

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes

September 12 , 2020

Present: Linda Aherns, Joe Brouillard, Bart Buffington, Charleen Christy, Lois DeBlois, Megan Diorio, Maureen Fahey, Julie Goulet, Meg Gousie, Sue Miguel, Cindy Mottle, Paula Najarian, Don Rankin, Chris Soares, Marshall Williams, Stan Williams

Guest: Barry Gilbert

Call to Order: 10:18

President's Comments: Nice to see you all I am happy to be here mostly today just talk.

Secretary's Report: Report motion and seconded and approved as amended with the following paragraph.

(added after meeting by request from Marshall Williams)

Our last fundraiser, the Longest Day efforts this year were limited to online BBO games and individual donations. We had a "Marathon" of 12-board games from 10 am to 8 pm, Saturday, June 20, as well as a few more Virtual games on Sunday, June 21. We raised a total of \$1878.18 to go to the Alzheimer's Association for research, including game fees and extra donations.

Treasurer's Report: We did not have a lot going on in the month of July, no income and the only expense was storage so our ending Balance was \$12674 at Citizens and \$10671 in Fidelity for a total of \$23345. This is the highest the total has ever been.

Motion was made to approve the report. The motion was seconded and then approved.

Reports:

In/Out report As of 9/1 we have 482 members. There were 3 new members, 1 transfer and 1 deceased.

Executive Board update:

There has been a string of emails from the ACBL about the intentions to reduce the numbers of regionals. It seems that the ACBL is more interested in ACBL than regionals. Lot of pushback from Districts because it is not clear what bridge is without districts who create face to face games. Sue Miguel says that she doesn't feel the ACBL wants to take over all tournaments but there is a lot of confusion because no one knows what the future holds for tournaments. ACBL income is up \$200,000 up from last year. The feeling that ACBL emails about regionals have had a dictatorial tone but the district should be patient to see what the future holds.

Old Business:

Gala Details

Planned for Saturday October 31st. Sue is preparing a flyer and Marshall is sending out ACE of Clubs and Mini McKinney awards and the winners will be acknowledged at the Zoom meeting following the Gala along with voting for slate of officers and change in by-laws.

A flyer will be sent out the first of October and included on the flyer is that a bylaw change is coming. Also should be included is that if you are part of RIBA and you need help to participate in the zoom portion of the meeting we will give a number to call to get help with zoom. There must be at least 25 people attending the meeting to make a quorum. Each board member should get at least one person to ensure quorum.

After the flyer will be a second email notice for Gala which should have the slate, along with the wording of the bylaw amendment. The wording of the bylaws in a newsletter. Included in the email will be a request to spread the word about the Gala and zoom meeting to those who do not have emails.

Nominating Slate:

Meg, as head of the nominating committee, and working with her committee presented the following slate: President Marshall Williams, Megan Diorio as VP, Secretary Maureen Fahey and Joe Brouillard as treasurer. Meg Gousie types up slate and Joe Brouillard sends out to all members of RIBA, Consensus simple flyer about Gala and follow up email about slate and bylaws.

Motion to approve nominating committee report which was seconded and approved.

There has been an ACBL notice to cancel tournaments in January and February. We received a notice cancelling the January tournament from the Senior Center. We will need to consider cancelling the March sectional after seeing how the pandemic affects tournaments.

From the meeting with ACBL about the Providence NABC, the sense is that there would be at least three months notice to cancel a national tournament.

The next newsletter should be relatively simple with one page with details for Gala, nominating slate and bylaws changes.

New Business:

Charitable contributions

Julie asked for input about charitable contributions. One suggestion was the House of Hope which supports a traveling shower facility and the Rhode Island Food Bank. Because there is so much need right now and because there is plenty of money in the treasury the suggestions was to give to both agencies. In the past we gave \$1000 to the selected organization, so this year we will give \$1500 to each agency in addition to the matching funds from the Gala. Motion to give \$1500 each to House of Hope and Food Bank made, seconded and approved.

Change to By-laws

Article VIII Officers

Current Language

Section 1. All Officers shall be elected for terms of one year, commencing January 1st and ending December 31st of the year following the election. No person shall serve as President for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. In the event one person shall hold both positions, he shall only be entitled to cast one (1) vote on RIBA business.

Proposed Amendment

Section 1. All Officers shall be elected for terms of two years commencing January 1st following the election and ending December 31st of the 2nd year following the elections. No person shall serve as President for more than two (2) consecutive two-year terms. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. In the event one person shall hold both positions, he shall only be entitled to cast one (1) vote on RIBA business.

Motion from Charleen, seconded and approved to accept the change to the bylaws.

Barry Gilbert was introduced and motion made, seconded and approved to add him to RIBA board.

Barry is interested in the social aspects of bridge. Lois mentioned that Sue publishes, with the person's permission, a list of BBO names that connect to the real names and Meg suggested

that we publish that information. Paula said we would need to get permission from each person. There was discussion about making sure that people at Gala know the BBO names that go with real names. Joe said there would be a lot of work required to capture BBO names to add to the directory. Joe will look into the possibility of making a separate listing of BBO and names. I will check with Tim Hill about how he does that.

Joe mentioned that it would be good to contact the clubs to remove the batteries as if they corrode they could damage the bridgemates and server.

Bob Garfinkle's club will open by reservation only once he can have 25 people inside. Sue Miguel's club can not return now to her site. Many Boston clubs gave up their leases. Joan O'Connell can not use her location yet neither can Bart. Bart does not envision his club opening until there is a vaccine.

Future meetings will be held :

October 24, 2020 10:15 a.m.

January 9, 2021 10:15 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07