

ST. MATTHEW MEN'S CLUB

130 ST. MATTHEW ST. GREEN BAY, WI 54301 (920) 435-6811 FAX (920) 435-0065

Minutes of St. Matthew Men's Club January 6, 2022

Our January meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President John Lokken. There were approximately 22 members in attendance. VP Tim Feldhausen led us off with an opening prayer which was followed by an approval of our December Minutes after clarification of a portion that was inadvertently missed by the recording secretary. Pete Kirschling presented a Treasurer's Summary of \$14,143.65 as of January 5th which was also approved.

Communications:

We received a solicitation from Fr. Allouez Catholic School asking us to donate to the school to help make a difference in the development of the students. The members were asked if we should contribute funds to the school. Rob Atwood suggested tabling it till a later meeting and everyone agreed. We will bring it up again next meeting. Pete Kirschling read an email from Stacy Smits regarding the mess the Men's Club left behind after our December meeting. Apparently, the mess we'd left behind (garbage bags, empty beer cans, coffee carafes and full beers in the cooler) had to be cleaned up by the kitchen staff and they were not happy. Going forward, we are tasked to leaving the cafeteria, Gathering Space or church hall in the same shape we found it. Pete replied to Stacy that he would be sure everyone knows that this must be done in order to use the school or church facilities. (Sidebar: It was the Christmas party meeting and the Tom & Jerry's made more of a mess than we realized.)

Old Business:

Pete Kirschling mentioned that he had in his possession the checks that were made out to the four organizations that were allocated funds from closing out our "11/11 We Remember" fund. It was requested that the checks be hand delivered for better impact and possibly a photo taken for posterity. The checks were distributed as follows:

- \$500 Disabled American Veterans (Jim O'Rourke)
- \$500 Old Glory Honor Flights (Ambrose Kowalczyk)
- \$500 Veterans of Foreign Wars Green Bay #224 (Tony Phelps)
- \$500 Veterans of Foreign Wars Green Bay #2037 (Tim Feldhausen)

Thanks to all who served on the committee to awards these funds and for those hand delivering them. Also, a thank you was extended to Tony Phelps and Ken Moes for filling the Men's Club shift at St. John's Homeless Shelter in December. (Round of applause)

New Business:

The main order of business at tonight's meeting was to determine whether or not to have our Wild Game Feed in March as usual. Before we debated the topic, John Lokken thought a straw poll might help guide our actions so he asked for a show of hands. The results were roughly seven in favor of and 13 against having the event in March. Now knowing that the tenor of the group was leaning away from a March event, the discussion went free form encompassing many ideas. To wit:

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- Ambrose Kowalczyk: Move to May or June with a chili and pheasant soup cookout.
- Greg Simonson: That would conflict with the parish picnic.
- Tim Feldhausen: I have prepared an option tree with four possible scenarios (see addendum below).
- Charlie Lieb: If we cancel, we will have a hard time getting crowds back.
- Jerry Loritz: That is the biggest risk because it will have been two years between events.
- John Lokken: Perhaps we could proceed with a scaled down event.
- Marc Gerbec: We would need to start things now as we would be up against a processing deadline.
- Tim Feldhausen: We could get the processing done now and give it away if a no go.
- Sean Ryan: He doesn't see a downside to postponing it till spring, perhaps right after Easter.
- Pete Kirschling: The timing of the event (March) is what made it go, people have cabin fever and want to get out.
- Greg Simonson: Have it later as if even five cases of COVID came of it, it would be a bad scene.
- Tim Feldhausen: Lower attendance could alleviate COVID concerns.
- Marc Gerbec: Why don't we push it to April 7th tentatively.
- Rob Atwood: Make the decision at our February meeting as we all agree March is out.
- John Lokken: We have to honor the wishes of Fr. Bob and the Parish Council.
- Dan Kiernan: Getting the Parish Council approval in mid-February is not enough time to pull it off. He would worry about if volunteers would show up as well. If you are doing a partial WGF serving, it is the same amount of work preparing each dish. A drive through would not work as people come for the camaraderie as well as the raffles, auctions, etc. We all agree we don't want this to become a super spreader event.
- Charlie Lieb: We are in jeopardy of losing our audience.
- Sean Ryan: Doing this even in September and again in March is going to stress the workers a lot.
- Jason Karbon: We could stage the seating to have two meal servings to alleviate crowding.
- Pete Kirschling: We could create goodwill with a WGF that we serve to St. John's Homeless Shelter instead.
- Rob Atwood: That would be a good idea as we could sponsor a plate and get great PR as well.
- Dan Kiernan: That would be a great idea.
- John Lokken: Why don't we survey the members.
- Greg Simonson: We already did that but we will get the tone of every member rather than just us here.

At this point, a motion we made to table a decision until our February meeting. We all agree it will NOT be in March. A committee will meet before our next meeting to come up with other options that will be presented then. John Lokken will assemble a committee and coordinate with Marc Gerbec.

Open Floor:

Our next meeting will be a chili dump. Marc Gerbec and John Lokken will contribute to the concoction. It was suggested that it be referred to officially as the "John Madden Chili Dump" in respect for the recently departed sports celebrity.

Having no further business to tend to, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kirschling
Secretary/Treasurer

Next Meeting: February 3rd 7:00pm St. Matthew's School Cafeteria (John Madden Chili Dump)

WGF 2022 Option Tree

Action	Pros	Cons
Push forward with March WGF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows event to happen on traditional timeline Maintains momentum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be forced to cancel later with efforts wasted Could turn in to "super spreader" event Patrons may not even come out of caution (lower attendance)
Push decision off several weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will know more about peak Omicron Could still hold event in March if things show peak has passed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will require greater effort to pull off Possible reduced attendance due to less marketing, etc.
Delay WGF to spring/summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will allow us to plan for event and still host the event Can potentially avoid Covid peak Can do an alternative event of some kind for March (shelter dinner, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May interfere with other parish/ community events Not "traditional" timeline May still have to postpone or cancel if spring/ summer are not better Would require us to have the wild game on hand now
Cancel now (with possible alternative event in interim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoids Covid risk Allows us to do an alternative event or charity work (shelter dinner, etc.) Avoids having to cancel closer to event or risk lower attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible loss of "momentum" Possible loss of skills and key volunteers Loss of income Covid might have peaked and we have cancelled when we didn't have to