.baaqmd.gov/funding-and-incentives/businesses-and-fleets/charge> (Good job, Ed!)

**5. Letter to Berkeleyside**

a. tabled until next meeting (Louis and Anne)

**6. Other business:**

a. Freon recycle update: Oliver storage moved us across to a MUCH LARGER storage facility. Ed has sent the collected freon and is waiting instructions for further collection. Tina had difficulty in the financial transactions due to practice of TradeWater’s funds transfer. All is solid and balanced now and will clarify and tighten practices before next transaction.

b. John and Anne attended an informative talk from Max Aufhammer, Prof. of International Sustainable Development at Berkeley, on the Biden Administration and what steps it can and should be taking to address climate change:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/ca/u/0/#inbox/WhctKJWJFZnfLxnlRrrpzGsbSCTdTFDMkFJQftvDrgwjfDFzszJGjmrvwhpjcGqFDVzCZjB?projector=1>

c. **\***Ignacio to send climate videos to Chris.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 17, 2020. 5:30. ZOOM invitation and Agenda to be sent by Chairman Ignacio Franco.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Pardee

Berkeley Rotary Climate Action Committee