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Brad DeHays gave a virtual introduction of our speaker, **Alex Fischer**. As Brad explained, Alex is “kind of a big deal,” as he is the President and CEO of The Columbus Partnership. Formed in 2002, the partnership is assisting One Columbus Economic Development. Their membership includes 15 Fortune 1000 CEO’s. The mission is to improve the economic and cultural base for Central Ohio.

A native of Hendersonville, TN, Fischer has an undergrad degree from the University of Tennessee and master’s degree in Architecture and Planning. He previously lived in Upper Arlington, but now resides in Grandview as well as his home on Buckeye Lake. He is active with many Boards including OSU Board of Trustees and Chairman of Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

The Columbus Partnership was instrumental with Columbus receiving a \$50 Million Smart City Grant, The Columbus Crew Stadium, and he believes in “Bringing Community Interests to the Table.” Fischer highlighted that Columbus is the third largest Capitol in the US. We will see a population of 3 million people in the future. Top tier cities like New York and Chicago are challenged as second tier cities, like Columbus, emerge with growth. Columbus has 150,000 college students and we are a hub of technology. Companies like Covermymeds did not exist 10 years ago. We are ripe for continued growth and opportunity. TRC is the largest Autonomous Test Facility in the US, and the second largest in the world. Children born today may never need a driver’s license. They set a goal of 150,000 new jobs 12 years ago and blew past that goal with supply chain, automotive, and technology opportunities. The goal now is to be the most prosperous region in the US for all citizens.

With the chaos of 2020, there is still growth in the area. Fischer stated that our world has been impacted but has changed quickly. NCH had 19 virtual consultations last year and so far in 2020, the number is over 137,000. Online learning will continue to be a normal offering. Limits of broadband in rural and urban areas will be challenge that must be overcome.

Fischer posed the question whether we are complacent with growth? He posed a bigger question regarding the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and asked all attendees to put their head down on the table for one minute. The awkward minute signi-

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

GREETERS

July 28
Benjamin Lupton
Ua Chamberlain

August 4
Joe Ayers

August 11
Beth Hatch

REGISTRATION DESK

July 28
Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

August 4
Ted Foster
Brendan King

August 11
Don Leach
J.D. Dickerson

CALENDAR

July 28 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Marjory Pizzuti & Nick Lashutka,
UA Community Center
Feasibility Study Report
Host: Kip Greenhill

August 4 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Katie White,
Age-Friendly Columbus
Host: Micheal O'Sullivan

August 11 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Scott Gaines,
COO – Cover My Meds
Host: Matt Hare

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

JULY 28th
Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



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fied that there are racial inequities in our culture. He asked why our club was all white? He feels that our community must share in the success for all people and that the new, better normal should address this.

During a brief Q&A, he addressed MORPC and corridors. Workers in Austin, TX average a 56-minute commute and Central Ohio is 25 minutes. We must review density to control spread. He also stated we should listen to perspectives to understand them, but ultimately, he is not in favor of changing the name of the city of Columbus.

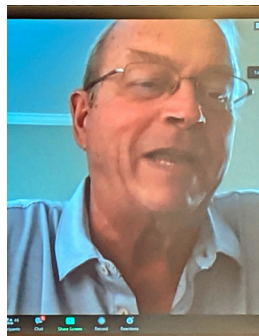
THE MEETING



The Upper Arlington Rotary's July 21 meeting was a combination In-Person/Zoom virtual event at Scioto Country Clubs opened by President **Debbie Johnson**. The prayer and pledge were provided by **Allison Russo**.

Guests: **Ralph Griffith** introduced his guest, **Doug McIntyre**. Doug is the founder of Cult Marketing in Columbus.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Via Zoom, **Tom Davis** provided an update on The West Broad Street Elementary Initiative. The club has offered \$5000, plus The UA Rotary Foundation has provided \$5000 for this project. Club members have offered \$6200 and an anonymous UA Rotarian has donated \$10,000 putting the total at more than \$26,000. Contributions may still be made through Thursday July 23. **Andy Livingston** is coordinating this effort.

Joe Valentino announced that after heavy consideration by the Fundraising Committee, it has been decided that our event will be online and virtual. The committee felt there is too much risk in assembling a large group even with planned controls. However, he still needs everyone's support. There will be silent and live auction items sold and we need still need to raise money for our club. Hats off to Joe and his team for battling through this challenge during a tough time.

Dave Hammond led harassment with several challenging riddles. He left the podium with a thought for the day, "The Future is Us."

