

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE Chautauqua Trail Annual Meeting 2023
August 10-13 – Lakeside, OH

Attending:

Bay View, Michigan	Michelle Hansen, Karl Hansen, Barbara Dau, Bart English, David Antonini, Robin Pettersen
Chautauqua Institution	Deb LeBarron
Boulder, Colorado	Kate Gerard
Lakeside, Ohio	Joe Caner, Barb Caner, George McCormick, Pat McCormick, Susan Twitchell, Susan B. Hood, Bill Smith, Jacki Currie, Karen Mader, Clare McGowan, Carolyn Slager, John Slager, Janet Selby, Kaysie Harrington, Debbie Stephens, Jane Anderson, Richard Hahn, Cheri Hahn, Nancy Brucken, Beth Nurnberger, Dave Boling, Caroline Gatsch, Nancy Carlson, Bill Carlson, Gretchen Colon, Charles Allen
Monteagle, Tennessee	Pam Maloof, Greg Maloof
Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania	Cliff Snavelly, Kathy Snavelly
Ocean Park, Maine	Frank Gwalthney
Wawasee, Indiana	Mark Knecht
Visitor (s)	Dean Peyton (Fort Worth, TX), Janet Riley

Opening Business Meeting, Friday, August 11

President Frank Gwalthney opened the meeting at 9:04am, with a greeting and reading of our mission:

The Chautauqua Trail is a group of organizations and individuals committed to the communication and implementation of the chautauqua concept of building community by supporting all persons in the development of their full potential intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically. The Chautauqua Trail facilitates interaction and communication among its members to further their preservation, growth and development.

Approval of the minutes: Bob Brucken/Barb Caner moved to approve the minutes from our 2022 meeting. The motion carried.

Frank thanked Gretchen and the team at Lakeside for hosting us, and all the work they're done on our behalf.

Chautauqua Roundtable:

Bay View: Robin Pettersen – presented a video first, highlighting their campus activities; we'll be there their 150th anniversary. Families go back six generations, with 500 privately owned cottages with 900 members. Robin discussed a sampling of programs from this summer. 700 children served programmatically. Offer an American Spirituals intensive.

Wawae: Mark Knecht – Created in 2014; owns no property. One endowment funds their expenses, in addition to vendor fees, fundraising and grants. Most programs offered free of charge, with a volunteer workbase plus 3 contract employees. 15 programs annually, February – November. Attendees are a mix of year-round folks and summer season lake property owners primarily there on weekends. Proudly team with other organizations (museum, Chamber, Lake Conservancy, property owner associations). Unique offerings: a phone video competition w/showing at a movie theater, Walk Down Memory Lane (working w/museum – taking old home videos to collect history). New for 2024: Plein Air program, Famous Hoosiers, Dog Parade and Faith/Inspiration Speaker (Shauna Zollman booked). Anticipating all to become annual programs.

Monteagle: Greg Maloof – obtained the 200 acres of surrounding land he discussed last year; no significant changes otherwise. Picnic prior to guest preacher went well and will be repeated. Have great relationship with

University of the South (Suwanee). 160 leaseholders within the fence. Gate fees a large portion of their income. Off season activities are slowly increasing. Eight public buildings. 12 cottages are used year round. They are gated. (Later added) 141st season completed. Mountain Goat Train path now is a walking trail. Oldest operating pool in the state. Dining hall serves lunch every day and brunch on Sundays. Historical site.

Ocean Park: Frank Gwalthney – not a gated community; 600 units and approximately 1/3 are year round. Frank highlighted some of the scenes around Ocean Park, some historical in nature. It's the "Chautauqua by the Sea." Located next door to Old Orchard Beach. Had a train station that brought people to them originally. See you in 2026.

Mt. Gretna: Kathy Snavelly – shared PowerPoint (available by request)

Boulder, CO: Kate Gerard (Archivist) – has a small lodge, 66 cottages owned by the CHQ (winterized and rented out year round); summer music festival; classical music festival; silent film festival with live accompaniment; the community house hosts year round programming as well as lodging. It was a summer place at one time. 33 cottages privately owned, half of which are winterized and used year round. (One sold for \$3.5 million a few years ago.) Entertainment, dining, lodging, women's retreats – but not a community of such. A National Historic Landmark since 2006. Land owned by the city of Boulder. Just celebrated their anniversary this summer. A general store on site, without a main street. Have a dining hall and the Chautauqua Café, rebuilt based on the original building. Pay the city a ground lease fee, collected from private cottage owners and part of the cottage rental fees.

