



Treasure Trove Giving Circle
October 1, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at C-FC High School

MINUTES

Persons Present:

- **Board Members:** Kelli Krzysztan, Steve Scharlau, Nicki Adank, Michelle Schmidtknecht, Jenny Slaby, Kalene Engel
- **School Representative:** Troy White

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Kelli Krzysztan

Treasurer's Report: Fund balances reported at the September 15, 2025 meeting were reviewed: the balance in the Treasure Trove Fund at Winona Community Foundation was \$59,261.49 as of September 15, 2025. The balance in the Alliance Checking Account is \$991.47. Steve provided a summary of the income/donations v. grants to C-FC for the past three years as follows:

2025-2026 Summary (to date)

Fundraiser donation -Denny Schmidtknecht Golf Tournament: +\$6551

2025 Other donations: +\$638.49

Grants to C-FC: TBD

Net Result: +\$7189.49 (to date)

2024-2025 Summary

Fundraiser TTGC Golf Tournament: +\$3500

Other donations: +\$603.09

Grants to C-FC: -\$3200

Net Result: +903.09

2023-2024 Summary

Fundraiser TTGC Golf Tournament +\$6000

Other donations +\$1993.55

Grants to C-FC: -\$4581.99

Net Result: +\$3411.56

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the September 15, 2025 meeting were distributed in advance of the meeting. There were no recommended changes.

Nicki made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Minutes; Michelle seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

C-FC Happenings: Troy reported that the current start to the school year has been his best in 28 years as an educator. He attributes part of that to the school's efforts in focusing on student engagement using AI and other methods as endorsed by the LIFTtoFFS Consortium (referenced in the September minutes). One of the strategies used is to learn information in a smaller amount of time but then to immediately apply it in an engaging way.

Engagement Lab-Get Your Teach On: The Board received a grant request from Stacy White for a Get Your Teach On (GYTO) Engagement Lab. The total amount of the request was \$60,000. Part of the cost is for the equipment and setup of the classroom, but a large part of the cost is for on-site professional development of teachers by the leaders of GYTO. Troy reported that, earlier this week, two elementary teachers had physically transformed their classrooms into distinct settings using props and then taught a lesson using that setting as a backdrop for the lesson (somewhat emulating an engagement lab). The students were surveyed about the experience after the lesson; not only did they really like the experience but they wanted the transformation to stay up all day. Discussion was had on cost/benefit using dollar comparisons. Although the lab could possibly be considered a replacement for some field trips, a better comparison is the cost of professional development. The cost to send 1 staff member to the PLC training for a week is around \$2,000. The onsite training for GYTO would involve at least 27 staff members, so that alone would be \$54,000 in value.

Kalene made a motion to donate up to \$15,000 in existing Treasure Trove funds towards the Engagement Lab, Steve seconded the motion. Additional discussion was held on how donations could be set up through the Winona Community Foundation website, the 2026 above the line deductions for charitable contributions, a dollar for dollar "match" challenge and a possible contribution by the PTO. Kalene called the question. Motion passed 6-0.

Develop Plan for Engagement Lab Campaign: Much discussion was held on how to introduce and market the Engagement Lab for the purpose of securing funding. The following plan was developed:

- Treasure Trove will match, dollar for dollar, every donation up to \$15,000 (this match is the "up to \$15,000" approved earlier in the meeting);
- Anyone who donates will be given special recognition—this will likely be some type of listing on the website and outside of the door of the lab itself; donations can be "in memory of" or "in honor of" or anonymous or just in the name of the donor;
- Kalene will ask Winona Community Foundation to modify the verbiage on the Treasure Trove donation page on the WCF website to provide instructions to donors as to how to direct their donation to the Engagement Lab;
- The main "physical display" for the project will be two posters (one with basic Treasure Trove information and one with Engagement Lab information) flanking the display case containing the miniature classroom and Jurassic Park lab that Kalene created plus paper handouts (one side containing information on Treasure Trove and the other containing information on the Engagement Lab with a tear off donation slip)
- Michelle will work with her husband to develop the layout/content for the Treasure Trove poster.

- Troy/Stacy White will develop information about the Engagement Lab to be included on a large posterboard
- Nicki will create the QR Codes for the donation link on WCF and the website and get those to Michelle
- Everyone should review the Treasure Trove handout and provide suggested changes to Michelle ASAP; drafts of the posters will be circulated via email to board members for review/input
- Troy will make sure to get information out to the teachers notifying them of the project prior to October 21st (first parent-teacher conference day).
- The goal is to have the display at parent-teacher conferences to introduce the project; Board Members would not need to be present as the display should be self-explanatory.

Update TTGC and School Website: Kalene will update the TTGC website to include past director terms as recognition for service and make the bylaws and minutes publicly accessible. Troy will update the school website.

Schmidtknecht Golf Tournament Thank You: Karla was not present to confirm whether the thank you went out.

Alumni Survey Follow-Up: Kelli had distributed draft responses to persons who completed the alumni survey. She envisions two responses—one to acknowledge that the person's information was received (sort of like an auto response) and the second a more personalized one from TTGC. Troy will take care of the first response. Board members will review the sample responses provided by Kelli for the second response and provide feedback.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Kalene, seconded by Steve. Approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: TBA