

RIVER FALLS ROTARY CLUB
“TIDINGS-ETTE”
February 9, 2010

(The following notes were taken by a substitute. If they look suspiciously similar to governmental meeting minutes... my apologies. It's what I know and what I do!)

The February 9 meeting was called to order by President Diane Odeen. Randy Cudd provided devotions. Club members recited the pledge, the 4-Way Test and the Club Motto.

Harold Henson was our guest. He came for the sustainable art program (which had been postponed) but stayed for the fun.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Board meeting Thursday, 7:00 a.m. There is a lot to cover, so be on time and ready to work!
- The Rotaract “Keys to Success” dinner is February 18. Contact a Rotaract member for tickets.
- The St. Paul Centennial lunch is February 19.
- You can reportedly follow the GSE team at www.2010gseteam.blogspot.com, however this technologically challenged reporter was not able to locate the blog. HOMEWORK: If you know the correct blogspot address, share it again next week.
- Rotary will have two cultural changes to Nicaragua, May 6-16 and October 16-24.

HAPPY BUCKS:

Here are the highlights –

Guest, daylight, and missed bucks were popular. A couple of handshake bucks (good job, Harold) and few 20/10 challenges were shared, too. And who could help but throw one or two in for the Super Bowl and upcoming holidays?

Some of the memorable ones –

A “jogging to Rotary and feeling my age buck” (Steve L)

A “quiet in woods walking my dog buck” (Tom G)

A “Rodney Dangerfield ring tone buck” (Garret)

A “UWRF dance lesson buck” (Steve S.)

A “Tim Ericson Super Bowl Pin Design Buck” (several). If you missed this one, you might want to talk with Dean and Tom W! It involved the color purple...

PRESENTATION:

Nelson French proved his ability to shine on a moment's notice. The group was privileged to preview the World Premier of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust presentation called “Heart of the Kinni.” Grant funds required KRLT to find non-traditional ways to reach the community. Everyone who saw this presentation would likely agree that presentation is touching, beautiful and very representative of the Kinnickinnic area. Incredible photography coupled with a soundtrack and narration by local artists contributed to a very professional and memorable video.

KRLT was founded in 1993. The trust provides options for landowners who want to preserve land that impacts the Kinni by protecting against development. Every transaction is voluntary, willing, and unique. The presentation interviews four donors.

Nelson noted that there are currently 2300 acres in watershed and 8 miles of protected shoreline. Three ways to preserve property are:

1. Fee Title – the trust buys the whole property. This can then be preserve or transfer to a conservation entity, such as the DNR.
2. Purchase interest – which is a conservation easement and the property owner retains the title and the trust buys off the development rights. In this case, the property can be a working agricultural easement.
3. Homestead easement.

The KRLT trust capital campaign is in progress. With grants and other donations, the trust is off to a good start, but \$1.4-1.9 million is still need to reach the goal of \$5.2-\$6.2 million by June 30. Along with financial donations, the KRLT encourages participation in River Clean up. Mark your calendars for May 27, 2010 to participate this spring!

Dale Jorgenson (who is KRLT board member) echoed Nelson's encouragement for financial participation in preserving the Kinnickinnic River. A community financial commitment of \$100,000 would be a great level to achieve.

Two questions were asked:

Q: "What is the status of un-damming the river and would it make a difference?"

A: Of course having the river maintain its natural flow is a desired alternative. However, the social and economic impact also needs to be considered. The lakes that are a result of the damming have a lot of "goop" at the bottom that would need to be dealt with.

Q: "If the Kinni is already a Class 1 trout stream, why do we need to do more?"

A: The Kinni is part of a bigger system in the St. Croix River Basin, which still needs work on phosphorous. The Kinnickinnic River, Willow River and Apple River all need to reduce nutrient runoff from landscaping to comply with the Clean Water Act. There is also a need to be proactive in protecting the Kinni as it currently exists.

If you have questions or want more information about KRLT, be sure to contact Nelson.

As an editorial post script. - Congratulations to the KRLT on receiving the Non-Profit Organization of the Year award at the Chamber of Commerce Choscars!

REMINDER FOR FEBRUARY 16 MEETING:

Setup/Greeters: Brian McQuade and Terry McKay

Devotions: Carrie Fisher

Program: Tim Ericson:

"Top Ten Things You Wouldn't Expect to Find in the Archives"