

The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Minutes of January 22, 2017, Annual Meeting

Call to Order : Charlie Showalter, President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in the SeaBreeze Recreation Center. Approximately 45-50 members were in attendance.

Introduction of Board Members: Charlie Showalter introduced the members of the Board of Directors, Jane Hudson, Carol Ketterer, Jeff Koltenuk, Bob Matthews, Beverly Parrish and Club Manager Alex Boone.

By-Law Changes: Charlie made available to the membership proposed changes to the by-laws Article IV, Sections 1, 3 and 9 and Article VII, Section 1

Article IV, Section 1 currently reads: There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of six elected members. [and the Club Manager, approved by the Board.] The change eliminated the [] but kept the wording as is. Approved unanimously by the members present.

Article IV, Section 3 currently reads: The Club Manager will serve on the Board of Directors as a voting member. The changed text reads The Club Manager will serve on the Board of Directors as a non-voting member. Approved unanimously by the members present.

Article IV, Section 9 currently reads: It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to select from the members of the Club, annually, the National Directors to which The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club is entitled in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the by-laws of the ACBL. **Discussion**: This appears to be a meaningless provision and should be deleted. The VDBC is not entitled to have a National Director-neither Tournament nor District Director-and this is felt to have been added to the by-laws in error. Article V of the ACBL by-laws does not actually apply as stated by the by-law in question. Deletion of this section was approved unanimously by the members present.

Article VII, Section 1 currently reads: The Annual Membership Meeting of the members of the Club shall be held on the first Monday in February unless otherwise identified by the Board of Directors. [Election of the new members of the Board of Directors shall take place at this meeting.] **Rationale**: The method of electing new board members was changed last year. This provision should have been deleted at that time, but was overlooked. It needs to be deleted now so as not to have conflicting provisions in the by-laws. If these changes are adopted, renumbering of the remaining provisions will be necessary. Approved unanimously by the members present.

Financial Status of Club: Mike Lotti, Comptroller, was unable to attend but provided information that was shared with the members present. The VDBC had 14% growth in table count in 2016 and is now the 4th largest in the ACBL. The financial status is also very good, and we have sufficient cash on hand for operating expenses. Some proposals were made by members present.

Paul Hassett asked how adjustments might be made for overcrowding of Saturday and Tuesday games and any other games that turn players away during Snowbird Season. He suggested perhaps using Neighborhood Recreation Centers but there is a concern about availability of WiFi there. The Board will look into this.

Marilyn Williams suggested that if we have enough cash on hand that Paul Matheson, Head Director, should be given a raise because of all the many duties that he does. The Board will also check into this.

Timers for Games: At the suggestion of several club members the Board is looking into the purchase of timers for all games. This is in no way meant as a slight to the directors but would allow the members to know how much time is left during each round. There are also negative considerations because it would take the directors extra time to set up the timers for each game and they are already extremely busy, especially during Snowbird Season. Bob Matthews was directed by the Board to check into cost, feasibility etc., and the Board will take all comments into consideration in making the decision.

Regional Tournament Update: Charlie shared information about why the proposed Regional Tournament did not happen. The Villages Recreation Department Management decided that we could not use the Savannah Center for 7 days, and therefore declined permission for the tournament. Even if we shortened it to 5 days they would not allow it. A suggestion was made to look into using The Villages Charter School during a break period, and the Board will check into that.

Club Logo: Charlie suggested developing a Club Logo that could be used on apparel, stationary etc. Marilyn Hubbard has worked on this in the past with The Villages Art Department but no suitable art was produced. Jane Dulieu also has volunteered to work on this project. A suggestion was made that the club members should be asked to participate in artwork for the Logo. A group will be assigned to work on this project.

Educational Plans: Charlie and Alex have a meeting with The Villages on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 to discuss the current educational plans. Once that meeting is completed then Educational Plans will be formalized.

Frank Stewart Seminar: Frank Stewart will hold a one day Seminar on March 21, 2017 at Colony Cottage. The cost will be \$80 and includes lunch for participants. More information will be distributed after the Educational meeting between Charlie, Alex and The Villages.

Open Forum: Several good suggestions were made by members present.

Gloria Bennett proposed teaching bridge to children in schools. Charlie agreed that this is a great idea and that it had been presented to The Villages Charter School with a resounding No. It was suggested that we check with Wildwood or perhaps Camp Villages.

John Kuyper asked why no Villagers are Directors of Unit 128. Charlie stated that he is an official advisor but would have to formally run to be a Director of the Unit. He is considering that.

Jon Williams suggested possibly changing the 299er and 399er games to 499/NLM games since the ACBL has changed requirements for Lifemaster to 500 points. The Board will consider this.

Charlie introduced Russ Pearly as the new Club Recorder and Russ explained his duties which are outlined on the website. He is also developing a form for members to use when reporting issues to him.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Parrish, Secretary