

ROTARY CLUB OF CINCINNATI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2020

1:30 PM – via Zoom

Brett Lebhar, President

MEMBERS:

Brett Lebhar, President - P
Carl Kappes, Foundation President -- P
Ken Saunders – Secretary-Treasurer – P

Melinda Kelly, President-Elect - P
Dave Carlin, Past President – P

Scott Hoberg – P
Molly Reidel - P
Steve King – P
Larry Cunningham – P
Mark Romito – P

Kelly Mahan – P
Tim Hershner – E
Nancy Riesz –P
Steve Rogers – P

Ali Hussain, President-Elect Foundation (ex officio – non-voting) – P
Sam Scoggins, Legal Advisor to the Board (ex officio – non-voting) – E

(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent)

Call to Order

President Brett Lebhar called the meeting of the board of directors to order at 1:38 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Ken Saunders shared the November 2020 financial statements.

Motion Approved: that the November 2020 financial statements be received.

Greg Hartley shared the findings of Clark Schaefer Hackett from their annual review of the club's financials. There were no issues that they noted. The change in assets was primarily due to the large \$50,000 donation the club made to St. Vincent de Paul's homeless prevention program in response to the COVID pandemic.

Motion Approved: that the 2019-2020 Rotary Club Clark Schaefer Hackett review and financial statements be approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Approved: that the minutes of the November 12, 2020, meeting be approved with Nancy Riesz abstaining and the following changes:

- 1) President Report, first sentence change "stat project" to "membership attendance analysis" [note: drop the word "new" in front of membership attendance analysis and call it "recent membership attendance analysis"]

And, at end of the first paragraph, add these two sentences: "Survey respondents who requested a call from a Board Member will each be getting one. Brett said he'd be assigning Board Members to make these calls."

- 2) Executive Director Report, second paragraph, add "After the" to the second sentence.

- 3) Steve King, Youth Services Report, change Melinda Kelly donation to \$100.

Concerning Membership: Classification Committee Report

Classification Committee Report

NEW PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

Motion Approved: that the following new application for membership approved:

BERRY, Timothy

Line of Business: Education – Post Secondary Administration
Admissions Counselor
University of Cincinnati
Sponsor: Toni Otchere

President Report

Brett Lebharr began his report referencing the Club's Strategic Plan which had been sent to the Board with updates on the actions already completed, those on-track, and those off-track (some of which have been delayed on purpose). Steve King suggested posting the Strategic Plan on Google as a shared document for the Board to access, and that will be done. Steve also suggested changing the headers of the pillars of the Plan from "People, Projects, and Publicity" (PPP) to "Members, Projects, and Publicity" (MPP); and Melinda Kelly suggested perhaps "Members, Projects, Publicity, and Members" (MPPM) so that it starts and ends with members. No decision as to any changes, but it's a multi-year plan which could be revised at any time. Brett will update the Club on progress against the Strategic Plan at our Mid-Year Club Assembly on January 28, 2021. Brett then shared with the Board the three projects that our Environmental Sustainability Task Force has chosen as finalists to be presented at the Mid-Year Club Assembly. Club members will vote in Survey Monkey following the Assembly for the project they prefer our Club to do in Spring 2021. Brett proposed that our Rotary Club join Green Umbrella at a cost of \$100 year, and the Board concurred. On a different topic, Brett asked Board Members to finish their calls to the 79 Club members who were active pre-COVID, but have been inactive since; and also, to finish their calls to the respondents in the October 2020 Member Survey who requested a call from a Director. Brett mentioned that the Signature Project Committee Co-Chairs will be calling another committee meeting soon to discuss next steps. Steve King will be added to the Committee given his role as President Nominee. A Fall 2021 project date is looking less likely due to the uncertainties of planning a major project in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. There was mention of other possible agenda items for the Assembly, which could include a summary of the October 2020 Member Survey, a Fruit Bowl Program report, a summary of grants allocated year-to-date by our Foundation, and a Legacy Circle report.

Executive Director Report

Linda Muth shared an update of the Bumper Car event that will be held on January 21, 2021. Our goal is to engage prospects and members as part of our sponsorship of the bumper cars. Linda informed the board that the January – June invoices will be sent out next week. Linda reported that on November 19, 2020, the walls of the Rotary Office in multiple places started to show water damage. One area had yellow black mold/mildew. At that point, she asked the Carew Realty representative to immediately move our office into temporary space while the water damage is repaired. We were moved the following week Wednesday to the 41st floor by our member, Brendamour Moving and Storage (Mike Brendamour). There is a space that will be coming available at the end of year once the current tenant vacates. The plan is to move into that space in January. Linda worked with Al Koncius to

draft a letter to Carew Realty about the move into the new space. That letter was sent yesterday so hopefully a response will be received shortly and we can move forward in early January.

