

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE CALGARY COMMUNITY BRIDGE LEAGUE (CCBL)
HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022, AT 5:00 P.M.
AT THE CALGARY BRIDGE CENTRE**

In attendance:

Lamya Abougoush
Mickey Abougoush
Frank Ayer
Jim Berglund
Pauline Boyd
Rick Boyd
Diane Campbell
Pam Caravan
Marcel Claeys
Cynthia Clark
Rae Cram
Janice Eliasson
Beverley Erickson
Abdul Fakhri
Keith Falkenberg
Inge French
Helen Graham
Garry Hanson
JoAnn Hanson
Rod Hilderman
Dale Hurlbert
L. Tanja Hurlbert
David Johnson
Marlene Lenstra
Ron Licht
Milt Mansell
Sharon Mansell
Linda Martin
Andy McKaig
Dorothy Mersereau
Chris Murphy
Jim Murphy
Pat Murphy
Margaret Nielsen
Ken Penton
Jadwiga Polujan
Sandy Robinson

Brian Saville
Joy Saville
Hazel Skelton
Elaine Stewart
Danuta Trafford
Tom Trafford
Michael Tyrrell
Divya Verma
Sunil Verma
Heide Wissner
Rick Wolfe

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The President, Ken Penton, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. **WELCOME:** Ken Penton welcomed the CCBL Members and thanked them for attending the meeting.
3. **CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:** As more than twenty people were in attendance, a quorum was established according to the Bylaws.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **Diane Campbell** moved that we approve the Agenda as presented. **Danuta Trafford** seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
5. **PROOF OF PROPER NOTICE OF AGM:** Notice was sent by email on September 18, 2022, at 9:29 p.m., in compliance with the Bylaws which require ten days' notice. A copy of the email is attached to these Minutes.
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** **Marlene Lenstra** moved that the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting be approved. **Margaret Nielsen** seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
7. **INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT BOARD:** Ken Penton introduced the current Board of Directors – Ken Penton, President; Abdul Fakhri, Vice-President; Keith Falkenberg, Treasurer; Diane Campbell, Secretary; Rae Cram, Janet Galbraith, Jim Murphy, Danuta Trafford, and Rick Wolfe, Directors at Large.
8. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** The Calgary Community Bridge League began in 2010 as a hope and a prayer that has now been realized. Bridge has been fragmented throughout Calgary, with various club owners leasing space in community centres and churches. Walter Brock and Lamya Abougoush spearheaded the search for a permanent facility. We found many places that did not work for a variety of reasons: they were too expensive; there was not enough parking; the City would not change the zoning; and a multitude of other roadblocks. Information about the availability of the Ramsay Civic Centre was made known to us by a bridge player who works for the City of Calgary. We forwarded our Expression of Interest to the City in February of 2021, and it was accepted. Ken recognized Lamya Abougoush who became the main fundraiser, along with assistance from many past Board Members. There were events with Barbara Seagram, Mike Lawrence, Audrey Grant, barbecues, casinos, and registration with the Calgary Parks Foundation for donations. Elaine Stewart also worked behind the scenes. She was running three bridge clubs, organizing, and phoning people to try to raise money. We now have this great place, a great Board, Keith Falkenberg for finance, Jim Murphy for operations, and Abdul Fakhri for education. We basically have a break-even operation.

9. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Keith Falkenberg presented the Audited Financial Statements prepared by Anthony Chiu of the Federation of Calgary Communities. This is our first year having a full-scale audit. We received an unqualified audit opinion with the usual exception for a not-for-profit organization with respect to receipts from donations. The CCBL is an incorporated society, not-for-profit under the Societies Act. It is not a registered charity. We have an arrangement with the Parks Foundation of Calgary whereby donations can be made to us via the Parks Foundation. Those donations have been tax creditable. Keith reviewed the Audited Financial Statements, briefly explaining the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Net Assets, the Statement of Operations, and the Statement of Cash Flows. We are still waiting for the City of Calgary to provide a lease. The City of Calgary assessed us for property taxes last year and City Council gave us a remission order. We were also successful in obtaining an exemption for 2022 and have filed a renewal for exemption for 2023. The Bridge Centre is available for community use at no cost. **Keith Falkenberg** moved that the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2022, be accepted as presented. **Rae Cram** seconded the motion. Motion carried.
10. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2022/2023:** Keith Falkenberg advised that the Federation of Calgary Communities is willing to audit our finances for the current year – the year ended June 30, 2023. **Keith Falkenberg** moved that the Federation of Calgary Communities be appointed as auditors of our Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. **Rick Wolfe** seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
11. **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:** The following people will continue to serve on the Board: Ken Penton, President; Abdul Fasih, Vice-President; Diane Campbell, Secretary; and Jim Murphy, Danuta Trafford, and Janet Galbraith, Directors at Large. Keith Falkenberg, Rick Wolfe, and Blake Fleming have been nominated in accordance with the Bylaws of the Calgary Community Bridge League to a three-year term. **Jim Murphy** moved that the slate of directors be approved as presented. **Rae Cram** seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
12. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- (a) **BRIDGE CENTRE UPDATE:** Jim Murphy provided an update on the Bridge Centre.
- (i) The Operations Committee was formed on March 30, 2022. Fiona ran the day-to-day operations. Danuta ran the barbecues and acted as secretary. Keith acted as the liaison with the City and managed the accounting and the parking. Jim dealt with the ACBL, Unit 390, and chaired the meetings. Rick is the newest member of the committee.
- (ii) We held three barbecues this summer, on June 28, July 30, and August 27. The first barbecue had 8 tables of bridge, the second had 14 tables, and the

third had 20 tables. Jim thanked everyone for all their help in organizing the barbecues.

- (iii) Our Facility Manager, Fiona Swanson, resigned effective July 31, 2022. The Operations Committee has decided to proceed without a paid employee for the time being. Keith organized the landscaping contract; Danuta organized the cleaning contract, which Keith signed, and he is also assigning the cleaning as required. Keith and Jim talked to Larry McDougall, our general contractor, about the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC). We must follow up with him in November. Our handyman, Wayne Gallant, takes care of a variety of needs such as filter changes and lighting repairs. He also built the shed under the ramp for storage of our barbecue and garden tools.
- (iv) The September Sectional – Jim congratulated Keith and Janice for organizing the parking and getting the parking restrictions temporarily lifted across the street from the Bridge Centre. The temperature was 35 degrees, and it was very hot downstairs. We are in discussions to repair the HVAC.
- (v) We have three regular tenants for 11 hours of rental per week. This has the potential of earning \$14,000 until June 30, 2023.
- (vi) Keith is working on an article for the Kibitzer and Frank Ayer has prepared the first draft of an article for the Club News in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin.
- (vii) We have come a long way since February 27, our inaugural kick off for this venue. Keith thanked Janice Eliasson and Chris Murphy for everything they do to support the Bridge Centre. We could use more help if anyone would like to volunteer!

(b) EDUCATION REPORT:

- (i) Abdul Fakh provided an update on the education programs currently taking place and proposals for the future. Freda Nychkalo's advanced beginner classes started on September 17 with 11 students, and Sandy Evans' beginner classes began on September 18 with 20 students. We also had ten classes for intermediate players with 15 students. Abdul thanked Elaine Stewart for her assistance.
- (ii) Now that we have the facility, we need to find a way to get people to come. How do we add new people? How do we improve the quality of the bridge? How do we make people competitive in playing bridge? Some bridge players did not attend the tournament because they lacked confidence. They did not believe they had a chance to be successful. Our hope is to collectively format

teams at different levels to encourage them to branch out. We need to work together. Frank Ayer suggested we hold weekly team games. We also need to run evening games throughout the week to encourage people who work to attend.

13. **QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** Lamyia asked Dave Johnson what the ACBL is doing to promote clubs. The initiative is with the clubs to increase face-to-face bridge. Marlene Lenstra thanked the board members, particularly Keith and Jim, and all who helped to fundraise and contribute to the success of the clubs.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:** **Rae Cram** moved that the meeting be adjourned. **Margaret Nielsen** seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Submitted by Diane Campbell
October 3, 2022