



Recap-Dec 11, 2018 Luncheon Mtg, Wayman Britt, Kent City Admin

Meeting Tuesday, Dec 11, 2018 at The University Club.
Meeting started at 12:39 pm with the Pledge & Prayer

Announcements:

1. Bowling Report, given by Lion Jamie Junod: Position night next week and then no bowling until January.
2. Holiday Shopping, given by co-chair Lion Anne Baird: Thank you to everyone for all the help. It was a great event with a great team, including the help from 24 Grand Rapids Lions, 17 GVSU Lions, 1 from Cherry Health, 5 teachers and 2 extra helpers for a total of 49 volunteers. There were 40 kids total. 11 Visually impaired and 29 from Sabbath Ministries. Mike Thibodeau, co-chair did a great job with transportation. Shopping last Saturday allowed us to also use "Santa Bucks". Instead of the kids having \$100, it allowed them to spend \$110. By using the Santa Bucks, the club saved \$1,424.09. This was the first year in a long time we did not go over our budget.
3. Blind Dinner Update, given by Lion Shelley Irwin: The dinner is April 11, 2019. It will be held at the BOB downtown and planning a more casual night with 1 or 2 awards to be given out. Details to follow after January meeting
4. Michigan Foundation Raffle Tickets. \$10/each with 10 prizes given out starting at \$1,000
5. Calendar Raffle, given by Lion Jamie Junod: The calendars are available and many have already been given out. Contact Jamie Junod if you need calendars. The cost of the calendars are: \$30/1 or \$25/2 or more. The money is designated to go to Cherry Health and the student eye exams in the Grand Rapids Schools.
6. We had two guests visiting the club. They discovered the club through our website.
7. Next Week's Meeting: Holiday Meeting, no speaker – WEAR RED! Or you will be fined.
8. GR Lion Holiday Party is this Friday, Nov 14th at Ed & Karen Thauer's home. Easy directions: Cascade to Hall, down to Forest Hills Central (3/4 mile) Stoneshire has a big decorated Christmas tree at the entrance. The road will curve and Pres Ed's house is the 5th house. There will be a "Lion Lives Here" sign in the front yard.

Speaker, Wayman Britt, Kent City Admin:

Mr Britt has been the Kent City Administrator for 15 years. Kent County is the 4th largest, fastest growing county in the country. A pet project of Mr. Britt is the Boy Scouts. When he was living in North Carolina on a farm, he was able to attend Boy Scout Camp as a 5th grader and this event changed his life. The camp showed him how team work, along with hard work could produce positive outcomes but you have to work as a team. The concept of teamwork has proven to have played a big part in his young life and then carried over into his current position. He has worked hard at bringing the Boy Scouts up to a new level here in Grand Rapids for other young men to experience what he experienced. When he was a young man, the family moved from North Carolina to Flint. It was quite the adjustment for Mr Britt. He moved from a quiet farm, to a big city filled with factories and lots of people. As a quiet high schooler, he played basketball. He was quite good and his

success as a high school basketball player enabled him to attend the University of Michigan as a forward on their basketball team. He went on to play with the professional teams; L.A. Lakers and then the Pistons. Currently, as the county administrator he deals with issues such as; the homeless, affordable housing, animal shelters, pfas issues and transportation. Most importantly, he continues hard at how to work as a team, to grow Grand Rapids in a continued positive way. In a team, everybody has talents and then there are some that just have to be let go for the betterment of the team. Not an easy task to let someone go but it has to be done. Biggest problem the county is facing today, is the division between the city township and the planning committee. The question is, how do you plan regionally to keep people where they want to stay and not favor one town over another. His office has to be careful not to work with projects only in Grand Rapids. There are other cities that need projects completed in Allegan, Grandville, etc. Another issue Mr. Britt's office is working on is with the hospitals to provide guardianship programs to help the older citizens. There is a survey you can take at "accessKent.com". It will be available for the next 5 years. The survey will help with looking at the future and figure out where the priorities are for Kent County. Grand Rapids is a very passionate, caring and diversified city compared to the other side of the state and his office in Kent County is trying to keep that positive feeling growing. What is next? Other issues his office is working on is trying to bring activities back to the Calder Plaza, but again it has to be the right activity. The River White Water Project, to bring back the rapids, the public has raised approx. 44% of the money needed to start work on this project. It is looking very positive to bring back the rapids. Another major issue is the lower Grand River study on septic tanks. This study is trying to figure out how to deal with the pfas and other issues in the septic tanks water and to correct any issues\ in an effective way.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26