

# Minutes of the RCRV Board of Directors Meeting 3/19/2008

These minutes were approved at the board meeting 4/16/2008.

Board chairman Jim Green determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

Twenty-three members were present.

John McDonough moved approval of the minutes from the March 20th board meeting. Rod Thorpe seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

## Introductory Remarks

John Swanson has been appointed full time director at the Science Station.

## Program: Observatory, Vern Jackson

Vern Jackson reviewed progress made in establishing the expanded facilities for the Easter Iowa Observatory and Learning Center during the past few months. A good description of the facility and its objectives can be seen at the website at <http://www.cedar-astronomers.org/eiolic.htm>. Formal opening of the new facility is planned in early may, with the grand opening ceremony May 10.

This project began with the gift a 24 in research grade Boller and Chivens telescope to the Cedar Amateur Astronomers from the University of Iowa. To make use of its capabilities a new 4600 sq. ft. facility was designed and built. It consists of two observatory domes, a classroom, multi-purpose presentation room, computer control room, library, storage, and restrooms. It also includes a "Robotic" Meade telescope with a 16-inch mirror designed for remote control observing. The completed facility will be owned by Linn County. Upkeep and maintenance responsibility has been assumed by the county. The standard Linn Count event fee \$2.00 per person will be assessed for private meetings. Public events are free.

Funding to build the facility has come from contributions individuals and from corporations, including Rockwell Collins, CRST, and many others. Planning began 2004, led by Ed Sauter, with a planning group of six people, including four from Rockwell Collins.

The certificate of occupancy was issued last fall. Five public events have taken place so far. One event reached the buildings capacity, with a crowd of 108.

Vern showed pictures taken during facility construction, and showed pictures of the sun taken through the Cedar Amateur Astronomer's solar telescope.

Q/A any area RCRV can help? Thanks to RCRV members for past help. There are pictures to frame now. There will be a need for program leadership and crowd management at future events.

## Committee Reports

### Community Projects, John McDonough:

- Grant Wood AEA wrote a very nice article on RCRV in their quarterly newsletter, the Linker. It describes what we are all about in the community concerning our recent past. Well written.
- We continue to provide support for the Rockwell Collins K-12 program at local schools. We are providing mentors, tutors, Lego program in several of the local schools, and various other activities.
- Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center (in Palisades Park) activities are on going. Currently they are working on their speak system so that each attendee can easily hear announcements and programs at the center. They have scheduled a grand opening of the new facility for May 10, from 1:30 til 4:30. The public is invited.
- Eight RCRV members have been providing lots of SHIIP counseling to Rockwell Retirees as well as to seniors for our locale.

## **Minutes of the RCRV Board of Directors Meeting 3/19/2008**

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- The Kiwanis shoe program and their pancake Breakfast went well. The breakfast grossed over \$10,000 with breakfast being provided to over 900 attendees. Several RCRV members also belong to the Kiwanis and provided support.
- Ann Griffin of GWAEA informed us that she is getting a \$4,000 grant from their agency for purchase of adaptive devices over the next several of years.
- We are starting to provide assistance to the Science Station again with several folks repairing displays for them.
- Two dress rehearsals are being offered to RCRV retirees free of charge. They are:
  - The Music Man at Jefferson on 5/7/08 starting at 1:00 PM.
  - Cinderella at Kennedy on 4/23/08 starting at 1:30.

Let the community relations office at 558-2124 know if you would like to attend. Doors will be locked at the starting times and no one will be admitted from that point on.

- Jack Hotchkiss continues to improve. He is now at the Hiawatha Care Center located just off Boyson Road near our office. He would like to see visitors.
- We have been asked to park behind our office by the Hiawatha Police Department as trucks are having problems driving down N Compton drive with cars on both sides of the street. It is closer for folks to park in the rear than it is to park on the street as well.

If you can dream it, we can do it.

### **Communications, Chuck Wehage:**

Newsletter is out now. Thanks to those who helped with assembly, printing, and distribution.

### **Data Base, Jim Klein:**

Jim is on vacation. Bill Ellis is gathering materials for the next update.

### **Recruiting and Retention, Pete Jurgens:**

No report.

## **Partner Agency Reports**

### **Aging Services, Carol Luth:**

The vision management facility at Aging Services will be relocating April 15, to a new location next to the Social Security office. Hours of operation will be expanded, and an open house will introduce clients to the new location.

