



Waunakee Rotary Club

April 8, 2010
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The Waunakee DeForest Ice Rink board is just a few hundred thousand dollars shy of funding an ice rink for the two communities.

At the April 8 Waunakee Rotary Club meeting, WDIR members Todd Scheffler and Brian Smith updated the club on the fund-raising progress and made one last appeal.

"We need to have ice this fall in order to sign up users," Todd told the club. Yet in order to have ice this fall, the board must have the funding secured soon, so that construction can begin in the next few weeks, he added. Two of the four user groups are looking to sign a lease, and without them, the rink is not feasible.

Two weeks prior to the April 1 meeting, the ice rink board was \$500,000 short of the \$3.5 million needed to build the arena. Since then, members have made a final push, taking out full-page ads in the local newspapers and making a television appearance.

In the seven to 10 days that followed, the board raised an additional \$200,000 and is still seeing contributions come in, Todd said. He noted that the board has a strong business plan in place and will not burden the facility with debt.

Also, the village has contributed \$1 million for the facility, including \$500,000 in a no interest loan and another \$500,000 in in-kind work. But there are strings attached, Todd said, noting that village officials do not want a large debt associated with the facility that the taxpayers could inherit if it is not successful.

Already, businesses and individuals in Waunakee with no vested interest in the rink have contributed about \$300,000, Todd said, and the user groups have donated \$1.4 million. That's an average of \$7,000 for

each of the 170 to 180 hockey families in the Waunakee and DeForest communities.

Brian Smith, Waunakee school district activities director, noted that the planning process began about six years ago. The youth hockey group first funded a feasibility study before the WDIR board formed.

From a high school perspective, a community rink will save money in travel expenses for the boys' hockey team, which has its home ice in Middleton, Brian said. That team will also see more fans attend home games with a rink close by. The co-op girls' team would also have a place to play consistently, he added.

Physical education classes could be held at the rink, and it would provide a place for kids to skate on weekends. Brian said he and other parents frequently transport their kids to and from Middleton to skate.

"We're that close to finishing this off, putting a shovel in the ground, and having this in our own business park," Brian said.

The club's committees also reported to the board as follows:

- Linda Olson said book collection and school supply projects are planned for the Philippines and Honduras. Next week, she and Bill Erickson will discuss their trip to Guatemala.

- New member Kim Kalepp is doing an incredible job as fund-raising committee chair, having already received a \$2,093.95 donation from Whitetails Unlimited.

- Bill Tygum said the fellowship committee is looking into booking a cruise on the Betty Lou in May.

- John Cullen said the speakers committee has programs scheduled through mid June.

- Pat Durden of membership said the club could use more farmers as members, being in the dairy state

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DIRECTORS

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Calendar of Events:

- April 24, District Assembly in Wisconsin Dells.
- May 1, Rotary Work Day
- May 17, Jachin Jordan Golf Outing at Bishop's Bay
- May 21, District Conference in LaCrosse.

and all.

- Paul Gilbertson, the new chair of the community service committee, reminded the club of the May 1 clean-up day.

In other news:

- Gary Epping said the SuperRaffle event generated \$1,440.

- Harriet Statz said Bird is on his way to Oklahoma with the Schaaf family and will move into his next host home when he returns.

Guests: Brian Smith and Todd Scheffler, WDIR.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: April 8, Pat Durden; April 15, Susan Vergeront; April 22, Leonard Allen;

Programs: April 8, Linda Olson and Bill Erickson, Guatemala well project; April 15, Don Mayo, Rotary Youth Exchange; April 22, Dan Bowles, Walking the Roman Wall; April 29, Al Arnold, Dean Foundation Reading Clinic.

Greeters: April 8, Tom Reis and Ellen Schaaf; April 15, Jim Schmitz and Steve Schlaver; April 22, Gene Smith and Jim Starling.