Committee/Director Reports

Dave Carlin – Corporate Membership

The Corporate Membership team will be having a roundtable session with several of our Corporate Members on Friday, December 18, 2020. The goal is to give them a forum for discussion as to how to engage in the community and other Rotary Corporate Members.

Tim Hershner – International Service

Linda Muth shared Tim Hershner's International Service Report on the World Affairs Committee from Toni Otchere on behalf of Richard La Jeunesse and Toni as co-chairs of the committee.

“WAC/SUN Uganda-- On October 22, Richard and I did a Zoom presentation to the Rotary luncheon group. This is our yearly presentation to update club #17 on what is going on with WAC and to present the fundraiser for the year. This year's #17 fundraiser is for the SUN Uganda project led by Deborah Schultz and Nate Thomas. The video can be found on [YouTube](#). The SUN fundraiser was virtual and held on November 12th. As we navigate the new virtual platforming, it was a good first online fundraiser for WAC. We thank Linda for all of her efforts in making this go smoothly.

Ghana Schools Project-- In May of 2020, through an individual donation Baffour and I donated 1,000 masks made in Ghana for the Besease School for the students and teachers. We are happy to report with good hand washing efforts, daily temperature checks and the students and staff wearing masks diligently, there have been no COVID-19 causes reported.

The next WAC newsletter will come out in the next month. Thank you to Tim Hershner, our WAC director and club #17 board for your continued support. Looking forward to greater things in 2021.”

Mark Romito – Membership Engagement

Member Retention

- Nothing new to report.
- Committee continues making birthday calls and are looking to set up more Neighborhood Coffees in 2021.

Women in Rotary

- Committee has been impacted by illness.
- Committee Liaison Lisa Blaney Gasaway has been sick and in the hospital. She was also out of town – returned home earlier this week.
- Co -Chair Julie Poyer is recovering from COVID and this was her first week back.
- Julie said the Committee has a lot of great ideas, such as a clothing drive for Dress for Success, but they need to regroup.

Young Professionals

- Due to the uptick in COVID cases and our Club suspending in person meetings, the YP Committee will probably follow suit and hold off organizing in person gatherings.
- The Committee will be calling each YP member (20+ YPs) to supplement its survey from last month and catch up.

Scott Hoberg – Fundraising and Fun

Scott reported Split the Pot committee is taking a wait and see approach. The club fundraiser organization is going well and Don Keller has already lined up five celebrity bartenders. Club sponsorships has struggled a bit because it is difficult to sponsor virtual meetings. Bob Brandstetter, the committee chair, suggested that we can share the opportunity from the podium in the coming weeks.

Steve King – Youth Services

Steve reported so many high schools are remote so students are not participating in activities. Interact, 4-Way Speech, and RYLA programs are all connected to high schools so they are all in a holding pattern. Steve also shared that Jim Brooks is working with our Rotary Club members to produce videos answering questions submitted by the University of Cincinnati Rotaract Club members. They will be sharing the different videos during their meetings next semester.

Steve Rogers – Club Meetings

The Club meetings have gone well with Greeters Chair, Susan Snodgrass doing a great job lining up greeters and then keeping track of the attendance. We have averaged 25 members each week and that is trending upward now that the meetings are entirely virtual. They are looking to reach out to members who are attending via Zoom to answer any questions about the meeting process.

Kelly Mahan – Community Service

Linda Muth shared Kelly Mahan's written report as she needed to leave early for another meeting.

"Drive-Thru" Condon Holiday Party

In spite of COVID-19, Terri Boeing pulled off a FANTASTIC "drive thru" celebration which far exceeded all expectations. Cars drove up, teachers helped to find each student's gifts and brought them to Santa so that he could give each child their gifts. After driving a little further they stopped to get their cookies from Servati's then stopped to see Nancy and Jerry Riesz' dog, Roman, dressed in an elf costume! The mascots were a HUGE hit, also, providing entertainment and engaging with students as they drove through ... Mr. Red, Twister, Mighty Mouse (our own Foundation President Carl Kappes), Puck Chop, Gary (FC Cincinnati), and Frisch's Big Boy were all there.

Over 120 children received gifts donated by Rotarians, 250 cookies were given away, and Rotary also provided teachers and staff with a special gift. Many of the teachers attended and got to say hello to their students and according to Terri, "the kid's faces just lit up when they saw their teachers." Under the circumstances, we couldn't have asked for a better celebration. Note: Hand's On is assisting with delivering gifts to students who were not able to attend the "Drive-Thru" event. The final two gifts are being delivered today, a "shout out" to Dan Long and Larry Cunningham for stepping up to help.

Fire Fighter Recognition Day

Kudos to Mackenzie Bennett for doing an outstanding job planning and orchestrating this year's Firefighter Recognition Day, yet another event which far exceeded expectations considering the many obstacles, due to COVID-19. It was a well-executed, well-deserved tribute which, even when viewed via Zoom, felt the same as being present. From Mackenzie, "I heard a lot of comments about how thankful people were not only to be recognized but just to be celebrating anything at all in these times ... they were thankful Rotary was able to have the event in spite of everything going on."