Aging Services is helping Linn County Emergency Management update their lists of persons needing special handling during an emergency situation. This is a huge task. Thanks to RCRV members who are assisting in this update.

### **Four Oaks Bridge, Rod Thorpe:**

Mary Beth Minges has replaced Melissa Yardley as program coordinator.

Rod expects that changes in Four Oaks board membership will be taking place. RCRV members who might like to serve their community in that way contact Rod.

The Bridge is interested in pursuing science, rocket launches, also possibly Leggo League projects. RCRV assistance will be needed as these areas take shape.

### **Correctional Services, Heidi Soethout:**

No report.

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### **Grant Wood AEA, Ann Griffin:**

No report.

### **Heritage Agency on Aging, Linda Dearing:**

Bob Ocken has been named vice president of the TRIAD coalition. This coalition works together to aid in the reduction of crime against the elderly. Bob also maintains and updates web site at <http://www.kirkwood.edu/site/index.php?p=6063>.

Heritage has a current program to work with AARP and United Way to notify seniors of stimulus rebates.

Heritage is also promoting Money Smarts week and making presentations on behalf of this program. Linda distributed copies of the Money Smart Week brochure.

### **IBEW, Gerald Vuichard:**

No report.

### **Jane Boy Community House, Karl Cassell:**

No report.

### **New Horizons, Mark Beason:**

No report.

### **Options of Linn County, Wayne Clayton:**

This month I attended a conference in Des Moines hosted by the Brain Injury Association of Iowa. There I talked to a resource facilitator, who helps people in finding assistance after a brain injury. I described RCRV and the assistive tech and ramps the organization designs and produces. She said she would be interested in attending a Thursday meeting in the future.

Options also hosted tours for several groups in recent days. Included was a class of 30-40 Kirkwood students. As always, central to the tour is a discussion of the customized job accommodations provided by RCRV. We handed out a lot of brochures!

### **REACT, Barb Klawiter:**

Volume is down. Training classes are very popular, fill up rapidly. Will do repair of retiree computers, labor only

### **Red Cross, Joan Schaffer:**

No report.

### **RSVP, Barbara Hoffman:**

Barbara presented some current volunteer opportunities available through RSVP. Noleridge Park is seeking volunteers to work with plants, and to construct a wedding gazebo. The goal is to make this available by June.

Miracles in motion projects are starting up again this spring also.

RCRV members are urged to complete their reports on hours in February. Emails are being sent to remind those who have not reported hours.

### **Sixth Judicial District, Heidi Soethout:**

No report.

### **WRAP, Heidi Soethout:**

No report.

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### **St. Luke's Hospital, Denise Walker:**

No report.

### **United Way, Mary Klinger:**

No report.

### **Rockwell Collins, Cindy Dietz:**

RC's community relations staff has been traveling to various FIRST LEGO League tournaments and activities over the past three months. The season will be capped off with the World Festival in Atlanta in mid-April. We are also putting in place grant application and process for awarding LEGO team sponsorships for the coming school year. Thank you to all the RCRV members who served as mentors, judges and volunteers for our local LEGO activities.

Cindy recently attended a conference for corporate contributions professionals and a big topic of discussion was how to engage retirees. Cindy participated in an industry group discussion with other companies that have large aging workforces - especially engineers - and they want to engage the retirees in community activities. Cindy will likely as RCRV to help lead a future teleconference/webinar regarding how RCRV came to be and share how other companies might go about setting up similar organizations.

Rockwell Collins recently approved a \$60K gift to the Science Station to go toward renovation of existing exhibits and purchase of new ones.

### **Old Business**

Jim Green has circulated a draft of a policy for administering the Rockwell Collins grant of money to RCRV-selected contributions. Mary Klinger gave initial guidance on how they handle grant applications. Criteria, scoring, have not yet been included. Applicants must meet RC guidelines.

Deadline for Rockwell grants this year is September.

Policy and application forms can be published on the web site when they are available.

RCRV will designate a focal point theme for the contributions as part of the application process.

### **New Business**

Barb Klawiter needs RCRV member to help plan spring party. This will be discussed at next Community Projects meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 PM.

The next Board meeting is April 16 at the Red Cross building.

Submitted by Don Grimm, Secretary.