Chautauqua Institution: Deb LeBarron – have a Chautauqua golf club, Athenaeum Hotel, amphitheater programs (examples: Diana Ross, Patti LaBelle). 10:45am and 2pm lecture series every day. Films in concert series, CHQ Symphony Orchestra, Dog Parade at Christmastime, Opera Company & Conservatory, Chautauqua Theatre Company, visual arts program and a gallery store, Dance Company. Sundays are free on grounds and feature worship and entertainment, youth and family programs, culinary classes, sailing and sports clubs. Next year is their 150th birthday, when we'll be there; added a new pickleball court.

Break until 10:19am

Lakeside: Charles Allen – currently celebrating their 150th birthday, recognized members of their planning committee. Inside packet is their schedule. Recognized board president Jane Anderson. Very intentionally plan through the lens of their mission. Have had some leadership changes to work through, so staying close to their mission is particularly essential. BUILD COMMUNITY: bringing together and building has been a focus this year. Uses task forces for accomplishing things. PROGRAMMING: over 10K participating weekly. New initiatives and anniversary specific events have gone well. Community collaborations successful. Some keynotes have been live-streamed, by contractual arrangements. Expanding into shoulder seasons. CARE FOR BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: working on western shoreline erosion. Street and Drainage task force to repave 9.1 miles of streets and repair existing sidewalks. Invested in infrastructure by refreshing the Fountain Inn Hotel, repairs on Hoover Auditorium and Wo-Ho-Mis guest house. Working on five year capital plan to update facilities, which is going to add some stress to the budget; want to move to a more pro-active stance in taking care of our facilities.

Gretchen shared some client stories about how people are experiencing Chautauqua here for the first time and their plans to return. People returned to see what the 150th anniversary was all about, perhaps who haven't been here for a few years. Focusing on growing their endowment, which is now around \$9 million. 100 families have stepped forward to leave them a planned gift or other gifts to ensure the future of Lakeside. She thanked us for the work we do, in walking through the divisiveness in the world and continue to boldly proclaim Chautauqua in moving forward.

Frank relayed the story of Oak Bluffs folks visiting Ocean Park, when someone drove past the building they were meeting in and asked if this was a CHQ. They were from Lakeside.

Housekeeping Details

Report of the Officers: Frank, Mary Lou, Deb and Kathy have contacted/will contact shortly all the current CHQs for a basic survey, the information from which will be shared with everyone. Frank read all the questions that were part of this survey.

Rack Card Draft: Frank distributed the draft rack card, designed by a graphic artist at the Institution, the information on which was agreed upon at last year's meeting. National Parks within 300 miles of your CHQ may distribute them for you. We would like to have the final product available by the end of the year. You need to approach sources who may distribute it. And we need to have an idea of how many each CHQ would like. Charles suggested adding a QR code. Karl asked if we are all National Historic Landmarks; Frank thinks so. Karl stated that criteria may be important and broaden our audience.

CHQ Trail Rental Committee (*Greg Maloof, Chair; Frank Gwalthney, Bob Brucken, Karl Hansen and Kathy Snavely*) - Greg circulated the questionnaire to one representative per Chautauqua to complete. Kathy shared how we have different policies, etc. and it may be helpful for us to share this information. Bob Brucken mentioned that CHQ Institution may have 80% renters there per week; Lakeside is high, but not as high as the Institution. Karl stated that at Bay View, they've had issues since the pandemic; lots of people are buying them at low prices and renting them out. While it goes against their by-laws, they are discouraging short-term rentals. Bay View gives out gift baskets as a way of tracking some of this activity. They have an interview process to purchase property there. Bob mentioned there are no restrictions on who buys property at Lakeside. And they encourage people to rent their homes to visitors. Barbara do want rentals; there is no gate fee in Bay View. A motel room is \$250 a night with a mediocre room vs. Bay View with houses at a lower rental rate. Their only rental regulation is that you cannot rent your home for less than a week. They have 443 cottages and do not monitor how those cottages are rented. There is one agency that they work with officially.

Greg stated that they have an in-house rental agency; encourage attending of programs and involvement in the community. During the season, must rent by at least a week. Off season, differs. Rental policies are set by the family's renting out their homes.

