

CHARLOTTE BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
CBA BOARD MEETING November 3, 2021

MINUTES

Present : Pam Barry, Jack McMahon, Debbie Enna, Mark McBeth, Veronica Barnes, Rich Welc, Gainor Eisenlohr, Eva Stokkebye, Marilyn Goodrich, Janet Case, Len Case, By phone : Steven Aycock

Treasurer's Report

The major expense last month was the new security system, \$5147. The \$1800 in revenue sharing from ACBL came through, so the net monthly loss was \$3500. Investment gain for the year is now at \$ 116,158.

Funds from the Janney Operating Fund still have to be moved to a CBA checking account to cover our monthly deficit, the first rent payment of \$9000 is due on November 20th (3 months payable in advance).

Pam has received offers of donations, but suggested that it be done in a more structured way. Marilyn pointed out that we have previously received donations and that players have been generous to donate to tournaments. It was also noted that donations to CBA are not tax-deductible

Player numbers

For November the game entry fee was reduced by Dave to \$5. Dave is waiting to decide when and how much to raise it. He's mostly concerned with getting players back in the club. Even when the rate was \$7 it was much cheaper to play at CBA than other places.

We will however be looking at a significant increase in the fee to the proprietors in January, but the first priority is getting players to return. Next year will be crucial to getting the club up and running again. Pam has received a notice from the District president that we have lost a lot of members – 195 in the last 24 months. Some players will come back to play, but not renew their membership. Janet gets a monthly list of members who have not renewed, and she contacts them in turn. Another way to get new players in the club: teachers – are sorely missing. Anne Neal has not started classes again. Pam is considering offering classes next year, but undecided. Pam also offered to assist other players in getting a teaching program going, if they are interested. Gainor will contact Jean Davis, to see if she'd be interested in a beginners' class again.

Facilities

Mark said Vanguard has done a great job of deep cleaning the premises. There was one-time issue with dirty water due to a fire hydrant being flushed.

Pam said the lease has been signed and returned to the county. Veronica pointed out that the renovation of the former Providence Square Shopping Center and surrounding area may be a future option for CBA. Developer Daniel Levine has indicated openness to a conversation.

In-person Playing

Everyone was happy to be back playing in person – we all felt the positive energy in the room on Monday – the first day back. 22 of the 44 players had sent in copies of their vaccination cards in advance. Jack and Rich checked players at the door, all went very smoothly. Unfortunately there were only 3 tables in the limited section, Eva will send reminders to players with free play coupons to come back to the club.

Rich observed that some players were not wearing their masks properly, the excuse was drinking / eating. The director (Tom) did announce during the game for everyone to please make sure their masks were on correctly. Pam has emailed Dave and Tom asking them to please stay vigilant on this issue. Pam is getting requests for exemptions to the vaccine / mask requirement, but politely refuses them. Until the county cancels the mask mandate we'll have to insist on them.

Tournament

Steven gave update on the Non Life Master tournament in January. He requested the board members to try to direct other players to the sign up sheets for volunteers for set-up and serving for the tournament. Also the director could remind players at the start of the games. (Steve is not able to play during the day himself). Janet will line up speakers for the tournament breaks. All food for the NLM will be individually packaged and sealed.

Steven plans to check with the Raleigh/Durham club for pointers (ie attendance) after their upcoming November sectional. Hopefully the NLM will draw back some more limited players to the F2F games, the silver points can draw them in.

Arnold has added the vaccine requirement to the NLM tournament flyer. A wristband was suggested as a possible way to identifying players after their vaccine papers are checked at the door.

Gainor and Mark have gracefully agreed to chair the April Sectional (the 7-10).

Susan Lohr has agreed to co/chair the Regional (thank you Susan!) – Pam will reach out to 5 or 6 other candidates.

New Boardmembers

The list of candidates for the board are: Jean Brannon, Debbie Enna, Barbara Ferguson, Pat Gatlin, Cathy Miller, Chris O'Connor.

A list of candidates with bio and pictures will be emailed to all members of Unit 153 (about 900 persons) with the option of nominations "from the floor" due back by November 19. Martha Eubank will process the on-line election again this year. The ballots are to go out December 4th, to be tallied December 11th.

In lieu of an annual meeting, an end of year email will be sent out to announce results of the election, end of year financials, summary of the year and a glimpse into 2022.

Martha Eubank has suggested changing the by-laws so the nominating committee could simply present the new board, and skip the election process altogether. We agreed this was an issue we should table until we have other possible changes to the by-laws, and don't have bigger problems looming.

Directors

We still need new directors. Presently we have Tom (doing a great job) directing both online and in-person games, and Janet who sometimes steps in for Tom.

Cathy Miller's husband, Craig, was directing nights, he might be a possibility.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 1, at 4 pm.