

The Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
August 27th, 2025

The RCGF board of directors met on August 27th, 2025. An online meeting on ZOOM. Present were President Jon Thomas, Wild Game Feast Master (WGF) Guy Jopling, Charles Allen, Dalton Baker, Rogers Bartley, Matthew Braddy, Wesley Eubank, Rick Fabiani, Kevin Golden (on Zoom), David Gracy, Scott Hansis, Wilbur Holloway, Dwight McKey, Darleen Morgan, Rebecca Nagy (on Zoom), Ed Newmans, Jenna Ostas, Lynda Reinhart, Bobbie Robinson (on Zoom), Jason Shank, Kirk Smith, Mike Spranger, Ryan Thomas, Jenni Van Hart, Greg Young,.

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Welcoming attendees.

The meeting was then run by 2026 Feast Master Guy Jopling.

Topics of discussion were:

- I. Approval of minutes of the June 16th, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by David Gracy, seconded by Matthew Braddy. All in approval.
(Presented for approval by President Thomas). Remaining items presented by Feast Master Guy Jopling.
- II. Confirmation of additional board members recommended by the Chairman. Motion by Darlene Morgan, seconded by Rogers Bartley. All in approval.
- III. Confirmation of the following officers:
 - a. Secretary – Jenni Van Hart
 - b. Co-Treasurer – Wesley Eubank
 - c. Co-Treasurer – Matthew BraddyMotion by Lynda Reinhart, seconded by Kirk Smith. All in approval
- IV. Approval of additional three (3) members of the Executive Committee. The following directors have been recommended:
 - a. Jason Shank
 - b. Darleen Morgan
 - c. Lynda ReinhartMotion by Rogers Bartley, seconded by David Gracy. All in approval.
- V. Seafood Spectacular – November 6th, 2025. Dwight McKey will be King Neptune, with Wilbur Holloway as co-chair.
Pricing to remain the same as last year (having raised the prices two (2) years ago). Pricing will be \$60 per ticket or five (5) tickets for \$250.00. Motion to retain 2024 pricing by David Gracy, seconded by Matthew Braddy. All in approval.
Additional notes – Seafood Spectacular is more of a fellowship rather than a fundraiser, but as a rule the profits made from the Seafood Spectacular covers, or almost covers, the operating costs of the site.
Costs for the event are expected to remain the same.

- VI. Wild Game Feast – March 5th, 2026. Guy Jopling will be the Feast Master.
Pricing to remain the same as last year (having raised the prices two (2) years ago). Pricing will be \$85 per ticket, or six (6) tickets for \$425.00. Motion to retain 2025 pricing by Wesly Eubank, seconded by Kirk Smith.
Ticket sales typically cover the cost of the event (approximately \$75,000) while sponsorships provide the money available for grants.
Costs can be adjusted if needed through menu offerings (e.g. bacon wrapped tenderloins were dropped to save time and money in 2025 – no one noticed the absence).
Sponsorship drive can also be adjusted if needed should costs increase significantly. Past two years sponsorship contributions have been in the \$175k-\$180k range.
Raffle – last year raised \$15,000, ticket prices were increased last year to \$25 per ticket or five (5) tickets for \$100.00. Wilbur Holloway offered up the opportunity to board members to take a fresh perspective on how to promote the raffle and make more money. 100% of raffle ticket sales is profit.
- VII. Recipient(s) for the 2026 Wild Game Feast
Call for Rotary-led projects. Definition of the difference between a Rotary-led project versus a project brought to Rotary. Rotary-led projects are where Rotarians go to an organization with the desire to partner with them to complete a project rather than an organization approaching Rotary to provide funding for a project. Recent successful Rotary-led projects – Newberry High School Beautification Project, Saving Smiles with UF Dentistry, or Northside Park – Generations Play Zone – with City of Gainesville.
- a. Matthew Braddy presented a preliminary review of a project he and Ryan Thompson have been developing in conjunction with Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo (partner) for the past two (2) years.
Project is funding an Elevated Treehouse System and Learning Center at the Zoo. Total project estimated to be \$425k. Partner has raised \$100k through private donations. The RCGF would provide the remaining \$325k. Funding would go through the Santa Fe Foundation, designated for this project.
Partner has had the Master Plan by Santa Fe College.
Partner has found a specialized vendor to design and build.
Average annual visitor count is 65,000 people.
70-100 students move through the Zoo program annually.
Project is ready to go once funding has been secured.
Significant Rotary Recognition on all structures.
\$325k = \$100k from 2020 WGF + \$25k extra from 2024 WGF + \$25k extra from 2025 WGF + \$175k (anticipated) from 2026 WGF

- b. Other ideas mooted:
 - i. Rebecca Nagy mentioned St. Francis House needs a new roof.
 - ii. Dalton Baker mentioned Gainesville Opportunity Center needs several renovations
 - iii. Rick Fabiana mentioned Bread of the Mighty Food Bank needs a new cooler

It was determined these ideas were more suitable to the application process by the organizations involved to be considered alongside other applications. These were not considered Rotary-led projects; albeit very worthy ones.

- c. Motion by Matthew Braddy, seconded by Wesley Eubank to ask Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo administration to attend our next Board Meeting September 10th, 2025, to present a more comprehensive review of the project.

Guy Jopling mentioned he, and Matthew Braddy, will work on developing a short questionnaire to help with the community outreach for applications. This would go to interested parties, who would answer the few questions, allowing the board to determine if the project would meet the Wild Game Feast grant criteria, before requiring the organizations to complete the full application. This would help both the Board and the applicants.

VIII. 2024 WGF Grant Update by Matthew Braddy. Institute for Workforce Innovation. Some permitting issues, but these have been resolved, and project is scheduled to be completed by end of 2025 as per the approved extension.

IX. 2025 WGF Grants Update by Matthew Braddy.

- a. Girls Place – Playground is expected to be delivered in 10-12 weeks.
- b. Veterans' Memorial – First payment has been made. Temporary flagpoles will be installed to ensure the U.S.A. flag remains present until the new flagpole is installed. Ribbon cutting will be Veteran's Day 11/11/2025.
- c. Catholic Charities – due to a measuring error by the vendor, new parts had to be ordered delaying installation but is on schedule to be completed within the expected timeframe.

X. New Business:

- a. RCFT Tax Exemption Status Use Policy – sent via email. Board members to review prior to next meet when we will determine how/whether to add this policy.
- b. Website – Matthew Braddy illustrated how to access Financials and other related documents on the RCGF website (www.rotarygainesville.org).
- c. International Car Show at Bulter – Lynda Reinhardt reminded members of the event – 25th October 2025. Need Sponsors and Cars. 100% of sponsorship funds will come to the Foundation. \$2.2k so far in sponsorships. Volunteers will be needed on the day.

- d. Car Show Funds & Hog Roast Funds – Jenni Van Hart updated the club about the RCGF intention to leverage these funds into a Rotary District 6970 District Grant towards the end of the Rotary year. Contacted Gainesville Community Ministry to confirm they still needed support for the cold storage project they applied to our 2025 WGF to fund. They do, and so Jenni will reach out to the District Grant chair in February/March 2026 to determine available funds.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.