- How long has Monteagle had in-house rental program – 10-15 years. They do charge 20% of the base rent as a management fee.
- Most people in Bay View are there for the 8 week season; renters are a very small portion.
- How do you prevent someone from using AirBnB or VRBO? Monteagle is a small community so it's not hard to keep on top of that. Leaseholders are responsible for the behavior of your tenants. Pam said she can remember there was one incident that needed to be dealt with in the past.
- You need to have a reference from within the community to rent. With 160 cottages with a 10 or 14 mile speed limit, it's not hard to keep touch with folks.
- Charles (Lakeside): must deal with one of two real estate agencies currently. Trying to figure out how to know who is renting out their cottage. Sometimes people come to the gate and don't know it's a gated community and what the requirements are. They are attempting to figure out how to deal with renters who have had not had a good experience, as that impacts their brand.
- Barb asked if ungated CHQs charge some sort of fees to those renting out their homes.
- Frank stated 10-15 yrs. ago, established Ocean Park Realtors (controlled by the board); they get a cut of every sale and rental. One of the issues is who they get to clean the cottages after a rental; that's a part of our service.
- Monteagle's renter agent is an employee.

- Mt. Gretna allows no renovations during the season. People buying houses and renting them out through VRBO or AirBnb.
- Activity fees charged? Ocean Park does, Mt. Gretna does not.
- Karl mentioned they did a cottage census, which provided helpful information to them. They found out about 90 cottages are rented at some point in the season. He said that might be a helpful place for other CHQs to start.
- Monteagle limits rentals to 2 people per bedroom in the rental.
- How did you handle the transition from no rules to rules? Monteagle hired an employee to manage that.
- Lakeside has a private lodging team (representing their rentals, hotels, private homes) work through any issues. Institution has an accommodations manager that does this. Lakeside also has a welcome page with lots of info for renters, which has been most helpful.
- Monteagle only has one B&B right now, which is also for sale. It's the only commercial venture inside the gates.

We recessed for lunch at 11:46. Back at 1:30pm.

Frank reconvened the meeting at 1:41pm in Wesley Lodge.

Lakeside: Charles – Lessons Learned from Planning the Susquecentennial Celebration

The budget planning perhaps could have driven the planning more. Outstanding staff, board and community involvement. The documentary which we'll see later and a book that came out of it will be great marketing tools. The documentary is reaching beyond Toledo. The planning committee started convening in 2021. Bill Carlson added that it's important not to pile too much on one person; perhaps too much was planned, but it's important to give people choices.

? Did the initial budget anticipate the needs for programming? Charles said the expectations were met; staff was able to do what they needed to do. Nancy said they attempted to do some extra fundraising to offset costs. They started fundraising early so that really helped.

? talked about task force, mission, charter – Karl would love copies of that. Who developed the budget and cost estimations? Some aspects of this meeting were incorporated into that. The staff did the budgeting, implementation by staff and volunteers. Budgeted \$40,000 for the 30 minute documentary.

Nancy (Lakeside) indicated the institution's 150th is next year. She asked what they're doing; Deb isn't involved, but we'll find out next year.

How do you define the relationship between the board and staff?

Mark (Indiana) – All volunteers except for part-time staff – we're all part of a team.

Cheri (Lakeside) – noticed a good interaction

Bart (Bay View) – important for that interaction to happen

Barbara (Bay View) – desire to be an only governance board, but that's only a goal at this point; board requests for staff via Executive Director

Michelle (Bay View)) – every committee has a board liaison; studying now how the committee, board and staff work together

Karl (Bay View) – past trustee; 33 committees, 350 volunteers and board – we need to redefine the roles in the Association; some of it is personality-driven; good communication but issues when someone doesn't agree with the direction

Bob (Lakeside) – in small non-profits, board and volunteers are often the same; larger ones, volunteers only volunteer occasionally; staff assumes many responsibilities.

Joe (Lakeside) – things work smoothly when processes that have been set up are followed

Greg (Monteagle) – volunteer committees, staff – common denominator to all is the Executive Director.

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) – has no staff; utilizes borough employees when needed and student summer employee to run visitor center and set-up for programs when needed

Frank (Ocean Park) – committee chairs are automatically on the board; there is an Executive Administrator in the office and often she is called on by these chairs to do something right away, which is a problem.

Deb (Institution) – board of 24. The board evaluates the President.

