

ROCHESTER DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2020

Board meeting called to order by President Arne Fockler at 10:45am on Wednesday, March 11th. Present were Arne, Ed Prosser, Matt Belau, Mary Jo Kelly, and Yvonne Steiroff. Betty Shidler and Cindy Heins were absent (vacation), Gloria Georger was absent (personal), and John Woog was absent (having resigned prior to the meeting, see below). Ex-officio members in attendance were Sue Greenberg and Kathy Maegerlein. Tom and Linda Grigoleit were also in attendance.

President's opening thought for the day: "I have always wanted my computer to be as easy as it is to use my telephone – and it finally is. Now I don't know how to use my phone." – Bjarne Stroustrup

Board items that required voting included:

- **February Board Minutes** were approved (5-0) as submitted (Motion: Mary Jo, second: Yvonne).
- **February Treasurer's report** was approved (5-0) as submitted (Motion: Matt, second: Ed).

Board items discussed that did not require a vote:

- President's report: Work on the effort **to become a non-profit 501(c)(7)** or to remain as is will continue with a meeting of the sub-committee on the subject next Wednesday, March 18th. A report will be made to the rest of the Board, including their recommendation. **The building that currently houses the Bridge Club was bequeathed to family members after Chuck Pagenhart's death**; they asked for a meeting to talk about options (including possibly selling the building). Arne indicated he, Sue, and Bob Roediger would meet with the owners and report back to the Board. The **question of membership growth** was raised, in terms of how much larger or smaller our bridge group will get over the years, and how that would or should impact any negotiations going forward. (It was noted that enrollment in the bridge classes was down somewhat this year, with no real reason attributed.)
- Treasurer's report: Kathy provided the **February Treasurer's report**, explaining there was "nothing strange or outstanding". It was reviewed and approved (see above). Sue indicated there was a potential new income source from **a separate bridge group** that might provide some rent on the 1st Tuesday of the month, using the smaller bridge room. This group has lost their current bridge room, and it was widely hoped that this outside group would eventually play duplicate with the rest of the crowd.
- Club Manager's report: Sue sought the Board's counsel on whether or not to change Club policy and **open Tuesday's 3/31 LM/NLM game to all Open players**. This particular game is an ACBL-wide Charity game, but the Board decided to keep the MP pair limitation as is. **The NAP Flight "C" Final budget** was presented, with any profit or loss from the event going to D14. Sue noted that there would be a profit even with just 5 full tables, and Matt suggested if St. Paul has no Flight "C" game we could send out postcards to Twin Cities players to generate more tables. That was agreed to and put in the budget, which Sue will forward to Tony Ames. Sue also presented a Post-It from our local mail carrier requesting that **a mailbox be installed** on the property, no decision made. Ed will investigate.
- Linda Grigoleit indicated that all was "going as planned" for **the upcoming April Sectional**. The catering is in the process of getting squared away, there are some rooms which have been reserved at the AmericInn at \$90/night (which Linda pointed out was a great rate), flyers have been sent to the March tournament sites, the volunteer sign-up sheets are filling up, and the 3rd email blast will go out at the end of March (about one week before the Sectional).

- Ed noted that the website that displays our local results was down; Sue said it had been down for several days now, and that it was likely a server problem (as all clubs that use that site to show results have been unable to access it) and that it's being worked on. Sue is sending out **results via email** for now.
- Last month it had been decided to send the building owners a letter regarding **the snowplowing situation** (or lack thereof); the letter was not sent, however, as the snow season is pretty much over (*Matt: fingers crossed*), and Sue and some of the Board members thought it would be better to wait until next year to see if this would still be a problem – or if we could just take care of it on our own. Matt suggested this might be a potential point of discussion when the next lease discussions are under way later this year.
- Sue got a quote from her insurer for **Liability Insurance for the Directors and Officers (D&O)**; the cost would be \$400/yr, with a \$1M limit for each individual claim and a \$2M cap per year. The Board thought this was a reasonable charge considering the coverage provided, although no decision was made to purchase it at this time.
- Matt reported on the **Thursday night bridge game e-mail survey**. 20 players returned the survey, and a few players checked almost every option to increase turnout, but the results showed no consensus on any of the items that would increase the table count. One item that many players asked for was a Saturday morning game (not possible presently, as the Club's current lease doesn't allow for a Saturday game), although this might be something possible in the next lease. Sue shared the St. Paul club schedule, where they only have 499er evening games during the week – but a good turnout for their Sunday evening Open/potluck game.
- John Woog resigned from the Board for personal reasons on February 24th. Sue instructed the Board that the **By-Laws require the Board to appoint someone** to fill the open Board seat until the upcoming December election. (This is not a nominate-and-vote situation, the Board must appoint whomever they want.) There was a brief discussion as to who might be a good fill-in person, but it was decided that the appointment could wait until the next Board meeting.
- The **Coronavirus** situation was discussed at length concerning the upcoming Sectional (in three weeks) and our local Club games. The ACBL is not cancelling any Club games or Tournaments, but leaving it up to the local Clubs and Tournament sponsors to decide when/if to cancel. Regarding the Club, it was decided that we would close temporarily should the Rochester Public School system close -or- if churches, institutions or other large crowd events were closed or cancelled. . .but for the Club to remain open for now. The Sectional is on at present, but should it be cancelled, that information could be included in the email blast one week prior.
- Sue **issued an email to all players about "Keeping Us Well"**; and in this environment of heightened health issues, the Board agreed that the Club Manager, the game Director, and a Board member present at the game could consult one another and deny a pair the opportunity to play if it seemed as though it risked the health of everyone else in the room. Nobody at the meeting was hoping that it would come to that.
- Should the Club close due to the Coronavirus situation, Ed asked if our players could still enjoy bridge in **sanctioned online games**. Sue said she would investigate that possibility.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Yvonne), seconded (Ed) and approved (5-0) to end the meeting at 11:50a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Belau, Secretary to the Board