

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB
The Villages, Florida
Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2021

Opening: A regular meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at Bob Evans Farm Restaurant, Colony Plaza by President Mary Anderson who welcomed everyone then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civitan Creed. There were 20 members in attendance to hear our special **speakers:** Wildwood Mayor Ed Wolf and City Manager Jason McHugh.

The main issues they focused on were: the history of Wildwood, the new development plan for the historic downtown, need of affordable housing for workers, their newly accredited police department and difficulty dealing with the rising crime rate, the expanding city limits and working with The Villages and Sumter County.

After the speakers left, Mary passed the Happy Box with \$16 being collected. Tory Palivoda had to leave so new member Sue Ann Baker read her inspirational reading as breakfast was being served.

Old Business: National Awards: Hometown received Honorable Mention for the Shropshire Award and Second Place for Outstanding Community Service Project (Adopt-A-Precinct). Mary has a framed document and we will get the award 'prizes' at the Convention in July.

We had two tables of eight members and spouses at the **Wildwood Booster Club's Banquet and Ring Ceremony** for the Wildwood Boys Basketball Team. We were all glad we went as part of their fan club. Coach Hawkins apologized afterwards for neglecting to acknowledge the club's presence and support of the team.

Junior Club Sponsorship: Betty Rohan and Laura McLaughlin have talked with Coach Hawkins' wife who will be the liaison in working with Wildwood Middle/High School over the summer to lay the groundwork for establishing a Junior Civitan Club there. Sharlene Floam is also on their team.

New Members: The New Member Orientation meeting provided information from established members and a Civitan video to all who had not previously attended. Those who joined in 2020 - Sharlene Floam, Judi Higbee, Chickie Holtzman and Diane Seymour – were joined by two brand new members – Sue Ann Baker and Ilene Hyams. Each spoke about themselves and were welcomed into the club with a pin and info folder. A delicious brunch shared in Shirlee Thaler's lovely home made it a very special morning for all seventeen attendees.

New Business: Thanks to Laura McLaughlin who completed the paperwork and John Higbee who filed the **Articles of Incorporation** information electronically, the club is now incorporated and legally known as Hometown Civitan Club, Inc.

Speaker placement in the meeting program was discussed by the Board and it was decided that if the speaker(s) was not going to join the club, as with today's speakers, they would go first before

the club meeting; if they, for instance, were from a charity and might become a member, then they would speak at the end of the meeting so as to learn more of what we are about.

Fundraising: We have a committee! Betty Rohan has volunteered to chair this committee that has several enthusiastic participants: Doris Field, Ilene Hyams and Tory Palivoda will work where needed. Karen Schwering offered to organize a Bunco fundraiser and Vicki Findley will organize a garage sale. Dates and locations to be determined. We are back in action!!

Projects and Committee Reports:

Projects – Arlene Kaplan reported that Pace was just getting back on schedule and she will contact them to arrange a visit. Arlene is also going to contact Center Hill Children's Mission to arrange a visit and verify their needs. Penny Badolato will contact Ruth House and arrange a visit. A couple of members have donations of men's clothing and items that Arlene will make sure get to House of Hope. Several members gave their bags of collected pull-tabs to Karen Chlebek for Ronald McDonald House. Beth Halstead reported that she has taken down the display and collection box for Your Humane Society of SC as Winn Dixie is undergoing renovations.

Social – Lana Rosenberg said we'll have a pool party in June and lunch at Eaton's Beach in July.

Newsletter – Diane Seymour said her deadline for articles and pictures for the July issue is June 23.

Website – Judi Higbee reported that many new additions have been made including three videos with music, bios and pictures of every Board member, a complete history of the club page with pictures, and every event is posted with pictures and text. www.hometowncivitanclub.com

Next Club Meeting Speaker: Beth has arranged for a representative from Your Humane Society of Sumter County to speak. She will present them with a check for \$500 that was collected in the donation box at Winn Dixie over the past couple of months. She is requesting everyone to also bring donations of pet/dog/cat items to the meeting for the facility.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next club meeting will be July 6. The next BOD meeting will be June 15.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary.

Attendees: Sue Ann Baker, Mary Anderson, Penny Badolato, Karen Chlebek, Doris Field, Vicki Findley, Sharlene Floam, Karen Goodman, Claire Gore, Beth Halstead, Judi Higbee, Arlene Kaplan, Laura McLaughlin, Tory Palivoda, Betty Rohan, Lana Rosenberg, Ilene Hyams, Karen Schwering, Diane Seymour, Shirlee Thaler. Tory will reach out to some of the absentees.