



Treasure Trove Giving Circle
September 15, 2025 at 6:30 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 6:35 p.m. by Kelli Krzysztan

Treasurer's Report: 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 around \$991.47.

C-FC Alumni Survey: There were around 80 responses to the Alumni Survey that was posted a few months ago on the C-FC website. Reaching out to the alumni, explaining TTGC and showing that it is a valuable place to donate money could be a way of getting the legacy donations that would build up the fund so that the earnings on the fund could fund the yearly grant requests. Action items: Troy will periodically send the list of persons interested in Treasure Trove to us; we need to develop email to send to alumni and we need to add the alumni survey link to the website.

Engagement Lab-Get Your Teach On:

Background: Troy explained that C-FC and other area school districts are involved in efforts to try and increase student engagement in the classroom using AI and other methods, such as hands-on learning. This effort is called LIFTtoFFS (Learning Innovation for the Teaching of Future Focused Students); see <http://bit.ly/3Izy8C2>. A recent example of this is where Ms. Mikelson gave her students prompts for science class requiring them to use AI to obtain information. Creating more engagement for students leads to better learning outcomes and better mental health for teachers and students. Many of the high school teachers are already working on student engagement projects using AI but it is more difficult to do this in the primary grades. One of the engagement strategies Troy is looking at for the elementary grades is a Get Your Teach On Engagement Lab (<https://www.getyourteachon.com/engagementlab>). In a nutshell, a GYTO Engagement Lab is where a room in the school district is transformed into a 3D lab with a specific theme geared towards the lesson being taught. Unlike traditional classroom transformations where teachers have to put up/take down themed pictures and posters, the

Engagement Lab can be transformed instantaneously into a new theme. Since not all children can afford the same experiences as their peers, this lab would expose kids to things and experiences they might not otherwise get.

Location/Cost: During the course of planning for the referendum, a room was identified in the elementary that could be dedicated to be used for an engagement lab. Troy reached out to GYTO for a quote. The cost of setting up the room, the curriculum and updates and providing onsite professional development is \$60,000.

Expected Use/Buy-In: If C-FC were able to get an Engagement Lab, each of the elementary staff would be required to use it at least once a week. The goal would be to have it used as much as possible and, although it is intended more for elementary grades, it should be able to be used for higher grades. Based upon the interest of some of the teachers who have seen the lab at education conferences, Troy believes it will be no problem to get buy-in from the teachers regarding the use of the lab. For the general public, some of the selling points include the fact that we would be the 1st in Wisconsin to have such a lab, it is cutting edge, delivers content in a way that kids will remember it, is like an on-site field trip every day.

Funding/Timing: Given the cost of the lab, Troy would like to see multiple supportive groups getting behind the project. It is possible that there are some grants that could help fund this, such as the National Science Foundation Grant or even a Fablab grant. Discussion was held around how much TTGC might be able to fund, with a figure of \$15,000 receiving general support. Michelle note that people at the golf tournament had a hard time wrapping their heads around the idea of donating money to some unknown project or program that had not yet been identified—they would have been more comfortable (and probably donated more) knowing what their donation was going to be spent on. The idea of doing a match challenge and asking other groups, such as the PTO, for larger donations. Also discussed was the notion of whether, if this project was undertaken, TTGC would still allow and consider small grant requests this year. Since we have an active raffle license, we could still do a fall/winter raffle fundraiser to raise more money for this project or for ongoing grants. Troy believes if half of the project could be funded through TTGC and elsewhere, he could come up with the rest. If TTGC takes on this project, Troy would like to see this rolled out in August of 2026.

Action items:

- Troy will talk to Amy Schaefer (Elementary Principal) to have her start talking to staff about the idea to garner support
- Troy will create a QR Code for the GYTO video
- Nicki will look into possible grants for the project
- Troy will talk to Karla Patzner (PTO rep) about financial support from PTO for the project).
- Stacie White will put in a grant request
- Kalene will start working on draft website pages to “announce” the new project
- Kalene will talk to Winona Community Foundation to see if there is a way to do payroll deductions for Treasure Trove and how to manage donations for a specific project

TTGC Display: Kelli would like to have a display for TTGC to be used for tabling at different events so that people could better understand why our organization exists and what it does. This

could include information on the Engagement Lab (if the organization decides to back that effort) and general information about TTGC. If we decided to sell raffle tickets, it could also be used for that. Michelle stated that she could ask her husband to have his company do a cardboard display.

- Michelle will ask her husband to have Great Northern Company do a cardboard display.
- Board Members should review the TTGC flyer (from the golf tournament that Michelle distributed at the meeting) to review/suggest revisions.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: October 1, 2025 at 5:15 pm