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**Hanover Rotary Club Minutes**

**7/21/21 Weekly Meeting**

**Blessing:**

**Pledge:**

**Attending Members:** Penny, Michelle, Mike and Rachel Swinford, Mike Smith, David Creasy, Ken, Dan, Janice, David, Glenn, Holly

**Honorary Rotarian:**

**Visiting Rotarians:**

**Guests:** Brian Trader, president and CEO of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Penny called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Report**: Mike gave the sergeant-at-arms report and a joke. 12 loyal Rotarians are present and our speaker

**Happy Bucks:**

Holly was happy for Leah’s birthday and lunch with Bruce today

Dan was happy for his youngest daughter graduating from University of South Carolina and her new job she starts on Monday

Rachel was happy to welcome our guest tonight

Michelle was happy to be back safe from vacation in South Africa

**Rotary Minute:**

Ken gave a Rotary Minute. The Rotary President Shekhar Mehta from India and was joined by DG Debbie for training as she shared last week. Ken shared the Rotary theme for 2021-22 is “Serve to Change Lives” and quoted Shekhar from an article in the July Rotarian Magazine

**Announcements:**

Thank you notes from the YMCA for supporting them and for the annual gift to the Atlee and Patrick Henry from the Hanover Rotary Club Foundation. Our club has been supporting the YMCA for more than 30 years.

Penny shared an article in the Mechanicsville Local about last weeks speaker. This builds on our goal of more publicity for the club

Next week – 7/28 - Stephen Beer, district chair for Rotary Foundation Innsbrook Rotary Club

8/4 - Judy Cochrell., PDG – Speaking about Rotary Leadership Institute

8/11 - Lynn Pully Payne from Hanover Humane Society

District Conference – Oct 15-17 at Marriott Downtown Richmond

District Baseball Game – August 1st – Let Brenda/Penny know if you want to attend – tickets can be charged to your account. Gates open at 4 for 5pm game

**Program:**

Rachel introduced our speaker, Brian Trader, president and CEO of Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens – previously from the Delaware Botanic Gardens and Longwood Gardens.

He started with the Garden about 6 months ago.

The Garden was incorporated in 1984 – Their mission is to connect people with plants to improve communities. Even though the garden is located in Henrico, the land is mostly owned by the City of Richmond. 80 acres, only 50 acres are open to the public. The Garden has a satellite campus in Goochland. It has an extensive collection of Rhododendrons and Azaleas, tended to by the property owners.

The Garden was severely impacted by COVID during the four-month closure.

2019 was the most visited year in the Garden’s history with 462,178 guests and 23,817 members and 13,641 member households. 15,541 students attended in 2019. In 2020 the Garden created 9 virtual field trips. About 90% of the Annual Campaign came from members in 2020.

Adult and Children’s Education, as well as family and youth programs are particular strong points of the Garden

There are 650 volunteers that contributed volunteer hours equivalent to 27 full time staff!

They have a Kroger Community Garden that partners with Feed More

The current program is the Healing Power of Nature, through October 31, 2021

Continuing Wednesdays Alfresco through August 25 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Flowers after 5 every Thursday through September, and Fidos after 5 on certain days

Garden is expanding! Plans are to add 11.5 additional acres and double the size of the Conservatory, breaking ground in 2023.

After Penny led the Club in the 4-Way test, she adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Michelle Nelms