

Rarity Bay Women's Club Monthly Meeting Minutes

Location: Rarity Bay Country Club **Date:** March 3, 2026 **Start Time:** 10:00 AM

Opening and President's Report by Shelley King

- Shelley King opened the meeting promptly at 10:00 AM, noting that Jan Muir had a presentation starting at 10:15 by the Tennessee Aquarium.
- Shelley King read a letter of thanks from Newborns in Need of East Tennessee for the club's February charity event contributions.
- The letter specifically thanked the club for the "generous way they give our neighbors" and highlighted the significant impact on families and babies.
- Connie Williams was acknowledged and thanked for her seven years of service in collecting and delivering the donated items.
- The impressive quantity of donated items was detailed: over 4,000 diapers, over 8,000 wipes, 112 onesies, 81 sleepers, and 109 baby bottles.
- Connie Williams shared that the donations packed her husband's truck and her SUV.
- Amanda was thanked for organizing and setting up the charity events for the year.

Charity Report by Amanda Looney

- Amanda is coordinating with charities to have speakers at upcoming meetings.
- A volunteer opportunity at Second Harvest in Maryville is scheduled for March 14th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, involving scooping Cheerios, bagging rice, and assembling boxes.
- A future volunteer opportunity with Second Harvest in Madisonville is being planned for April.

Vice President Report by Jan Muir

- The April 7th meeting will be at 5:00 PM at the clubhouse and will be open to men and guests.
- The speaker for the April meeting will be Joan Cronin, Women's Athletic Director Emeritus University of Tennessee, who boosted women's sports and was a pioneer as one of the first female athletic directors in the country and in the SEC.

- The meeting with Joan Cronin is scheduled from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, followed by an optional dinner for which members can sign up, with efforts to accommodate dietary needs.

Treasurer's Report by Jen Warner

- As of the meeting, there are 14 new members, bringing the total paid membership to 308.
- An additional new member joined on the day of the meeting, bringing the total to 309.
- The current balance is \$26,128.85.
- Members paying by check or cash for meetings are requested to submit their payments to the treasurer the week before the meeting to ensure accurate accounting and meal reservations.

Bereavement by Michelle Humphrey

- Michelle Humphrey reported that member Terri Beyer had passed away.
- The family is experiencing financial struggles due to Terri's prolonged illness and hospitalizations, and donations are being accepted to help with bills.

Speaker Presentation by Stefanie Soto from the TN Aquarium

- Stefanie Soto from the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga presented virtually.
- Three animal ambassadors were introduced: Moss (a marbled salamander), Claudia (an eastern box turtle), and a pencil urchin.
- Moss, a native Tennessee salamander, was highlighted as an indicator species due to amphibians' permeable skin, making them sensitive to environmental changes and pollution.
- Claudia, the state reptile of Tennessee, an eastern box turtle, was presented. It was noted that it is illegal to own native reptiles in Tennessee. Claudia is an omnivore and has adaptations for digging and seeing red shades to identify safe berries.
- The pencil urchin, an ocean animal, was used to illustrate how actions in Tennessee waterways, connecting through the Tennessee River to the Ohio, then Mississippi, and finally the Gulf of Mexico, can impact ocean environments.
- The presentation emphasized the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the importance of protecting native species and water quality.

Greeter Director Report by Regina Hamblen and Penny Tyler

- Regina and Penny's report touched on new members and future events.
- There are 47 newcomers on the roster.

Birthday Bash by Cindy Willbee

- A birthday bash for members with March or April birthdays will be held at the Rarity Bay Country Club on April 1st.
- Lunch will be served, and members will pay for their own meals, with options to pay by cash or to their club account.

Learning Labs by Cindy Willbee

- There are four spots remaining for a crocheting class on March 26th, taught by Cara Johnson and Carol Shaw.
- An event is planned for April to visit the Fort Loudon lock system. This event is free but requires pre-clearance, and forms will be posted online or available as copies. Thirty spots are available for this activity.

Lunch Bunch by Cindy Willbee

- The Lunch Bunch will be meeting next week at Calhoun's. A \$20 check is required to hold a spot, which will be returned upon attendance.

Close by Shelley King

- Shelley King thanked the country club and staff for the coffee and tea bar.
- She reminded members about the upcoming Lunch Bunch meeting at Calhoun's.
- The Sunshine Committee's role in providing meals to members in need was mentioned.
- Shelley King reiterated that there were website issues being addressed.
- She thanked everyone for attending and invited them to join for lunch.

Close 11:10 AM

Date and Time of Next Meeting: April 7, 2026, 5:00 PM **Location of Next Meeting:** Rarity Bay Country Club

Minutes submitted by Heather Risany, Secretary **Date:** March 15, 2026