



The Spoke

June 29, 2016

Rotary



The City Manager's Report



Carl Schwing

Brad Piotrowski introduced our speaker, Carl Schwing, City Manager of Bonita Springs. Carl came here in 2011 after spending 10 years at various city administrative jobs in Cape Coral.

He has been designated a Credentialed Manager by the ICMA (International City Managers Association). He received the ICMA strategic leadership award for work in “lean government” in 2009 and in 2013 was credited as one of the individuals instrumental in getting Hertz Corp to move its headquarters from New Jersey to SWFL.

Carl noted that the current Downtown Revitalization was tough on local businesses. “We are hoping, that on the back end, it will be a wonderful thing for them.”

The vision is for a “village” of mixed commercial and residential, not too tall multi-story buildings, with open views of the Imperial River.

The role of the city is to provide a natural incentive for the private sector to come and invest in downtown. The incentives are by installing central drainage allowing more of the land to be used for building, providing more on-street parking, burying utility lines, and opening up the river views.



The original project was from Oak Creek to the Imperial and was expanded to the North to Terry St.

The city has bought a couple of properties in the area as well as the “Bamboo” in order to have more control of what happens in the downtown area. The development process will likely be the city will issue Request for Proposal, evaluate the proposals, and negotiate contracts.

The Downtown project is scheduled to complete in September 2017. This involves about \$40 million of investment, \$5 million by BSU, County Library \$14 million, and \$18+ by the city.

Now the private sector recognizes the city’s commitment and appears willing to get involved. A 200 unit apartment complex with mixed use commercial has been proposed for Oak Creek and Old 41.

Shangri-La is discussing opening up more and becoming more a part of the community. And there is a

new Downtown Alliance, a group of businessmen joined together to tell the city what they think is good and not so good.

Other projects discussed included a visioning project to beautify Bonita Beach Rd from “out East” to the beach and to make it more bicycle and pedestrian friendly; Investigation of creating reliever roads to reduce the load on the US41 Bonita Beach Road intersection; and installing a roundabout at Old 41 and Bonita Beach Rd.

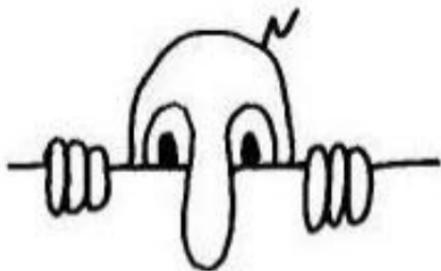
Carl told us the owner of the Imperial Site for the new high school has signed an extension agreement. The city is recommending approval of this site, “We think this one makes the most sense.” He noted that none of the sites is perfect. However, the Lee County School Board wants to make it a flagship high school.

Last week Meeting

Next President Steve Slachta was at the controls as President Tom Briers was away. Week 52! Steve operates to a different drummer so the first item on the program was Joys and Concerns.



Roger Brunswick popped up with his “hometown” shirt to celebrate Cleveland’s first sports title in over 50 years.



Treasurer Bob Lombardo extolled the wonderful odds for the 50/50; only 18 cards remaining including two \$100 aces and the Joker. (Now 17 cards, pot is \$1,353.)

Wayne Hemstead presented the invocation; George Cohan led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Claudie Delgado-Feeney recited the Four Way Test.

Ron Anderson returned from the North to lead us in singing Amazing Grace. Ron announced Wayne Hemstead will be doing the song picking after next week. Ron said, “I’ve done this for 5 years and consider it a privilege. It’s been really rewarding to hear this group sing. I really believe we need some new blood with different ideas. I tried to introduce new songs from time to time with mixed results. Some worked and some were just fodder for George.” [Ron, thanks for your dedication to this club tradition. Ed.]

Marjorie Rubacky, long time chair of the Program Committee, rose to recognize the monthly program chairs who provided a very interesting variety of speakers this year.

The Sunset Cruise was postponed because of weather. Adam Botana will announce an alternate date Real Soon Now.



NP Steve announced the District is looking for hosts for two, 16 year old exchange students, one from Korea and one from Thailand. Please contact DG Cyndi Doragh if you are interested.



Sergeant-at-Arms George Cohan was back in form after last week's warmup. He told us he has two dogs. One is named 'Berta after the U of FL female alligator mascot, Alberta. The other, believe it or not, is named Tebo.

He belittled Cleveland's accomplishments when compared to the Yankees. However, George slipped a little when he didn't know who the Indians beat in the 1948 World Series.

Guest Jeff Lytle, under interrogation, told us of his MLB hat collection. When he moved, he donated more than 200 hats to the Special Olympics.



George checked for pins. Mark McCaw got fined \$10 for no pin and late delivery of The Spoke.



The Rotary Clock will be unveiled in a ceremony July 4th at 8:30 am, before the parade. The cost of the clock, \$30,000, was shared by our club, the Noon Club and the city. Congratulations to Bob Lombardo for shepherding this project to completion.

Donna Marcotte, The Colony Golf & Country Club



Donna Marcotte stepped forward to present her Vocational Service Moment. She is the Membership Director at The Colony Golf & Country Club where she has been working for 13 years. Right now her working life is complicated by the updating project at the club.

Donna started in the hotel business in Clearwater Beach and joined WCI Communities 17 years ago. When she started in the private club business her friends warned her that the best thing is, "You see the same people every day", and the worst thing is, "You see the same people every day."

Donna has been married to "Big Poopy Marcotte" for 24 years. She says, "I feel this is my greatest accomplishment. It's one of the things I am most proud of." They love to travel and have visited 31 different countries. They have no kids but have shared life with 6 dogs and raised a litter of 5

puppies. Currently they have 2 Cocker Spaniels.

Donna has been an active volunteer as co-chair of the Bonita-Estero Relay for Life, member of the Estero and Bonita Springs Chambers, and Board of Realtors member. She is currently an officer of the Estero Community Improvement Foundation.

These organizations do fund raising for organizations she is passionate about, Bonita Assistance Office, Wonder Garden, and the YMCA.

She says, “What attracted me to Rotary was the concept of truth, fairness, goodwill, friendship, and ‘beneficial’ to all. I’d like to continue to live my life in service to others and help people to achieve and succeed.”

This Week:

Mike Kiel

Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch

Rex Sims roundabouted up the ♠ to win \$5



The 50/50 is \$1,353

Birthdays

Jim Dow (rr) June 30
Rick Barber July 2
Tom Burgess July 2
Anthony Scrocco July 2
Claudie July 4

Rotary Sings:

The National Anthem

Oh say, can you see,
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
Thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd,

Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night
That our flag was still there.

Oh say, does that Star-spangled Banner Yet wave,
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?

This Morning's Invocation

As we commemorate the courageous Declaration of Independence from which we have benefited, we acknowledge that real freedom is a fundamental spiritual gift to us.

Keep us from interpreting liberty as unrestrained freedom to be irresponsible. Help us to understand and accept responsibility associated with chosen behavior.

Make us zealous to preserve our heritage and our traditions, to value highly the moral and spiritual foundations of our nation, of Rotary International, and our club.

Help us to use our freedom to do good for others rather than for personal gain.

We are grateful for the freedom to assemble without fear, to pursue honorable vocations without hindrances, and to be involved in whatever we choose for our families and ourselves.

Bless the gifts of food and fellowship today, that through both we might be sustained in service.
Amen.



President	Thomas B. Briers
President-Elect	Steven Slachta
Secretary	Jon McLeod
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III

Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133. You can reach **The Spoke** through its email BonitaSpoke@aol.com.
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