

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes

April 9, 2022

Present Marshall Williams, Cindy Mottle , Barry Gilbert , Meg Gousie , Maureen Fahey , Joe Brouillard , Charleen Christy, Julie Goulet , Stanley Williams, Chris Soares , Sue Miguel, Don Rankin, Megan DiOrio,

Absent Lois Deblois, Barton Buffington,

Call to Order: At 10:07

President's Comments: Marshall welcomed to all. A rough estimate of Rhode Island tables is 30 – 40 tables per week from 130 to 140 tables per week prior to the pandemic. So we are running about a quarter of the tables. Hopefully snowbirds will help bring back more folks to the bridge table. Prospects for attendance to the sectional had been gloomy but now seems a little glimmer and we may not lose our shirts on the June Sectional though we are planning on losing some money. Hopefully we can staff the sectional.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance \$ 23,269 in two accounts.

Income was \$655 from STaC games and membership dues. Expenses were \$9515 including a \$6000 donation to the NABC and \$2750 to charities.

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded, and the report was approved unanimously.

Reports:

In/Out report

January Total membership 431. 1 transfer in 2 transfer out 1 new member

February. Total membership 429 1 new 3 reinstated 2 transfer out

March. Total membership. 434 8 transfer in. 2 transfer out

Executive Board update. None at this meeting.

Old Business:

STaC results were discussed in opening remarks.

June 4-5 Tournament Johnston.

Julie said that she is quite concerned about a surge in Covid just before sectional and how we will react if we see numbers go up. Things are ok now, but we need to be prepared to handle.

Joe put together a projection for the June tournament. He figures about 25 pairs on Saturday and 16 teams on Sunday. The expenses included director's fees. Overall, a loss of just under \$1000. Marshall had thought the numbers would be a little less, but at the last Watertown sectional the attendance was around 40/45% of pre-pandemic attendance. Sue has had better results at her club. Marshall feels it is ok to lose money just to get people into sectional. Charleen said some hotels are already full for the nationals in July and many folks from Florida looking to coming to the Providence NABC.

Chris had a question about vaccination cards and director in charge of the Johnstown Senior Center said that vaccination cards will be required. Chris said that she feels that cards present false security. Charleen mentioned that tournament in Florida used wrist bands, and many wore masks. Julie asked if there was data about information about individuals getting covid after tournament. In Reno there were about 2500 people and after tournament 5 directors and 50 players got covid. ON the other hand, many attendees went casinos and shows in addition to attending the tournament. Sue argued that the face-to-face clubs mean a lot to people, and she tries to make it a safe environment. In the end people need to make individual decisions for playing, Sue has some suggestions for making the sectional successful. Barry pointed out that it is dangerous even driving to tournament is dangerous. He feels that we just need to have a tournament and see how it goes. Joe said many folks in Reno did not wear masks. Charleen said even in Florida about a quarter wore the mask and there was no criticism either way. Julie's only concern that people might get sick or be sick at tournament.

Don, Maureen and Stan will not be available to help at the June tournament.

There was some discussion of a one-day tournament versus two day but the consensus was two days was the way to go.

Set Up. Need four folks on Saturday for set up. Lois and Megan will be set up and Julie and Charleen will be there on Saturday as well. Detail on who will do what on Saturday will be worked out by the committee. Joe knows what room should look like. Meg can do one of the days,

Clean up after the tournament on Saturday. Chris will do clean up after Saturday tournament.

On Sunday need someone to set up coffee. The decision was made that on Sunday we will not supply pizza and will make sandwiches available both days. Need folks on Sunday to check vaccine cards and take sandwich orders. Same crew to set up Sunday. Maureen suggested getting a professional cleaning person to clean up after Sunday. Julie will text somebody who has a cleaning business. Fatima is Julie's cleaning lady, and she is taking on the cleanup after tournament.

Chris still likes the idea of pizza. Sue says no one is getting covid from food. The standing in line is what takes so long and is a safety issue. Can spread out the sandwiches so no big lines. Marshall feels that food won't decide whether folks come or not. Sue says that we should streamline food only one kind of food in morning and afternoon. For example, muffins and cookies. Joe says grab and go bags. Maureen said combine those ideas one kind of food but in a grab and go bag. Megan feels that the grab and bag might really cut down of prep needed for tournament.

Caddy Chris will check with her grandchildren if either would like to caddy.

Some discussion of which sandwich provider to use as Piezoni is a little far away. Charleen will explore sandwich shops to see who can provide.

Bridgemates for tournament. Julie has arranged to get bridgemates to the tournament.

We need a partnership chair. Meg has done it in the past and will do for this tournament.

Saturday two single sessions and Sunday will be open Swiss. Marshall will communicate that to Tim.

Tim will be able to do credit cards, but he be making change and asking questions so maybe no credit cards.

Sue made a Save the date card for the tournament. Mostly the details will be on the web site such as the requirement to be vaccinated. Joe will send out the save the date to everyone. Maureen will get the flyer to Peter Marcus and ACBL.

New Business:

Nominating Committee. Usually at beginning of the summer find out about slate of new officers and board comes. Up with the slate committee does not usually come up with a slate nominating committee just a formality slate needs to be finalized before the annual meeting. There are questions about whether we will have a sectional or doing a gala. President, Treasurer and Secretary will need to be replaced.

Sue suggested that have meeting after Gala Regional in May but there really is not enough time before our sectional. Next board meeting will be on June 25th at 10 am. Right now the meeting will be by zoom though that might change.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24.