Charles (Lakeside) – this board is more governance than previous ones, and the relationship with staff and Executive Director is improving. Gives a book to each new person which defines the roles. It has been most helpful.

Kate (Boulder) – 13 on the board; three year terms; renewable; sets policy. Board only interacts with committees. Four year round staff, 40 seasonal plus 100 volunteers.

Robin (Bay View) – was a nine year term, but more limited now; board doesn't concern themselves from where the trash containers on the beach.

Nancy (Lakeside) – as a former board member, there is always some natural tension between the board and staff. Lakeside places a high value on their staff.

WHAT EFFORTS DO YOU HAVE FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH?

Karl (Bay View) – their own stand alone 501c3 now. They reach out intentionally to the local community. Food security issues in their geographic area. High school scholarship. Largest CROP Walk in the region.

Michelle (Bay View) – Executive Director is making many new connections. Outreach is an important priority. Partnership with local community college. Tours to the local community grew out of that. Through programming, do Meals of Hope – 1,500 meals were distributed through their recreation program. Free tickets offered to Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

Beth (Lakeside) – Lakeside participates in a meal outreach program. They bring kids onto our campus to experience Lakeside for the day. Women's Club provides women's products on a weekly basis, as well as some food.

Nancy (Lakeside) – Free Isle of Coney Days

Cheri (Lakeside) – added a few.

Mark (Indiana) – community is defined by those attending programs. We don't do any program by ourselves, so everything is outreach. Help make Syracuse a great place to live and visit.

Nancy (Lakeside) – the Sesquicentennial Committee had a shed built by youth

Kate (Boulder) – they're in the City of Boulder Park, so they're open. The community has always been on our grounds. Have third grade field trips every year. Many organizational and business partners. 1/10th of 1% sales tax is given in the Denver area for free programming.

Charles (Lakeside) – many different kinds of partnerships. Internal outreach, keeping the community informed, hold community forums. Weekly, Charles hosts a coffee chat; they aren't scripted, just give answers to any questions. Partner with some colleges, chamber, etc. to have more community impact. Gretchen added they participated with local economic development organizations, as well as visitor/tourist organizations. Partner with the Community Foundation and Habitat for Humanity (that's who the shed was for). Partnered with Huntington Bank on a national education day for jr/sr highs. Key Bank supported the 150th, but has also done education in planned and legacy giving. This year, the Girl Scouts (who sent their marketing department with them) to meet a former astronaut. Also former first lady Faith Taft helped promote the Lakeside Chautauqua experience. Hosted Buckeye Sports Center from Huron; they have the whole eastern Ohio market. They've pushed out info through their reach.

Deb (Institution) – Chautauqua County Day – free to anyone who lives in the county. Also have a Buffalo Day and a Teacher's Day (which is every Wednesday). Union Relief, have a staff fundraiser, a hot dog roast. Job fairs in local universities and high schools. Participate in Save the Lake.

Frank (Ocean Park) – prior to COVID, there was a box in the post office, if there were leftover food items unopened, they'd collect them there. They up to 4-5 local retired ministers living there, food pantry collections.

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) - no gates; all programs are open to anyone and most programs by donation

Greg (Montagle) - Pam Maloof “donates her husband to the time,” she stated. Internally, two town hall meetings. Externally, needs in the county. They're raised money for beds, “Sleep in Heavenly Peace.” The Women's Association and Home Tour is coordinated with outreach. The Education committee gives scholarships to students. Outreach offers one Sunday's offering to a named charity, this year it was an elementary school. The town needed a fire truck; Montagle made a five figure donation to that drive. Welcoming people from the town. Day after Thanksgiving do a food bank drive.

Bob (Lakeside) – our community is the state of Ohio, northern Indiana and southern Michigan.

DO YOU HAVE A FUNDRAISING DIALOGUE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY?

Greg (Montagle) – when a need goes out, the community responds.

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) – no, outside of Stewart Society

Frank (Ocean Park) – also no, but we should work better on this.

Deb (Institution) – has a whole department for this

Gretchen (Lakeside) – have a team and involve the community; integration of marketing and advancement departments; started an ambassador program which works with the community and marketing staff

Charles (Lakeside) – working on a plan to reach previous Lakesiders right now

Kate (Boulder) – have a Chautauqua fund and fundraising initiatives are reflected in their annual report and website; two big community events, Festival of Sol and Winterfest which brings in lots of people; many sponsors; also promotes membership

Bill (Lakeside) – there was a time when fundraising wasn't as assertive as it is today; increasingly active. It has made a huge difference.