Social Media

Angie Fischer is heading this new committee and has assembled a small, but mighty, committee to help, including Ali Hubbard and Lisa Blaney-Gasaway. They have reached out to several additional potential committee members to solicit help with other platforms, including Linked In and Youtube. A. Fischer is still looking for guidance on the Content Calendar and how/what they can do to

contribute, which I continue to monitor. They set regular monthly meeting times and have been providing feedback to Clarissa on her post suggestions. They have also set a goal to obtain analytics which they can use as a benchmark and also to help them develop future content both on the private and public pages. Sam Schutte is being copied on all correspondence per his request. Our plan is for all of us to re-group in late Spring, early Summer to discuss and evaluate what is/is not working, where we can improve and to determine how best to proceed.

Hands-On Service

Bill Stille continues to do an outstanding job in his role heading up this committee. Highlights include:

- Camp Allyn Clean Up- An email from Bill sums it up perfectly: "Wow ... What a day 37 Rotarians came to Camp Allyn for the 2020 Camp Allyn Clean up. They spent from 9-2 doing painting, raking, and trail trimming. According to the Stepping Stones Staff. "The place hasn't looked this good in years."
- Ronald McDonald House- Bill reached out and they will not have on site volunteers this year until spring at the earliest. Although they do have other needs, Bill elected to hold off until we can volunteer in person and to focus on the fruit and vegetable deliveries.

Carl Kappes – Foundation Matters

Carl Kappes reported the property purchase at Camp Allyn is "this close". The current plan is to close on Monday. It may be postponed, but the feeling is we will eventually close on the expansion. We will be purchasing separate insurance for the new property. We will also be looking at revising the Stepping Stones agreement as part of this purchase. Carl also shared the foundation will be using the funds member donated for the Condon School Party to purchase Christmas Eve dinners for the families who are in need due to the pandemic.

Melinda Kelly – Membership Development

Dan Long - General Recruiting & Marketing

Dan is working closely with DeAnn and Linda Muth regarding recruiting and marketing - in particular with recent changes which have moved our meetings to no in-person meetings until at least the middle of January. Dan and DeAnn will choose - from the drawing - the winning Rotarian who brought a prospective member or who invited someone to attend a meeting online. The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Montgomery Inn.

DeAnn Fleming - Membership Outreach & Process

DeAnn will collaborate with the Retention Committee Chair - Mark Romito and/or his designee regarding next steps for on-going communications with Club members. She is assisting with the planning of a January 21st Bumper Car Event. DeAnn is also currently working out details and discussing options and logistics for the event. Also, in collaboration with Linda, DeAnn is planning a Big Pig Gig Event, with more details to follow at a later date.

Nancy Riesz – Onboarding

RoadMap for Success

The New Member committee is pleased to report that more than 27 new members were eligible to participate in the "Sticker Tear Off" ceremony during the December 2nd meeting. This is due in part to the efforts of all New Member On-boarding Committee Chairs: the recent successful New Member Project, New Member Reception and New Member Orientation. Another key factor was Dan Ricciardi and DeAnn Fleming contacting all New Member Advisors about the "status" of the new member(s) they are advising. It was a great event which is laudable considering the limitations necessitated by the pandemic. A BIG word of thanks to Linda Muth and DeAnn Fleming for creating the PowerPoint that was used for this recognition ceremony when the meeting became totally

virtual. An in-person ceremony during which all eligible members can physically tear off their stickers will take place once in-person meetings resume in 2021.

No activity for New Member Reception, New Member Project, or New Member Orientation this month.

Molly Reidel – Club Social Activities

Molly Reidel had nothing to report since we aren't being social.

Larry Cunningham – Special Activities

Larry reported Professional Development has lined up three courses that begin in January "What's Your 'Elevator Speech?'" with instructor Betsy Kent on January 14, 2021, "Impact of COVID on Commercial Real Estate discussion panel led by Doug Bolton on February 11, 2021, and "Do You Avoid Public Speaking?" with instructor Huxley Miller on March 11, 2021.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Brett shared that Melinda Kelly has volunteered to do a more in-depth analysis of the October 2020 Member Survey results, and Steve King then also volunteered to help.

Nancy Riesz asked what the plans were for the January-June billing cycle to address members who have an issue with pre-paying for lunches when they are not comfortable attending meetings. Linda Muth said there will be a credit issued for the 4 meals where there was not an in person option and all members are offered a Pre-Paid Lunch Leave if they raise the question to Kristy or her.

Adjournment

There being no further business:

Motion approved: that the meeting be adjourned 3:37 p.m.

Brett Lebhar
President

Linda Muth
Executive Director