

Rhode Island Bridge Association, Inc.

Minutes

October 24, 2020

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

Excused Absence: Lois DeBlois, Meg Gousie, Stan Williams

Call to Order: 10:17

President's Comments: Good turnout for Gala so far. All of the board members have signed up and there was a list of signups so we can reach out to those who are not playing. Some emails about how to sign up for BBO and we are helping those who are nervous about BBO. Not a lot of business to discuss today just want to make sure everything is in place for Gala.

Secretary's Report: No changes to minutes. A motion was made to approve, seconded and minutes was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No changes since last meeting. Charity donations have been sent out and the only expense was storage. Balance around \$21000. Will do a year end report next year at the next board meeting.

Reports:

In/Out report 471 total members 1 new 1 reinstate 2 transfers in 9 transfers out as of October 1st.

Executive Board update. Lois was not present so no Executive report.

Old Business:

Gala Details The game is set up and Sue Miguel has been doing a really great job. 34 pairs in open game and 15 pairs in 299er game. One really new person looking for a partner. Some new district sign ups that might be available to play in the game and Paula will send those names to Sue. Sue would like to have one more email reminder sent out to make sure folks sign in to the right game and tell people that they can still sign up. Joe already was going to end out an email with the nominating committee and by-law changes. Sue wants to send two emails one with bylaws and one short with bullets reminding of time of game and a reminder to sign up for the right game. Still some concern about making sure that we have a quorum for the meeting but Sue is sure that she can get the needed numbers. Marshall wanted to make sure 18 boards with 7 minutes per board to give chat time. Paula mentioned that no longer than 7 minutes as games become too long.

Maureen will have the agenda out by Monday for the Annual meeting. It will include Awards, nominating committee, reports and by-laws. Marshall will be setting up a zoom for the annual meeting so that the participants will be in smaller groups for chats after the game. Hoping for good turnout for the zoom annual meeting. Joe sent out an email under bridge news with a link to the zoom meeting. Maysend out a link again in both reminder emails this week.

March Tournament Don't need to make a decision at this time. Can not have an on-line sectional because ACBL will not sanction. Right now all games have to be the same across all of BBO. ACBL making a fortune every other month. ACBL has a regional and on other months units can have colored point games. ACBL plans to limit the number of in-person games after in person games are again possible. World of Bridge tournaments will never be the same again. Right now some summer tournaments are being canceled. At best a 50/50 chance that the Providence NABC will happen. Probably close to a 100% chance that the March National will be cancelled. At a minimum a good vaccine needs to be widely available. The bridge playing population is especially vulnerable. ACBL is not sharing the revenue. Fortunately we have very little overhead.

Please reach out to anyone that you have not seen playing on-line.

Newsletter We will probably do a newsletter in January. At this point not much to say. Cindy wants to do a newsletter because we need to stay connected to players and it is going to be months before we play in person again. A possible addition to the newsletter is a sunshine type column just with news about players. Marshall wants to call around to make sure people are involved if they want to be. Nancy Rosenbaum was in a very bad car accident. One possibility is for board members to call folks you know no cold calls. Julie would like to send a postcard to all players. Postcards to be addressed by hand with a signature so more personal. Chris said notes should include let us know how you are doing, how has the virus changed your life, and will let people know that there are still bridge games and RIBA is still around. Sue said to send out an email that asks people to share news, keeping in touch kind of thing. Chris will be the contact for the notes/emails that are returned with information on how folks are doing. Will probably need to send out in December. Cindy, Chris, Julie and Barry have a mini committee to come up with text and logistics to send out cards. KeepingintouchRIBA VISTA print is \$56 for 500 postcards Joe figures about \$500 max to do mail cards out with personal signatures. A motion was made to spend money to send every

member of RIBA a postcard. Motion seconded and approved unanimously. All members will be addressing and signing cards. Keepintouch is the email address for news. Sue sent info on VISTAPrint to the four folks on the committee.

New Business:

Open Committee Chairs: Hospitality, Tournaments, Inter/Newcomer, Membership will bring up in January meeting

Maureen is taking over Membership and In/Out reports. Sue will take over the I/N chair.

Paula and Joe are sending out a new directory. About 400 emails as it will be only sent out virtually. The 80 or so that do not have emails will have to wait until we have in person games to print. Megan will call the 80 folks to see if she can get emails.

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Future meetings will be held :

January 9, 2021 10:15 a.m.

Saturday March 6, 2021 10:15

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and voted unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:25