

Bridge on the Edge, Board of Administration

Record of February 27th, 2020 Meeting

Attendees:

Brian Shortall , President and Chair; Roy Perry, Vice President; Rick Comerford, Treasurer; Susan Follett, Fran Cook and Anne Hughes, members at large; Rahul Chandra, Club Manager; Judith McIntyre attended via FaceTime from Houston.

Call to order: Brian called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

1) Minutes of January 09th and 16th Meetings

The minutes of the January 9th and 16th meetings were agreed to be correct.

2) Action Items from last meeting:

Ladies Toilet

The temperamental toilets in the Ladies' washroom were further discussed. It was decided to propose a joint repair solution to the Swilers whereby BOTE pays for labour and the Swilers pay for parts. Brian will follow up and also discuss posting a notice re flushable and non-flushable items.

Lighting at bar end of room

There is some improvement and this item is now closed.

Newsletter

Brian met with Viki O'Dea, the new editor, and discussed the Board's expectations for the newsletter. These are to inform club members about interesting things happening in the club, exchange best practices, describe special events and educate members about club issues. There will be a Board member who will be a liaison person with the newsletter team. We look forward to future editions.

Focus Group

As mentioned in the January minutes, a Focus Group (FG) of five randomly selected BOTE members was held on February 1st. The participants candidly shared their opinions on four topics relating to the running of BOTE. A brief summary of the main points is given below. Topics are presented in alphabetical order.

- Directors

It was suggested there should be consistency amongst the directors. BOTE is unique in that we have multiple directors; many clubs only have one or two. The Board appreciates the commitment of our directors and recognizes there are three components to the directors' job; a) ensuring that the rules of the game are followed, b) setting up the movement and dealing with the computer side of things and c) public relations; our directors are our club ambassadors and public face when they run the games.

The Board decided to ask the FG team, along with the directors, to prepare guidelines to establish best practices and outline the Board's expectations on the ambassadorship component of directing at our club. This will be a 'living' document with ongoing updates as issues arise.

- Education

The FG participants had many opinions about the ongoing education courses offered at BOTE. These were passed to the education committee for their consideration and action where appropriate and possible.

- Hospitality

The social events offered by BOTE were appreciated by the FG and thought to be an important and integral part of fostering club spirit.

- Maximizing return for members

Several helpful suggestions were put forward by the FG. The Board will endeavour to implement as many of these as is feasible.

The Board thanks the participants for freely giving their time and opinions.

Membership Renewal gift

Judith reported she is still investigating options for the renewal gift.

3) Committee/Team reports

Finance

Rick reported that we have had very good table numbers in January and February and we are well ahead of where we need to be to break even at the end of the fiscal year on 31st

March. Based on this information, the Board unanimously decided to make March a \$5 month for regular sanctioned games, i.e. not supervised play or mentored games.

As the financial year end is March 31st and the new Board will not be in place until June, Rick will prepare a preliminary budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year starting from April 1st.

Education

The committee is meeting next week to review submissions for the most recent Call for Proposals. A suggestion has been made that it would be better to have classes on Wednesday night rather than Monday, as there is a problem with parking on Mondays. Rahul will talk to the Swilers about whether this is possible with the intention of incorporating the change into the new lease that will be signed in June.

Social

Valentine's Day treats were well received. We're having an Hawaiian day on March 5th to help chase away the winter blahs (of which there are many); March 14th is π Day (π the mathematical symbol a.k.a Pi) and Paddy's day is the 17th so there will be goodies for those days as well. Please bring your own utensils.

To help coordinate the treats that members bring, there will be a monthly calendar posted in the kitchen.

Constitution

A notice to the members of the two proposed changes to the constitution will be posted soon.

Housekeeping

A cart for the library books has been purchased and is proving useful. We hope to purchase some more chairs like the popular green ones. Fran is researching this.

Suggestion Box

The suggestion to buy a small microwave is problematic because of the circuits in the building, they all blow very easily if overloaded.

Given the global health situation with the Corona virus it has been suggested that members should be considerate of our elderly population and stay home if they are unwell or show flu like symptoms. The Board supports this suggestion.

Club Manager

No new business from Rahul

4) Correspondence

- A letter of resignation was received from Barbara Slattery, the coordinator for the dealers. The Board thanks Barbara for her years of dedicated service and wishes her well in her retirement. Sandra Tobin has graciously agreed to be the new coordinator and the Board welcomes her to her new position. Thanks Sandra!

A motion by Anne and seconded by Fran to move into a Closed Session to discuss a confidential matter involving a complaint from a member occurred at 6:15 pm. After a thorough discussion the Board made decisions which Brian will communicate to the member concerned.

The meeting closed at 7:15 pm NST, 4:45 pm Houston time.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 23rd 2020 following the afternoon game.

Judith McIntyre, 02-Mar-2020