

MIDLAND KIWANES



Kiwaniis®

President: Chuck Lenk
Secretary: Brad Bahr
President Elect: Kevin Shaughnessy
Treasurer: Mike Rush

Bulletin Publisher: Brad Bahr
Vol. 85 No. 7
January 22, 2024

Location: First United Methodist Church
Time: 2nd & 4th Monday Nights, 6:00 PM

Address: P.O. Box 2251
Midland, MI 48640-2251

Websites: www.midlandkiwanis.org
www.mi.kiwanisone.org
www.kiwanis.org

President Chuck Lenk called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Guests: Denise Grove, Dan Chalk, Tom Randolph

Program Next Meeting: Foundation (12-Feb)

Program Upcoming Meetings: Northeast Middle School Viking Vortex Robotics (26-Feb)

Committee Meetings This Week: Foundation Board

Committee Meetings Next Meeting: Club Board

Secretary's Report: None

Anniversaries: None

Birthdays: Brad

Announcements:

- **John** - The Scholarship Honors Banquet date has been set for Monday, April 29 at the Great Hall. Please mark your calendars!
- **Karann** - Young Life is holding a bunco fundraising event on 3-Feb at 1:00 PM. Contact Karann if you'd like more information.

Happy Dollars:

- **Chuck** - Thanks to Amy for bringing home a Lion's playoff win!
- **Cal** - Thanks to an acupuncture procedure he has been able to resume his biking! \$20 to the pig for reaching his 300 mile milestone.
- **Mike** - Lost power for 1 ½ days but thankful it was restored and wasn't longer.

Program: On behalf of the Camp Neyati Committee, Brad introduced our guest speaker Holly Miller, President & CEO of United Way of Midland County (UWMC). Holly has served in this role since 2019 and also served in other roles at UWMC for 9 years prior to that, as well as serving as Executive Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters for over 2 years.

Holly shared that like many Kiwanians, she has a personal connection to Camp Neyati. Her son attended camp, served as waterfront director there, and met his future wife

there. Holly expressed gratitude for our club's historical involvement and support of Camp Neyati and wants to preserve the camp for future generations to experience for 100+ years.

Our club partnered with UWMC's predecessor, the Midland Welfare Association to purchase the land and establish Camp Neyati at its current site in Lake, MI in 1938. Since its founding the two organizations have collaborated to operate and maintain the camp, formalizing this arrangement as the Midland Camping Commission in 1950, which consisted of 3 directors from Kiwanis and 3 directors from UWMC. In 1991 this organization was incorporated as a new 501c(3) organization called the Midland Camping Council (MCC), which has operated the camp ever since. Holly noted that since 1973, UWMC allocated over \$3M toward the operation of the camp and awarded over \$1.2M in camp scholarships. In 2019 UWMC changed the way it managed allocations, funding programs rather than agencies to focus on outcomes. MCC did not fit in this model since it managed a property rather than delivering impact from programs. In October of 2023, UWMC decided to change the governance model for Camp Neyati, discontinuing its historical arrangement with the MCC and assuming operation and oversight of the camp on January 1, 2024. While she noted that MCC did a great job of maintaining the camp for so many years, a step change was needed to upgrade its facilities and long-term sustainability.

Holly shared UWMC's vision and aspirations for Camp Neyati as well as their progress since taking over management of the camp. They have retained long time caretaker George Strom for 2024 and are developing a detailed maintenance and capital plan for the future transitioned from MCC, identifying \$12,000 in clean up projects and \$280,000 in capital needs, especially to revitalize the camp's iconic domed dining hall facility. They have formed a new Camp Neyati Advisory Committee with volunteers from the community to guide the future direction of camp and engage with the community. They are working to refresh the web and social media sites for the camp. They have contacted past clients of the camp and intend to honor all past

commitments from MCC on scheduling for 2024. They are working to upgrade their documentation on agreements and operating procedures. They are working to set up a volunteer base of construction experts to lead the scope definition and project execution on maintenance and capital projects. Finally, they are working to set up agreements with Greater Midland Community Center to help with managing the operation of the camp. These last two efforts are aimed at reducing the overall cost of operating camp.

Key to the sustainability of the camp is developing a long-term business model. UWMC sponsored a study by Northwood University master students to investigate other potential user groups and sources of income, especially outside summer camp season, that could enhance revenue from the property. Having a better understanding of needs and opportunities like this will help decide if investing in all-season facilities can be justified. The primary mission, however, continues to be serving the community of Midland and its historical base of client groups.

Holly once again thanked the club for its historical commitment and support for Camp Neyati and invited the club and its members to continue supporting the camp in its mission to serve future generations of campers. We are invited to serve on the Camp Neyati Advisory Committee, to financially support maintenance projects at the camp, and to volunteer at camp as we have done historically. Holly's presentation is available at the link below. Thanks for supporting Camp Neyati!

[UW Camp Neyati Kiwanis Presentation 2024.pdf](#)



Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.