

WBL Board Minutes

January 11, 2023

Board members attending: Hadi Abushakra, Lloyd Rawley, Bob Bell, Herb Schulken, Kim Gandy, Kathy Kopnisky, and Alex Gretsinger. Board members absent: Alex Stille, Carole Banks, and Clyde Kruskal. Brad Theurer (Tournament Chair), Linda Marshall (Communications, Tournament Committee), and Ted Ying (Club Manager) also attended.

Minutes: The Board approved the October and November minutes and agreed to post the draft minutes for the September Annual meeting on the website (including an indication that they are not approved as final). The Board agreed that decisions made between Board meetings and voted on by email should be recorded in the next set of minutes, along with, as appropriate, some indication of the rationale for the decision and relevant deliberations leading up to it.

Unit Game: Ted reported that it was possible for Chris Miller, who now lives in Great Britain, to serve as online unit game director once a month, and the Board agreed that he should do so. He will usually work the second WBL online game of the month. The Board discussed the possibility of phasing out cash payment for unit game entries at the face-to-face (f2f) unit game, but concluded that it was premature to do so. Ted said that he found it a very minor inconvenience for him and that cash was easier for some of the players.

Treasurer's Report: Herb reported a small loss for the year. He noted that the reopened f2f unit game has been losing about \$500 per session, which has resulted in a loss of about \$8000 since reopening. We still have about \$64,000 in the bank. To mitigate the unit game loss, the Board agreed that Hadi and Ted should talk with the Ohr Kodesh manager (Jerry Kiewe) about renting a smaller space at a lower rent. Board members noted that, although the WBL could seek out a different, less expensive playing site, the WBL has a long standing, comfortable relationship with Ohr Kodesh and Ohr Kodesh provides storage space for unit game tables and supplies. In addition, it was noted that changes in playing sites tend initially to reduce attendance.

Kim suggested that it might be possible for the WBL to invest its reserve funds in a safe certificate of deposit (CD) that provided a higher return than our checking account. She said that doing this involved meeting some regulatory requirements that affect nonprofit organizations, but that these could be feasibly handled. Herb agreed that this was a worthwhile and practical suggestion, but cautioned that planning should take into account expected WBL operating losses for the period during which our savings would be in a CD. Hadi asked Kim and Herb to develop an investment proposal and suggested that they might also consult Bob Ives, who has expressed interest in succeeding Herb as Treasurer when Herb leaves the Board next year.

F2F Unit Game: The WBL has been planning to hold the f2f unit game every week beginning in May. It is possible that a more regular schedule and reduced competition from online games may increase attendance and reduce financial losses. However, the Board decided that it needs a plan to (1) try and build attendance and (2) discontinue the game if efforts to revive it do not stem the financial drain involved in maintaining it. A committee-- Hadi (Chair), Kathy, Kim, and Bob-- will develop a proposed plan and present it for approval at the March Board meeting.

Sectionals: Brad said the tournament committee needs to decide when to hold the trophy team and pair events that had been held annually at WBL sectionals before the pandemic. The Board agreed that we need to take action early to secure desirable dates for next year's sectionals and to work closely with District 6 to ensure our needs are met. Ted reported that the ACBL has published plans to authorize small local sectionals that do not require an ACBL employee as tournament director. Our current sectionals exceed the size limit, but local club directors might wish to take advantage of this new opportunity.

Other Topics: The Board briefly and inconclusively discussed possible new ways to enable people to find bridge partners. Linda will look into whether there are supplies that had previously been stored in the storage unit, are no longer needed, and can be discarded.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2023, 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bell