Nancy C (Lakeside) – referred to this year's theme of "Keep the Good Times Rolling" (handout)

Mark (Indiana) – sponsors of programs, have an annual campaign (do not do it in August as last year), place to donate on the website, donation box at each program

Nancy B (Lakeside) – Giving Tuesday has worked well; people get to see the results of their giving

Michelle (Bay View) – send appeals, donor relations newsletter goes out monthly; press releases; annual town hall and annual meeting. Michelle speaks with every donator personally. Encourage peer-to-peer fundraising. Friends of Bay View is an annual giving campaign outside the walls of Bay View.

Greg (Monteagle) – annual fund appeal

Beth (Lakeside) – her daughters did a Polar Plunge five years ago to raise money for Lakeside (dressed up to plunge) which went well

Nancy C (Lakeside) – kids did their own fundraising, like lots of lemonade stands

Frank (Ocean Park) – kids raised money for the recreation program by selling lemonade the last week of the season

Michelle (Bay View) – everything has a fundraising aspect. Kids sell baked goods.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 3:05pm.

August 12

Frank reconvened our meeting at 9:10am.

Why is Chautauqua needed now more than ever. What is the future of Chautauqua?

Karl (Bay View) talked about their discussion in Bay View on this subject. We all seem to have a different conception of CHQ. Karl highlighted the history of the beginnings of CHQ, and how we now have different notions and that people in general have no understanding of CHQ. So, how can we better communicate this among ourselves and to those unfamiliar with CHQ?

Bob Brucken (Lakeside) asked how many CHQ in US? They each define it differently. And we're self-designated CHQs. George (Lakeside) reflected on the discussions of CHQ here at Lakeside through time; it wasn't until Kevin Sibbring came along and he thought we should emphasize CHQ and educate others here about it. Greg (Monteagle) talked about the caucus system they use to fill their board; he thinks we need a definition so people know where we came from.... There are still common denominators. Frank read the mission statement once again, which he thinks answers the question. He urged us to not make a definition that may not fit. We're all "cousins!" Nancy C. (Lakeside) encouraged everyone to come to this afternoon's session with George, discussing

this and showing their new documentary. Cheri (Lakeside) noted that Lakeside has had a concerted effort to define and educate about CHQ. They are planning next summer to do a series of educational programs with stakeholder groups. David (Bay View) believes RENEWAL sums up CHQ. Mary (Wawasee) has been there since the beginning; perhaps the most challenging aspect is educating others about CHQ. Perhaps we're not clear on it ourselves. Mark (Wawasee) said the four pillars are as broad as they can be. Bill (Lakeside) likes to tell the story about an encounter he had a new visitor to Lakeside; she thought it was an Indian reservation to start! Charles (Lakeside) mentioned they still wrestle with this definition. The base understanding is that people of different perspectives come together and share wisdom to heighten our lives. They've been stripping things down to what the common unity is – the world needs CHQ now more than ever because polarization is dividing our country. That divisiveness hurts our country. While they're relaxing and getting renewed, we prepare them to go back into the world better prepared to deal with it. We all need to hear fact-based information, relax, renew and get better prepared to deal with what's going on in the world. If we can impart what we've learned here, how can we better impact our communities? We need to pause, get back to the basics and have that motivate our moving forward. Dave Boling (Lakeside) said Charles was right. And it brings us back to being faith-based. Perhaps those of us close the CHQ have more issues defining it, Barbara (Bay View) stated. Janet is overwhelmed by this, as she moves among the CHQs. She sees us as an intentional community; she's heard many say they come back to CHQ for their base. "Porch" is essential and the friendliness and goodness is almost overwhelming. She's heard parents say here, "I can let my kids GO here." 300 people will rush to aid a child that's fallen off their bicycle. It is so relevant given our current "loneliness crisis." Last week, when a child fell off their bike, people from four cottages rushed to him/her, Robin reported. "Chautauqua Porches" is the name of Boulder's cookbook, Kate stated. Gretchen (Lakeside) went back and read the Lyceum founders' books, by Bishop Vincent and Louis Miller. While they didn't have the same backgrounds, they knew they "enhanced" each other through their friendship. It wasn't just the place, but the idea of CHQ in the setting of the mid/late 1800s. News of CHQ spread by word of mouth. There is much to learn from our history. Charles (Lakeside) added that the time of the movement and today's culture are very similar. That CHQ movement needs to happen again to address these same issues. So, how are we going to create a message to address these needs??

