

THE FORT LAUDERDALE BRIDGE CLUB

Board of Governors Meeting

Saturday, January 29, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Governors of the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club was called to order at 9:35AM. All Board members plus the Club Manager were present..

Minutes

The Secretary distributed minutes of the meetings of January 5, 2011 and the meeting of January 13, 2011 meeting. A motion was made by Carol Herigodt, seconded by Gloria Ezrin, to accept the minutes of the organizational meeting of the Board held on January 5, 2011. The minutes were accepted by acclamation. A motion was made by Carol Herigodt, seconded by Gloria Ezrin, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on January 5, 2011. The minutes were accepted by acclamation. A motion was made by Carol Herigodt, seconded by Gloria Ezrin, to accept the minutes of the emergency meeting of the Board held on January 13, 2011. The minutes were approved by acclamation. Mary Short requested that it be noted for the record that she had informed the Board in advance she would not attend the January 13 meeting since she believed it was not held in accordance with the bylaws.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer indicated that he would provide an updated report at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Food Service

Marty Ezrin reported on his and Gloria's experience during their recent involvement with food service at the Club. Marty reported that around 17% of the players utilized the food service. His lifetime experience in food service would indicate that no one could survive on the money generated by such a low rate of usage and it would be difficult to find anyone who could last any significant time.

The President of the Club reported that as a result of the recent decision by the Board to discontinue food service, lots of concerns were raised by members. She thus organized a poll of the club members which she circulated to the Board members for their review. It is generally believed that for food service to be profitable, it would need to be utilized by 25 to 30% of the Club members. At the 17% rate, the Club would have to subsidize the costs.

The President then had each of the Board members express their experience, thoughts and opinions on the issue of food service at the Club. The topics of discussion included the negative past experiences that had occurred at the Club in terms of profitability and food quality; the cost of insurance, paper goods, licenses, and utilities involving food service; the costs and issues of clean-up from the food service; the fact that most other Clubs provided some type of food for their players; the desire to provide for our members who rely on the Club for food and companionship; and the possibility of the Club providing a subsidy to insure food availability. In addition, various alternatives were discussed such as a food truck, minimum food such as bagels, enhanced snacks, food brought in from vendors such as Boston Market, vending machines, or continuation of in-house service.

The President requested an up or down vote of the Board on the question of providing any food service. Carol Herigodt, seconded by Barbara Tate, moved that the Club provide some sort of food service. The vote was 6 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstentions. Since the vote failed to obtain a majority, the

two abstentions changed their vote to yes to allow further consideration of the issue of food service. The President appointed a Committee to further explore the possible alternatives for providing food and to report back to the Board. The Committee is Chaired by Gloria Ezrin and to consist of Carol Herigodt and such other individuals as Gloria designates.

Website

There was general dissatisfaction expressed regarding the professionalism and timeliness of the current website, e.g., the Calendar still shows September events. The Board discussed the possibility of hiring someone to keep the website current. When complaints have been brought to the Manager, his response has been that he does not do the website. It was generally agreed that it is the responsibility of the Manager to oversee the proper maintenance of the website. Robert Merrill has agreed to investigate what is involved in maintaining the website and to determine if he could assist with it.

Sunday Game

Disappointment was expressed by members of the Board about the lack of promotion of the Sunday 0-1000 game and its cancellation the week before. It was felt that the Directors need to be doing more promoting of the game during their sessions so the Club members would be more aware of it. It was agreed that the Board has endorsed this game and it is the job of the Manager to supervise the Directors and insure that they promote this game adequately. It was generally felt the Directors need more direction from the Manager to insure Board policies are carried out effectively.

Staff/Board Relations

Tom McKay raised the point that there appears to be a lack of understanding on the part of the paid contractors (Manager and Directors) about the proper role of the Board of Governors and the appropriate relationship of these contractors to the Board and its members. Of particular concern was a number of recent incidents which involved contract workers actually harassing a number of Board members in public at the Club. In addition, Board members reported numerous recent occasions where these contract workers were verbally disparaging the Board to members of the Club. These incidents of harassment and verbal assaults cannot be allowed to continue. Board members were encouraged to document such incidents they have witnessed and any future ones in writing and provide the reports to the President. The President appointed a committee of the Board consisting of Betty Wingate (Chair), Carol Herigodt and Tom McKay to look into standard practices that currently govern the relationships between Boards and staff or contract workers of membership organizations. They are to attempt to meet with the Manager to discuss proper roles and relationships and also proper training of the paid staff or contractors in their behavior and relationships with Board members.

Jabbour Event

The President complimented the handling of the recent event honoring Zeke Jabbour. However, it was pointed out that no arrangements were made for clean-up. This issue needs to be more carefully considered for future events.

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Treasurer's Recommendations

The Treasurer passed out a list of 6 recommendations. These will be given a high priority for the next meeting of the Board on Saturday, February 12th.

Side Door

It was brought to the attention of the Board that the side door (in the back of the building) is not being locked after the beginning of games. For security reasons, this needs to be addressed by the Club management.

ByLaw Changes

Our Bylaws Committee Chairperson, Marty Ezrin, reminded the board that the bylaw changes that were recommended last year and accepted by the Board have still not been approved by the membership. Lots of hard work went into those changes. It was agreed that the bylaw changes will be sent out at least 30 days prior to a general meeting to act on these changes. A date of March 18 was selected for the meeting to allow for a proper notice period. Bob Guida agreed to handle the printing and timing of the mailing.

Valentine's Day

Barbara Tate has been in touch with the Robin Ranagan estate. The Robin Ranagan Congeniality day will be held this year on Valentine's Day with extra points to be awarded. It was agreed that the event will be promoted by the Club. Cake will be served.

Sandy Rosen

Sandy Rosen asked to address the Board. The President gave him 5 minutes at the end of the Board meeting. He had three concerns: (1) failure to post minutes on the website, (2) dissatisfaction at the handling of his complaint against the Manager, and (3) concern as to expenditures above \$200 without prior Board approval.

Adjourn

Carol Herigodt moved that the meeting be adjourned. She was seconded by Barbara August. It was passed by acclamation and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.