

# ROCHESTER DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2020

Board meeting called to order by President Arne Fockler at 10:02am on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> via teleconference.

Present were Arne, Matt Belau, Mary Jo Kelly, Betty Shidler, Cindy Heins, Yvonne Steiroff, Linda Grigoleit, and Ed Prosser. Gloria Georger was absent. Ex-officio members in attendance were Sue Greenberg and Kathy Maegerlein, and Bob Roediger was also present.

President's quote: "Getting bogged down in old stories stops the flow of learning by censoring our perceptions, making us functionally deaf and blind to new information. Once the replay button gets pushed, we no longer form new ideas or conclusions – the old ones are so cozy." – Martha Beck, Harvard sociologist.

Board items that required voting included:

- **Treasurer's report for August** was approved with the updated, actual ACBL/BBO income figures (Cindy moved, Betty seconded, approved 8-0).
- **Board Minutes from the September meeting** was approved as submitted (Cindy moved, Mary Jo seconded, approved 8-0).
- Decision to **move existing bridge club materials** currently housed at 1925 48<sup>th</sup> Street NE to a climate-controlled storage facility was approved (Linda moved, Yvonne seconded, approved 8-0).

Board items discussed that did not require a vote:

- **President's report:** The Club has **restarted lease payments retroactive to September 1st**, and will continue to make the monthly \$2,400 rent payment through the remainder of the lease.
  - **CHAT bridge** had suffered a small setback, with several players quitting this month, possibly being overwhelmed with both the online ZOOM meeting and CHAT bridge at the same time. But there are a couple of pairs who have expressed interest in CHAT and so Arne will start up again with either made or saved hands for use – and possibly someone kibitzing.
  - Arne asked the Board to be ready to **"re-think everything" about the bridge playing experience** once coming out on the other side of this pandemic. When do we open the club, when and how many people will show up, would it be incremental games that grow over time, and online bridge appearing to be here to stay in some form or another, all will have some impact on the our games in the future.
- **Treasurer's report:** The September report shows that "paying rent does make a difference", with a **net loss for the month**. We budgeted \$5,600 for September income and only had roughly \$3,000 in income (an estimated figure due to future adjustment from BBO later this week).
- **Club Manager's report:** We received an email from a realtor representing a group of Hadley Creek parents who wanted a gathering place for their children, and who was **wondering if they could co-use the facility with the RDBC**. The schedule they were interested in did not work with the RDBC schedule, but Sue will check our lease to see if sub-leasing is possible and if so, if this group may be able to save us some money off the next two month's rent by renting at Hadley Creek.
  - **Club Appreciation games** will run during the entire week of October 26<sup>th</sup>, with double black points being awarded online. There are no additional table fees to the ACBL for this week of games, so Sue indicated there's no need to consider raising the RDBC table fee that week.
  - The question of Life Masters who qualified under the old ACBL system (needing 300 MPs) playing in the RDBC online NLM 499er games had been raised. Sue contacted ACBL's Patty Taylor, who contacted BBO, and it turns out **the BBO's rules of limited masterpoint game participation are different than the RDBC's rules**. (The BBO allows all Life Masters under 500 MPs to play in 499er games, where the RDBC's games are for NLM 499er's,

and ACBLScore would disallow any LMs playing in our 499er games.) Sue will reach out to the affected parties to clarify.

- Tournament Co-Chairs report: **Unit 103 has cancelled the Rochester April Sectional and September Regional** for 2021. (They are financially responsible for these events, including lost deposits. Their lease agreement [along with the 12-month-in-advance “out” clause] made it relatively easy for the Unit to cancel this far out in an effort to be financially prudent.) Bar Widjicks was instrumental in getting Unit 103 the \$3,000 deposit back for the September event. There was no money at risk for the April Sectional. If face-to-face bridge IS back before next fall, Matt indicated it was still possible for us to host a tournament in September.
  - The **BBO tried out a team game event** this past weekend, which was riddled with technical problems. Matt heard from the BBO TD in charge that they learned quite a bit from the event this weekend and that it should help with BBO’s plans to have online tournaments with team games in the future.
  - The **ACBL and BBO have corrected the 12-board masterpoint payout** issue with BBO games so that it is now the correct 60% of unrestricted Open games.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The decision on **whether to invest some of the Club’s finances** was tabled due to the current fluid situation of what’s happening with the Club and its finances the next six to twelve months.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elections – the **upcoming Board election process** will take place in December. Arne, Mary Jo, Betty, and Yvonne’s 2-year terms are up – and Linda was appointed as a 1-year replacement (whose year is coming up). All can run again for a second consecutive 2-year term if they choose except Arne. Cindy (as incoming Board President) will recruit 2 non board members for a candidate search committee. How to best run the mechanics of the election was discussed, with email blasts of the nominees along with a Survey Monkey-type option for the voting.
- **Project Legacy** – we won’t be at Club for charity games, so discussed options for donations to this charity included a GoFund page on which to donate online, a direct donation to Project Legacy’s website, mailing Sue a check, and possibly running something along the lines of the Longest Day.
- With the current lease expiring, and no face-to-face bridge in the immediate future, the Board agreed to empty the building at 1925 48<sup>th</sup> Street NE and **place the bridge materials in a climate-controlled storage facility** until we are back with face-to-face games and know where we will be hosting those games. Ed suggested it might be best to have things moved before it gets too cold outside, Matt will look into a storage unit and Sue agreed to house the computers and printer, etc.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Matt), seconded (Linda) and approved (8-0) to end the meeting at 11:20a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Belau, Secretary to the Board