



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**
April 3, 2008
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Bryan Hansen of the Waunakee-DeForest Ice Rink updated the club on that nonprofit group's efforts to build a rink and expo center in Waunakee.

In Waunakee's business park off of Hogan Road, developers Don Tierney and MLG donated eight acres of land to the village. Currently, a portion of the land has been developed into a skate board park.

The ice rink would be built on another portion of the land, with the remaining portion set aside for a possible swimming pool some time in the future.

Two years ago, the Waunakee Youth Hockey group conducted a feasibility study to determine if a rink would be of interest. Some 100 businesses and individuals were interviewed, and between the Waunakee, DeForest and Lodi hockey teams, it was determined there was enough interest.

The Waunakee Youth Hockey group had been looking for land for many years. The group determined that families involved in hockey spend about five hours per week per skater traveling to practice. Local youth hockey families also spend a considerable amount of money on ice time, skate rentals, gas, groceries and restaurants in other communities.

But it was determined that the local group could not shoulder an ice rink only on its own. The feasibility study found that a broader use was needed for the facility.

Instead, the rink is planned to be used as an expo center, as well. It will be designed with a concrete floor and removable ice.

Four user groups would practice at the rink: the Waunakee Youth

Hockey Association, the girls' and boys' high school teams and the Dane County Diamonds, a girls' youth hockey association.

Bryan cited a UW study that found when new facilities are built, the base for them grows. More Waunakee youths could become involved with hockey if a rink were available in town, he said. And adult leagues could play at the local rink, as well.

The cost of the facility is \$3 million, Bryan said, and the group would like to raise \$2 million before construction begins. It is hoped the rink can open its doors in 2009 if the funds can be raised.

A full-time staff member would be hired by the nonprofit board to operate the rink and schedule the various user group times.

Bryan said the rink should benefit not only the hockey teams, but the community as a whole. Open rink times would be made available, and the expo center would bring in new events to the village.

It could also add to programming by the Give Teens Options group, which plans activities for young people.

Guests: Eric Esser, guest of Gene Smith.

Visiting Rotarians: Sarah DeKraay, Sun Prairie.

Other news:

•Jim Tubbs was voted Business Person of the Year and will be honored at the Community Awards Banquet April 20.

•Bill Erickson told the club about the Rotary District's Friendship Exchanges. The fall exchange is to Istanbul, Turkey. This spring, there is an exchange to Sweden, which he and Jeannette are going on. The

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Calendar of Events:

- April 20, Waunakee Community Awards banquet
- District Conference, April 25-26

Ericksons will stay with Rotarians for the 12 days they visit. Anyone interested in going should let Bill know and he can provide details.

•Betty Willems wrote the club a thank you note for the plant and the well wishes.

Birthdays: April 1, Ken Pesik (Sorry I missed you last week, Ken. You can't escape our singing.); April 4, Ray Statz; April 7, Connie Blau; April 8, James Chancellor.

Anniversaries: none.

Prayers: April 3, Kim Wilde; April 10, Pat Durden; April 17, Msgr. Kramer; April 24, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: April 3, Club Assembly; April 10, Raissa de Souza, exchange student talk.

Greeters: April 3, Roberta Baumann and ???; April 10, Dan Statz, Duwayne Statz; April 17, Sandy Taylor and Don Tierney; April 24, Luke Tierney and Jon Townley.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.