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To Move or Not to Move?

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To Move or Not to Move?

from *Downtown Rotary Club, summer 1998*, newsletter

To Move or Not To Move?

At their January 1998 meeting, the past presidents of the Club unanimously agreed that for the long term viability of the Club, we should return to the downtown area. An opinion poll taken last Rotary year revealed that the membership agrees.

Reaffirming and Strengthening Our Traditions

By common consent these traditions and issues are based on the minutes of the December 12 meeting and were endorsed by all of the participants. It was agreed that these traditions and issues would be presented to the Club Board of Directors and to the general membership in order to provide a context for Club goals, plans, or policies that may be developed in the future.

Three Traditions

Our Club has three strong traditions that began when our Club was founded in 1917. They are:

- (1) We are a *Downtown Club*.
- (2) We are a *Senior Leadership By Invitation Club*.
- (3) We are a *Service Club for the Larger Community*.

This week more information is provided on #1 of our three traditions. Additional information on tradition #2 and tradition #3 will be provided in subsequent publications of our weekly bulletin.

(1) We are a Downtown Club

A sense of *place* has always had value for people. We speak of the “old home place,” or “where have you come from?” We often remember our personal or family history by reference to *place*. Being clear about *place* provides a sense of stability and continuity. *Place*, or where we meet, is part of who we are as a Rotary Club. So, in terms of *place* we have always been a *downtown* club. Downtown is where our civic *heart* has been for over 80 years.

Rotary's presence downtown is an important affirmation of the financial, judicial, political, medical, mental health, artistic, legal, and entertainment center of our city and county.

Also, not insignificantly, we believe that by returning to the downtown area, our Tuesday meeting attendance will move back up to its previous level prior to our moving out of the downtown area.

The Von Braun Center appears to be an excellent possibility even though that may mean a dues increase. Our dues have been at the lowest end of the 50 largest clubs for several years. Parking is more than adequate; and because it is in a parking garage, it will provide protection during inclement weather.

Recommendation 1

Therefore we strongly recommend that the Board of Directors return our Club meetings to the downtown as soon as that is feasible and practicable.

Note: The Downtown Rotary Club now meets in the South Hall of the Von Braun Center on Tuesdays.



**Fig.2 South Side Square, fall 1942, looking toward the Hundley Building and Harrison Brothers Hardware Store. Notice awning on Hundley Building.
Courtesy Huntsville/Madsion County Public Library.**



Fig.1 The Schiffman Building, corner of East Side Square and Eustis Street. Notice the trolley tracks in this undated photograph.
Courtesy Huntsville/Madison County Public Library.