Karl (Bay View) believes CHQ should challenge us and create dialogue. We can challenge each other in a safe environment. Karl reviewed his handouts and walked us through what a why statement is (Simon Sinek).

Bart (Bay View) thinks perhaps we need to look at what is NOT a CHQ – and the ways families and communities have changed over time. Schools are bringing people/families together. CHQ brings back things we used to do in years past. Kathy asked Bart to highlight the conversation they had last night. It's Barton's first meeting with us. CHQ Trails, so someone who doesn't know anything about us, could mean a whole bunch of things. He suggested making ourselves the National Chautauqua Trail Association, to convey that's it's more than a trail but a national entity. Deb (Institution) said it also gets confused with the Chautauqua Trail in Colorado. Bob (Lakeside) thinks it might be good to review the history of the CHQ Trail group. In 1981 Monteagle had it's 100th anniversary, and they invited CHQs to join them. Alfreida attended from NY. 1982, NY invited Monteagle to come to visit. 1983, Alfreida mentioned why don't we invite others to join us – where they said to do it more often. In 1984, we met in Lakeside together. And we've been meeting annually ever since.

Gretchen (Lakeside) proposed that we put together a team to put together a survey to collect data in our respective communities. Janet said a trail implied a journey (exactly what Kevin Sibbring said way back when); offer it as a source of renewal. One thing she worried about before exploring the CHQ trail – what would she experience in these Christian venues? Evangelical? Close-mindedness? No, she as a unitarian, felt comfortable. She thinks it's interesting to connect CHQ to issues like loneliness and community. CHQ has a niche of respectful dialogue; we're onto something here. That's so relevant! Robin (Bay View) said it might be helpful to mention we have Christian values and we are welcoming. Mark (Wawasee) would like us to consider the WHYs of established CHQs who have organizational substance. We may need to adapt to our culture and see how these thoughts evolve over time. Dave (Bay View) has become aware of other groups using the word CHQ; he thinks perhaps the four pillars should be a requirement. Could we have 2 weeks CHQs in tents? Kate (Colorado) noted they've had tent CHQs come

through, but they are short-lived. She noted that they have three, not four pillars, but they are a CHQ. Kathy reminded us that we now use the word FAITH, rather than religion, as of last year's meeting.

Charles, Gretchen, Nancy, Michelle, Karl, Kathy and Deb volunteered to be part of the committee addressing the team Gretchen has proposed. We do need to be cognizant of how we use the word religion as many of us pursue state and federal funding, Frank added. All CHQs strive to be inclusive.

WHAT IS YOUR CHQ GOING TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) said we all think we're going to be the same in the future (that's normal thinking, not that that's good). Greg (Monteagle) said we're talking about sustainability. Bob (Lakeside) said much of the grounds here are dedicated to our children – "they're like ants, they're everywhere – and it's wonderful."

Karl (Bay View) noted that recreation is a large part of their culture. Investing in these stakeholders is important to our future. They're trying to lead by example. Trying to bring in more national speakers and figure out our why. Michelle (Bay View) said a painful culture change they're going through is about who is in and isn't in our communities. Concern about threats to "safety" by inviting/including others who are not members. Far more than 50% of their donors are not members. Barbara (Bay View) stated they're going through a visioning process for every committee, a formal, intentional process. Incredible pressure to keep costs as low as possible so people can continue to afford to come to Bay View. There has been a cost to their 31 buildings; now looking at 3-50 year capital plans so that there are no surprise assessments. They're using "generational equities." Deb asked if they had a grantwriter; no, they don't. Currently receive less than \$30G yearly in grants. Nancy C. (Lakeside) when you're talking families with kids, we need to keep it affordable for them to come AND return. Mark's (Wawasee) number one thing is to diversify across the board. 100% of donations come from outsiders (because we have to campus). Also always seeking programmatic sponsors/partners. Kate added that diversity is the main thing people talk about – our cottages aren't affordable for families; but we're seeking additional diversity on the board, staff, in programming. Their target is the greater Boulder community. As far as grants go, their buildings owned some by the city and some by the CHQ. They've benefitted enormously from the state historical fund for building maintenance.

7 minute recess

Frank called the meeting to order at 10:48am.

