



Feb. 9, 2020

Vol. 36 No. 6

### Travis Castle Speaks about VTG

Travis Castle gave an update on the Vision Treynor Group (VTG) to the Treynor Optimists on Saturday, February 8. VTG is ten years old. Today, Castle, Doug Wehring, Scott Reelfs, and Norm Collins lead the VTG. The goal is to bring public and private entities together for the betterment of Treynor and the surrounding area.



Using the results of a community survey, the first goal was to find land for little league fields and trails to create a gathering place in the community. Land was purchased for a family recreation center complex.

**L-R: Travis Castle, Doug Wehring**

In the middle of this first project, the local Fitness Center was leaving Treynor due to Casey's gas station expansion. The former Pickle Barrel was remodeled and leased to Peak Fitness. The lease ended April 2019 and VTG took over operations. The goal is to be in the black by April 2020. A ten-member Treynor Fitness Advisory Board oversees the operation and promotion of services. Monique Lowe, massage therapist, is located there and also does cleaning maintenance.

Membership is growing with 92 members currently. Improvements have been made with a new entry fob system and new Wifi. There is an actively aging class, boot camp classes, and Tai Chi may come. Membership is \$25/mo. for individuals, \$55/mo. for families of 2-4, and \$15/mo. for students. Membership includes usage of weights and cardio training equipment and allows for participating in special classes at a class rate.

The Family Recreation Complex is proceeding in phases. Fundraising in 2013 raised \$250,000 and all of that money is earmarked for this project. With additional monies donated and borrowed, land was purchased north of the Zion cemetery on Hwy 92 in Treynor.

A gravel road and parking lot will be created so that two fields can begin to be used this spring for soccer and multi-use sports. A new water line will be laid for irrigation purposes. Electricity remains to happen. The old football stadium poles and lights are laying at the site. These are available for sale at a good price or possibly for use. The desire is for more funding for ball park fencing and backstops.

Castle stated that anything they do to the land is to be to grade so it can be completed. Nine acres on the north was sold to Heartland Properties for a 29 home development.

Travis stated that the city has been a good partner and VTG is very open to working with the Splash Pad and Keep Kids Alive Trails.

The next goal is a Family Recreation Complex Advisory Board with committees for 1) Youth Sports, 2) Facilities/Grounds, 3) Fundraising/Financial, and 4) Community Outreach. This will fall under the umbrella of the VTG Board.

Travis, an insurance agency owner of American Family Insurance with offices in Treynor, Bellevue, Council Bluffs, Nebraska City, and soon in Elk Horn, NE, also is a long-time volunteer with high school basketball. He and his wife, Lori, have three children. His wife teaches in Treynor and his son, Ty, a graduate of NWMS College, works with his dad in the insurance business. Trey is a junior at ISU and Tori is a senior at Treynor.

Next week's program will be by High School speech students. Join us from 8-9 AM on Saturday at the Treynor Community Building. All are welcome! Breakfast will be served.

### Meeting Minutes

Bill Vorthmann, President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Sixteen members and two guests, Travis Castle and Doug Wehring were present.

Bill shared that on this day in 1971, NASDAQ, the world's first electronic stock exchange, held its first trading day!

Jokes/stories were shared by Gary Funkhouser, Dale Willenborg, Keith Denton, and Bill Vorthmann.

The group said the Pledge of Allegiance. Jordan Campbell gave the opening prayer.

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Marsha Underwood, and the Attendance Drawing was won by Kirk Vorthmann, who was not present.

### **Birthdays/Anniversaries:**

Gary Funkhouser's birthday is Feb. 13. There were no anniversaries observed.

### **Bragging Rights:** (\$ to fund youth activities)

1) Dale Willenborg contributed in honor of Richard Vorthmann, who would have been 99 this week. He stated how he respected him and was a source of inspiration. A clipping about a play that Richard was in when he was in 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade was circulated. Admission was 15 cents. 2) Judy Gutttau contributed for grandkids happenings this week, including Joslyn Gutttau participating in State Group Speech today. 3) Gary Gutttau donated because of both basketball teams playing so well against AHSTW.

### **Community News:**

Jordan Campbell reminded the group about the new Teammates program being implemented in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades at the school. More volunteers are desired to serve one hour/week during the school year as a mentor to a child.

Monday is the State Jazz Choir Festival at AL at 6:05 PM.

Chad Gutttau stated he is working in the state legislature to promote a bill for increasing the 5 cent bottle/can recycling fee to 10 cents with extra money being used for education and veterans.

The Music Boosters Band Uniform Fund Drive has reached \$35,000 and has a goal of \$40,000.

### **Old Business:**

Gary Gutttau, Chad Gutttau, Bill Vorthmann, Dale Willenborg, and Gary Funkhouser assisted with the Can Kennel on Wednesday. Approximately 15 helped from Studio 7.

### **New Business:**

A thank you from Barb Vorthmann was read for the donation to the Gold Star Moms.

Treasurer Gary Gutttau stated that \$174,650.88 has been collected to date for youth through the can kennel. Judy Gutttau recommended we celebrate, perhaps with a breakfast, when we reach \$175,000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and concluded with the saying of the Optimist pledge.

Bill Vorthmann wants all to know that a free breakfast will be served by Silver Keg Feeders this coming Saturday to the Optimist Club and guests.

### **BOARD MEETING**

Bill Vorthmann, President, presided at the Board Meeting with Gary Gutttau, Ken Graham, Jordan Campbell, Dale Willenborg, and Judy Gutttau present.

Bill stated that he is most likely attending the Optimist Regional Meeting Feb. 15.

Gary stated that bragging rights donations are helping the club support itself.

Dale has placed the flag application on the web site. Bill will check on placing this in city news and possibly school news.

The Music Boosters were approved for the can kennel in January 2021.

The group discussed the Ford fundraiser. Several locations were discussed and Bill will check into this more. There was preliminary discussion about how to use the funds raised.

Dale will complete the 990 Form.

Past and possible future fundraisers were discussed. VTG indicated a possible community meeting this spring. Jordan suggested the possibility of a pizza night meal, with Casey's providing the pizza, in conjunction with this event. Jordan will do more research. Dale will check with the Manning Club on their fundraiser.

Bill Vorthmann will contact the school's new counselor to inform her that our club is willing to sponsor two students to attend the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Camp.

Jordan will serve as organizer of the Youth Appreciation Event this spring.

### **HUMOR**

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now Class, who discovered America?

Class: Maria

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'  
Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L  
Teacher: No, that's wrong.  
Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

#### **Calendar**

Feb. 15 Regional Optimist Conference - Greenfield  
10 am – 3 pm, Hotel Greenfield  
Feb. 19 Can Kennel Sorting

#### **Birthdays**

Feb. 13 Gary Funkhouser  
Feb. 25 Lou Howell

#### **Anniversaries**

#### **Programs**

Feb. Gary Funkhouser  
Mar. Gary Guttau  
Apr. Jeff Jorgensen (first two)  
Matt Saar (last two)

#### **Speakers**

Feb. 15 High School Speech Dept.  
Feb. 22 Scott Wallace, new baseball coach  
Feb. 29 To be announced

Judy Guttau, [judy.guttau@tsbg.com](mailto:judy.guttau@tsbg.com), 402-670-4330  
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575