

## **Washington Bridge League – December 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, December 14, 2021

Time: 7:30pm-8:30pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Submitted by Lena Maman (WBL Secretary)

### Attendees

Hadi Abushakra, Bob Bell, Herb Schulken, Lena Maman, Lloyd Rawley, Mary Tenenbaum, Linda Marshall, Alex Stille, Brad Theurer (Tournament Director)

Absent: Alex Gretsinger, Kathy Kopnisky, Clyde Kruskal

### Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes of the October 2021 meeting.

### Online Unit Game Report

Chris Miller, Unit Game Manager, was not present at the meeting. Herb provided an update on the unit game.

Since the Board's last meeting, the table count for the Thursday evening unit game has ranged from 39-45. Monday evening game attendance, however, has been fairly inconsistent and low, with the December 6 game being cancelled due to too few pairs. Potential factors include Fall NABC as well as Mark Lavine's face-to-face game and Kevin O'Brien's virtual club game, both of which run at the same time.

Herb completed the implementation of the free play policy that the Board adopted last month. He reimbursed the BBO accounts of those who have been playing in October and November of this year.

### Treasurer's Report

- In November, the WBL incurred a loss of just over \$300.
- The WBL continues to pay the regular unit game caddies, Alan Crank and David Solomon. Both will receive a \$100 end-of-year bonus as we have done annually. Herb continues to pay Chris Miller for his role as online unit game director and club manager at the rate the Board approved at the beginning of the online games.

- WBL is now accepting Venmo as a form of payment for entry fees. Herb is now paying all of our regular contractors through Venmo as well.
- The WBL continues to receive membership payments from ACBL – roughly \$1700 a quarter.
- Lastly, Herb said that most months in 2021 have been profitable.

### Communications Committee Report

After assuming the WBL webmaster responsibilities, Linda Marshall has updated many segments of the website. She encouraged Board members to reach out to her directly for any website-related editing and updates.

### Video Chat Option for Online Play

Through Herb's recent communication with Diana Serban, BBO Head of Operations, he learned that the video chat feature is available for club games. Chris Miller, the WBL's virtual club director, is aware of that feature, but it is unclear to the Board if players would be interested in this interactive option.

### Rationalizing WBL's Committees

Alex Stille, with the assistance of Bob Bell, will begin a network analysis of the WBL's existing committees.

They will look at the intent of each committee and the communication networks that surround them. They will also examine overlaps, if any, among committees, and whether or not the committees hold meetings and have charters that serve as a framework for their duties and responsibilities.

Alex encouraged Board members to reach out to him directly with thoughts and ideas.

### Future of Face-To-Face Bridge Discussion

David Rodney, District 6 President, recently circulated his thoughts on the future of bridge to stakeholders. His document raised the following questions:

- *Where are we headed and where do we want to go?*
- *What will we need to do?*
- *What factors will guide our decision-making?*

The Board discussed the pros and cons of online bridge, face-to-face bridge, and a hybrid model. This included discussions about the social & networking benefits of in-person interactions, the convenience of online play, and financial risk-sharing in these uncertain times. Tentatively, the Board agreed to consider reopening face-to-face bridge in March or April as it continues to monitor county, public health, and ACBL COVID policies.

The Board agreed to invite the board of directors of the Northern Virginia Bridge Association (NVBA) to the next meeting to discuss the future of face-to-face sectionals and unit games. Hadi informed attendees that Margot Hennings intends to hold a NVBA Sectional tournament in February and, to that end, wants to survey all District 6 members on, among other things, their views on mask-wearing during games. The Board anticipates receiving the survey results before its next meeting.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.