HOW WELL IS YOUR CHAUTAUQUA DOING IN PROVIDING SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, and RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO NOURISH THE MIND, BODY, AND SOUL?

Kate (Colorado) said their challenge is making such programming affordable for all in the Boulder community. They do have spiritual offerings that are "very Boulder-eque." Robin (Bay View) said the intentional visioning work is helping in this aspect. Mark (Wawasee) said they're intentional about programming under all four pillars; least attention goes to recreational because there's so much of that already available. Mary (Wawasee) added they've beefed up the faith-based programming the last two years. Nancy B. (Lakeside) from a layperson's perspective a good balance here. Dave (Lakeside) believes they have a good balance and work hard to achieve it, as well as deepening the pool. Michelle (Bay View) stated there's no view of how programs fall into meeting their mission. Bob (Lakeside) said attendance is up (6% according to Gretchen and Charles) so things are going well. Shortage of rental properties available. More buyers than sellers of cottages. Good signs of future health. Greg (Monteagle) said their platform superintendent and the executive director do a good job of bringing the four pillars forth. Kathy (Mt. Gretna) explained some differences in Mt. Gretna; the board could grow in their understanding of embracing the concept of CHQ. Frank (Ocean Park) stated his program book says it all. For recreational, perhaps set up corn hole competitions which has worked in Ocean Park. Mark (Wawasee) said perhaps a bike route, map. Kathy shared a little bit about the Epworth Assembly in Ludington, MI.

COULD THIS STATEMENT BE YOUR CHAUTAUQUA? AS A COMMUNITY, WE PURSUE TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE, BEAUTY, FAITH AND VITALITY IN OF ITS FORMS TO ENHANCE THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE?

We passed around the mike and everyone said yes or no. Discussion ensued about if community is defined inside/outside the gates.

MOST UNIQUE EXPERIENCE....

Gretchen (Lakeside) – good collaboration of the 150th anniversary planning committee, campmeeting worship experience, a lot of successful programming

Charles (Lakeside) – simple cost effective things this year worked well; only disappointment, lack of buy-in on some matters among board, community and staff

Kate (Colorado) – food, programming expensive \$2,500 for the weekend but they sell out; latest celebration attended by over 7,000 and was reasonably low cost

Robin (Bay View) – only two or three classes had to be cancelled because of low attendance.

Dave (Bay View) – Sunday Vespers are highly attended.

Mark (Wawasee) – phone video film series; their taps program on Memorial Day well-received; Faith history program, old-fashioned Christmas program, art festival – one disappointment due to scheduling issues; on Sat everyone wants to be on the lake. Want to do an arts calendar for the whole lake; coordinating a meeting this fall to begin that process.

Richard (Lakeside) – grateful to have us join them here; loves hearing the idea exchange.

Nancy B. (Lakeside) – the boat show last weekend, with people playing around with different crafts; Sunday afternoon with the DJs down by the dock; bandstand programming

Beth (Lakeside) – volunteers throughout the community

Barbara (Bay View) – the schism when selecting speakers addressed well; the opera program selected two lesser known operas and attendance was down by 700, which had an economic impact. Artistically effective, though. Fortunately, the pops concerts tickets made up for it. She added her thanks for how we were invited and welcomed here. Very impressed with their hospitality and planning.

Michelle (Bay View) – echoed Barbara's thanks. Had a new education direction this year. Did a theme week around boats, well-received, and brought in a puzzlemaster, which perhaps people misunderstood as a performing arts event.

Karl (Bay View) – greatest success may be due to Gretchen and Michelle's interaction last year; shared Black Box training here at Lakeside with Bay View. Learned so much more because of this experience. What else can we do "in the back of the house" and sharing best practices? Getting their 1,300 seat house nearly filled on several occasions. Disappointment: struggling with members understanding their community as a 501c3 itself vs. their reliance of the UMC. They have to comply with federal and state laws.

Bob (Lakeside) – thanked us for our kind words. Last night was a highlight, with 1,100 people (half the house) full in attendance at the symphony/ballet program last night. There were young children there!! Last Saturday, largest attendance of the season – 2,100 to hear a clean comedian.

Pat (Lakeside) – noted that on a walk, she was welcomed to Lakeside on Thursday evening!

Joe (Lakeside) – some of the traditional things that happen are great year-to-year, noting the Sunday afternoon sailing program – and shuffleboard, of course (300-400 daily), with a national tournament held here every year. (Some call themselves the 5th pillar!)

