**Senior Men’s Club of Birmingham**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting – February 14, 2020**

**WELCOME:** President Stribbell welcomed members, then led the Club in the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Ras Desai and Maynard Timm, accompanied by Dick Halstead, led the Club in *God Bless America*; Bob Hayes offered the invocation. There was a moment of silence for Member Paul J. Miller.

**CLUB BUSINESS:**

**Minutes**: Minutes of the February 7, 2020 meeting have been posted both on the bulletin board and on the Club’s website.

**Guests:** We had six guests: John Marsh introduced David Kolodzej and Joe Calcaterra each of which had read about the Club in the Observer Newspaper. John Klein’s guest was Mike Mack a GM retiree who enjoys golf. Leon Morris introduced Tom Minninger a Sales & Marketing retiree. George Eshelman was introduced and has submitted his membership application. Mike Morin introduced his “sailing buddy”, Frank Fernandez, a linguistics expert.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** President Stribbell called for the committee reports.

**Visitation and Health:** Tom Obear reported on the death of Paul James Miller on February 5, 2020. He was active in the Birmingham Unitarian Church, where a service will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 11 AM.

**Computer Group:** Ron Denton reminded us that the next meeting is Wednesday, February 19 at 9:00 AM at the Apple Store in Somerset North. Apple’s TV, News and Credit Card offerings will be discussed.

**Reading Group:** Frank Snower announced that he will lead the discussion of George Orwell’s 1984 on Monday, February 17 at 3:00 PM at TCH. On Wednesday, March 4, the group will discuss Chances Are by Richard Russo. The story is about 3 gentlemen that reconnect on a fall weekend on Martha’s Vineyard. Tom December will lead that discussion.

**Special Events:** Jerry Stribbell announced that tickets for the “Old Made New” tour at Quicken Loans/ Ford Land Development on February 25th are now sold out. On April 15th there will be a trip to Wayne State’s Bonstelle Theatre to see the performance of the play Mary Poppins. Lunch will be at the Traffic Jam and Snug; tickets are priced at $60.

**Moment of Interest:** Dr. Posh Gulati shared with us his impetus for helping people. When his dad came to visit him in the US, he didn’t ask how his family was doing, how his practice was going – but instead asked “have you helped the poor and the needy in your practice?” It planted the seed to look for ways to help others. In 1990 he was asked to serve on the Board of an agency that was, in essence, a halfway house for released prisoners. At that time there were 5 prisoners housed in a ramshackle building in Detroit. In 1995 he became the Chairman, as the prisoners grew to 150 and it became the premier post-prison agency in the area. In 2011, The Community Treatment Center (CTC) was purchased by Cherry Health of Grand Rapids. Posh continues to do fund raising to ensure that CTC prospers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

* President Stribbell announced that the March 27, 2020 meeting will be held at Temple Beth El due to a scheduling conflict at TCH for that date. This change in location is viewed as a “test” to see what is required to “move a meeting”. At the meeting there will be NO lunch available for purchase. Coffee, donuts, bagels, etc. MAY be available. That determination will be made as we approach the date. Weekly reminders of the change will be coming!
* Today’s speakers are Nolan Finley - Editorial Page Editor, The Detroit News & Stephen Henderson - Host, American Black Journal. Their topic will be - *The Detroit Civility Project.*
* Next week’s speaker will be Dave Dulio, Professor of Political Science & Director of The Center for Civic Engagement, Oakland University. His topic will be - *2020: The State of the Race.*
* The April Reminder deadline is March 13.
* The Executive Board meeting is Tuesday, March 10 at 9:30 AM and all members are welcome to attend.
* The 2020 Directory is available in the Wilson Room.
* President Stribbell shared some Winston Churchill quotes - “A lie gets halfway around the world, before the truth has a chance to get its pants on” and “In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet.”

**RECESS UNTIL**: 11:05 AM.

### PROGRAM: February Program Chair, Larry Imerman, introduced our speakers Nolan Finley and Stephen Henderson. The concept of the Great Lakes Civility Project had been talked about and worked on for the past 10 years of their work together. Each of them - with different backgrounds and political views - were able to have, at times, some passionate discussions and still respect each other. Stephen gave some good advice – “Always be listening to the other person. Listening is just NOT talking, not sitting there and thinking about what you’re going to say back, not interrupting the other person. Listening is an intentional exercise. Try to let the other express themselves, even if you disagree.” Social media and its technology, though in its infancy, is exacerbating incivility and insularity. We need to respect other people and acknowledge that the way we think isn’t necessarily the “right way”, but just the way we do it. People tend to want the same outcome, but advocate different ways to attain it.

### ATTENDANCE: 151

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Kovceses

Recording Secretary

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