

Cincinnati Bridge Association Board of Trustees (Directors)
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2012

Board Vice President Potter Orr called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. Present were: Cordell Coy, Patrick Hoffman, Gayle Keaney, Barb Levinson, Ron Manne, Mike Purcell. Members Absent: Mary Clifton, A.J. Stephani.

The March minutes were approved. Motion made by Mike and seconded by Gayle.

The board agreed to review progress in the following three areas at each meeting during 2012 as these are our three (longer term) priorities.

- membership care and recruitment - Mike stated that he felt with game attendance declining, we needed to get serious about this priority and assign some people and action items, else he feared we would not sufficiently address this area this year.
- lease and location - no progress this month, though board members were interested to hear some and several said they knew of potential sites to investigate.
- sanction holder relationship and communication - Ron spoke with Mike about the overlap in responsibilities between Mike and the board. While no definitive guidelines were established, it was agreed that more communications with the directors is better than fewer.

We discussed the negative feedback from some players regarding playing directors creating a half table. This is a policy that can/should be set by the individual directors. However, it is an ACBL policy that a director may not play in any 2 section game nor in a game of 17 or more tables.

There was also feedback regarding high point players playing (even NE) in the Monday night game.

Ron will provide the feedback to Mike Lipp and make the ACBL playing director policy as a subject of a future directorgram.

Gayle provided the treasurer's report. The report was accepted, motion made by Ron and seconded by Cordell. The report shows a 1st quarter this year over 1st quarter last year substantial improvement. Gayle stated that gains were due to the increased fees and some reduced one time expenses (HVAC repairs) from last year.

We discussed the issue of fees for student games. There was no clear policy before last year, when we instituted a flat \$10 fee. We amended the policy to limit the number of student games per instructor to 4 per year. Some members feel that the \$10 fee is inconsistent with the rent we charge directors. We observed that about 1/3 of the student players are not playing at the center. We further observed that the game is a way to help the teacher's market and promote their classes. As we believe that teaching bridge facilitates enjoyment and therefore participation in the games, we feel that some subsidizing of the classes is appropriate. After additional discussion, Mike made a motion, seconded by Ron, and unanimously passed to set the student game fee at \$4 per table.

Gayle also gave the tournament committee report. She indicated that we planned to raffle the \$50 Pappadeux gift certificate during the STAC. Patrick volunteered to collect the raffle money each day, and Potter Wednesday and Friday. At the regional this year

we are going to simplify the hospitality offerings. Potter and Gayle are still working out the details, but several days we will move to just beverages and desserts. Next year, we expect to have main event times of late morning and mid-afternoon with an auxiliary evening event time (maybe 10, 3, & 7:30). This new timing means that hospitality will change substantially (be simplified) or possibly be eliminated entirely.

We discussed the lack of agreement with Deschappelles regarding parking lot rent. When we proposed the new player fees and the new table fee structure, we also proposed to eliminate the parking lot rent fee charged to Deschappelles. When the new table fee structure was rejected in December, we also rescinded the change to the parking lot rent. Unfortunately, this was not communicated to Deschappelles at that time, and they have proceeded throughout the year so far believing they do not owe the parking lot rent. Gayle attempted to make treasurer level contact, but no agreement could be reached there, perhaps presidential contact is required. We appear to be stymied, and discussed several possible solutions including canceling the additional parking lease, or adding an escalating charge (based on table count) to the new rent structure when we approve it to cover our costs. No decision were made, but we agreed to review the rent increases that we proposed in December again in June.

Peggy Barrett resigned from directing our 4th Tuesday evening games. For the time being, Potter has agreed to direct that evening.

Barb reported that mentor/mentee program information sheets and sign-up sheets have been reviewed and are being distributed. Dates for the program have not been selected as yet, but Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons are being considered.

Mike reported that the education committee is considering offering a 'duplicate bridge' class. The idea is a little radical in the sense that it would teach people to play duplicate rather than teaching them to play bridge. It is still an idea that is being developed and will see many revisions before it is formally proposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Cordell Coy
Recording Secretary