Greg (Monteagle) – thanked everyone for a wonderful experience

Pam (Monteagle) – Steven Algoréz, a National Geographic photographer, presented a fabulous program sharing/talking about his photos/travels. The Women's Club fundraiser made \$42,000 in one day – six cottages on tour plus.

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) – Sadly, the Photo Scavenger Hunt will be discontinued; Fourth of July festivities and Art Show are big draws

Frank (Ocean Park) – Fourth of July bike parade, with a 1.5 mile route with loads of kids participating; Illumination Night, commemorating the first service in the Temple, cottages lit up and a band performance (the oldest 91 and youngest person 3 months old participate by lighting the lights and turning them off). Various cottages serving snacks, beverages. An independent group made awards for those participating this year.

Deb (Institution) – Play CHQ: a kid's night with booths; added all access pass (with the exception of the amphitheater)

Janet suggested DarrylDavid.com, a great blues singer in MD, began a dialogue with the KKK as a great addition.

BEST VALUE PROGRAMS?

Gretchen (Lakeside) - Some of the keynote speakers have had a great impact/dialogue across the community. Topics on space, etc. – intergenerational engagement has been fabulous. The synergies created between pillars of particular programs.

Charles (Lakeside) – the education key was particularly overlapping. The other value, the thoughtfulness of the team having COMMUNITY as a focus of everything paid dividends. The pop-up events had huge values (receptions for speakers at various homes) in creating dialogue.

Robin (Bay View) – people sat outside post office to create dialogues.

Mark (Wawasee) – Taps program (moment of silence at restaurants at 9:08); no cost to the program, all volunteers; high cost, high value Christmas program; medium cost/value, art festival; Mary added that buglers are all ages and meet together first and stationed around the area

Dave (Lakeside) – the anniversary planning committee and historical society both brought people together; at the campground, had a Christmas in July program (Charles said everyone long and short terms participated)

Michelle (Bay View) – an emmy-award winning pianist did a couple of talks and played at vespers and gave master talks – great use of resources

Pam (Monteagle) – most people come to the assembly 4-5G come to tour

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) – Stewart Society, named after the first President of the board), created to raise money for underwriting programs is very successful

Frank (Ocean Park) – having programming during intense summer heat rains is difficult

Karl (Bay View) challenged us to bring more people, staff reps, leadership, volunteers to NY next year to build more dialogues among the CHQs.

Gretchen (Lakeside) is offering Oct/Nov to host staff and board here at the hotel. They'll let us know. Charles added to bring someone a generation or two younger than you would be great.

Frank asked us for our annual budgets:

Ocean Park - \$330,000

Lakeside - \$11,000,000

Institution - ?

Bay View – 3.5 million

Colorado – \$8 mil

Wawasee - \$125 mil

Mt. Gretna - \$150G

Monteagle - ?

Election of Officers:

Joe moved that we re-elect the same slate of officers/Robin & Karl seconded it.

Bob asked if Mary Lou will be able to continue to serve and she said yes, Frank reported. The motion carried unanimously.

Frank thanked us all for our support.

Schedule of future CHQ Trail meetings:

2024 – CHQ, NY, Sunday, August 4-7

2025 – Bay View, August 7-11

2026 - Ocean Park

2027 – Mt. Gretna

2028 – Wawasee

2029 - ? Dunes or Monteagle

2030 – NY

2031 – Ocean Park

Orchestral Hall from 1-3pm for the documentary and history today; 4pm the boat is covered and will go out for our dinner cruise – followed at 7:30pm, with the Sons of Serendip at Hoover.

Our farewell breakfast will be from 8:30-10:30 at Bob's.

Janet – her thoughts of the trail – is writing a book on the CHQs, the history, why it's relevant, stunned by the interest this book is stimulating and is excited about the potential; she joined the trail yesterday. The inspiration for

this book came from the loneliness her sister faced last fall when she passed from COVID complications; if only she had been in a community.... She is hooked on CHQ now!!

Frank asked Gretchen for update on a website; the backend is now built on a new platform. Now we have to connect the website with the domain. Then to update everything. Will jump into that after the Lakeside season is over. Perhaps can connect our survey results.

Frank will meet with officers and discuss the Vision Committee.

Barb thanked Kathy for her tired fingers.

Kate/Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:12pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Snavely, Secretary