**ROTARY CLUB OF CINCINNATI  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

Dec. 9, 2021, Rookwood Room

Melinda Kelly, President, presiding

**MEMBERS:**

Melinda Kelly, President - P Steve King, President-Elect – E

Ali Hussain, Foundation President –- E Brett Lebhar, Past President – P

Doug Bolton – Secretary-Treasurer – P

Larry Cunningham – P Tim Hershner – P

Kelly Mahan – P Toni Otchere – P

Molly Reidel - E Nancy Riesz – P

Steve Rogers – P Mark Romito – E

Bill Stille - P

Owen Wrassman, President-Elect Foundation (ex officio – non-voting) – E

Sam Scoggins, Legal Advisor to the Board (ex officio – non-voting) – E

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

**President Melinda Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.**

**Consent Agenda.** Motion made for approval. Seconded. President Melinda asked that DeAnn’s bonus of $500 be added to the consent agenda. Motion approved.

**Old Business.** There was discussion about feedback a member received from nearly a dozen people regarding the new badges not being round (reflecting the Rotary logo and brand). There was brainstorming about how to put a circle behind the new badges. There was discussion about making sure the first name stands out on the new badges. There was a suggestion that the new badges be used for new members, and then when there’s an appropriate number of the old-style of badges that can be ordered, the office do so. And then the new members would get the preferred old-style badge. A motion was made for the office to use the new style of badges for new members, and then when there is an appropriate number of old-style badges that can be ordered together for new members, the office make that order. The motion was seconded, and then approved.

There was discussion about the new member-invoicing system transition being more complicated than originally thought. The ad-hoc committee will continue to keep the board apprised of its progress.

**New Business.** There was discussion about a non-member who was invited to provide gifts to a club-sanctioned activity as part of her invitation to speak at the event. President Melinda said she stepped in and canceled the speaker after receiving complaints from a member. President Melinda suggested that members share with their committee chairs that something seemingly innocent can be construed differently and should be considered when planning events and activities. This led to a discussion about whether gifts are permitted to be provided to club members at club lunch meetings. A motion was made that no gifts or marketing materials can be provided to club members at their tables unless they are related to the speaker or sponsor that day. Motion Seconded. Motion Approved.

**Office Report.** Executive Director Sara Pattison said she met with Linda for onboarding and is eager to get started. She said she was impressed with Linda’s organization, breaking the tasks down by month, by week and by day.

**President’s Report.** President Melinda reported that the committee chair gathering was such a great success that a second session has been scheduled for January. These meetings will help directors begin to prepare for their presentations at the club assembly on Feb. 17. President Melinda reminded members to bring 2 to 3 prospective members during our March membership drive. President Melinda again praised Brett Lebhar for his work as president, which led Rotary International to recognize our club for our work in the fight to aid polio eradication.

**General Member Discussion.** There was discussion about the “disinterest” category in the classification report. Assistant Director Kristy Suszek said she gets resignation notes from people who rarely attend, and that’s how she describes their resignation. She said if the person is fairly active, she reaches out to engage the member in conversation about trying to preserve the member in some other classification or temporary status. There was discussion that we should have a process in place, and some members thought we did have a process that included DeAnn. There was discussion that in summer 2021the board discussed a process in which DeAnn would conduct an exit interview. But there is confusion about whether the exit interview is an attempt to reverse the resignation, or is simply a fact-finding device from a resigned member after the resignation has ben accepted. There was a suggestion that DeeAnn’s job description should be re-reviewed to make sure there is clarity on this point. There was a suggestion that our ad hoc committee on membership options review the process. Another member brought up that this discussion reinforces that the club needs more flexible membership options to offset how expensive it is to be a Rotary member. There was discussion about how the finance committee developed standard operating procedures around the club’s finances, and we should do the same regarding club membership practices.

There was discussion about an upcoming bylaw change the board will be asked to consider regarding having the Secretary/Treasurer-elect be treated the way our bylaws already treat the President-nominee, which is to have them join the board in an ex-officio role prior to their term starting.

There was discussion about reiterating the club’s mask policy to members from the podium during our lunch meeting. There was discussion about having Kristy check with the hotel staff about spreading tables out and adjusting to six seats per table.

There was discussion about how the Ghana trip might be moved from February, contingent on COVID.

Be on the look out for the new annual report, reported Past President Brett Lebhar.

**At 3:20 p.m., a motion was made for adjournment. It was seconded. Motion approved.**