

NORTH JERSEY BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 24th, 2023
Held remotely via Zoom

President Pat Rogers Linnemeyer called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M. Attendance was taken by Carole and it was confirmed that a quorum was present. Board members in attendance were:

Pat Linnemeyer	President
Fred Shubert	Vice President, Site
Carole Gelfer	Administrative Secretary
Mark Whitman	Treasurer
Pam Mills	Tournaments, Hospitality
Robert Sorce	Recording Secretary, Tournaments, Site
Michelle Lanigan	Sanctions, Hospitality Committee, Annual Brunch
Doug Cestone	Auditor
Tod Thorgersen	Johnke and Reitman teams, Prizes
Joel Lipset	Pairings, Membership
Richard Podkowik	Webpage, Player of the Year, Site
Abby Brawer	Johnke and Reitman Teams

Honorary board members and/or guests in attendance: None.

Absent and excused: Ron Nelken, Peri Namerow, Amy Nellissen, Sam Ghosh, and Susan Koster.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Gale made a motion to approve the minutes, and Carole seconded. The motion was approved without objection.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Pat corrected a statement she made at the previous meeting, regarding the Executive Board's ability to make decisions on financial matters, including whether or not to hold Sectionals. According to the by-laws, all actions by the Executive Board shall be reported to the Board and shall be subject to approval, revision, or alteration by the Board members.

At the recent Sectional tournament, we had a decent turnout on Sunday with thirty-two tables per session. We had a total of 176 tables. Turnout is improving, and fear of Covid is becoming less of a factor. However, we still incurred a loss. Mark will present the details in the Treasurer's report.

We are hoping the Johnke and other upcoming tournaments will have good attendance, and things will improve for the Unit financially.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark said we incurred a loss of \$1,343.17 on the recent Sectional. The previous tournament lost about \$1,200.00, and the one before that about \$2,500.00. Attendance was up. The November tournament had 154 tables, this one had 176. Revenue was up almost \$2,000.00, but our expenses were up as well. Rent, Director's fees, and sanction fees were way up. We have to do something going forward. Director's fees are fixed, so we have to look at rent, other expenses such as food costs, and entry fees, if we want to return to profitability. A seeming discrepancy between the rent we were expected to pay and the amount actually paid was resolved when it was realized one check was for a cleaning fee of \$250.00. As to the security deposit, Sylvana customarily tears up this check at the end of the rental period.

Gale asked that all board members be given a copy of the detailed financials of the sectional, so we can better understand the situation, and be better prepared to make informed decisions. Pat asked Mark to forward this information to all board members.

TOURNAMENTS

Pam reported the recent tournament went well, and increased Sunday attendance was a pleasant surprise.

Pat said the biggest expense we have that is under our control is rent. A committee chaired by Susan has been looking into alternate sites. One possible site is Christ Church in Ridgewood. Trinity Church in Allendale is not large enough for Sectionals, but is a fine location for smaller tournaments such as the Johnke and Reitman. The rental price is very reasonable. Fred suggested Trinity might be large enough for a Sectional if we position the Director's tables in the hallway outside the room and dedicate the entire space to playing area. Pat responded the Directors have final say on the location of their station, and unfortunately the out of room setup is not an option.

Pat said Christ Church has capacity for fifty tables; however there are issues with parking availability and equipment storage that need to be addressed. The rent, as well as setup and cleaning fee could be negotiated and would be a significant savings. As to parking there is a paid municipal lot nearby, some street parking is available, and we may be able to secure permission from Stop and Shop to use some of their spaces.

If we were to use this location for our next tournament, the space would not be available for Sunday. We could hold the tournament in Allendale, or we could consider changing the days to Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Pam suggested pre-registration for the Sunday team game. Abby agreed, saying it would give us the ability to order food more accurately, thereby saving money on food waste. A discussion ensued on the merits and mechanics of pre-registration.

Pat asked Bob about the status of the search for a new site, and if we are ready to vote on using Christ Church in Ridgewood. Bob said he was reluctant to speak on the matter in the absence of the Committee Chairperson. We shouldn't vote on it without Susan being involved. Gale said she was under the impression that many of the sites we looked at cost as much, or more, than Allendale. Bob responded there were a couple locations costing the same or more, but obviously they were crossed off the list. We saw several sites that were cheaper than Allendale, but more expensive than Ridgewood. Ramapo College was nice because there is a series of three rooms, separated by folding doors. We can rent any number of rooms, so we would have room to grow. Also, Bethany Church in Washington Township looked very good. Pat commented neither Ramapo College nor Washington Township are centrally located, whereas both Allendale and Ridgewood have train stations nearby. Bob said he doesn't see anything negative about Christ Church except the parking. If we can work that out, it would be an ideal location.

Carole asked if we can take a vote, contingent on Susan not having a strong objection. Bob said Pat has not yet negotiated the rent, or spoken to the church about storage. We can't vote if we don't have final numbers on expenses. Pat made a motion to move future Sectionals to Christ Church in Ridgewood. Gale made a motion to amend, adding language to acknowledge votes are made based on information provided in this meeting, including but not limited to resolution of parking required, and confirmation of financials, and if that information changes, some board members may wish to change their vote. The motion to amend was seconded and accepted unanimously. Pat called a vote and the motion as amended passed unanimously.

HOSPITALITY

Pam said attendees were happy with the pizza meal option, and it allowed her to order based on attendance. There was no waste. Pat reported she heard a few complaints, but overall it was well received.

SANCTIONS

Michelle reported we have all the necessary sanctions for the rest of the year, as well as for the Johnke and the Reitman. She has applied for the sanction for the April 2024 Sectional. We do not have any other 2024 Sectional sanctions as yet. Pat suggested we cancel the January Sectional. Bob said if the sanction doesn't cost us any money if the tournament is cancelled, we should just get it and decide later in the year. Mark said it is a waste of Michelle's time to get the sanction. Pam moved we cancel the January Sectional. Michelle seconded. A vote was called and the motion passed with nine yes votes, two against, and one abstention.

SITE COMMITTEE

No report.

PAIRINGS

Joel reported Sectional pairings are almost back to pre-pandemic levels. 90% of the people seeking pairings have 499 or fewer masterpoints. Going forward he will try to work earlier with Amy, Marlene and others who are teaching bridge in an attempt to help their students find compatible partners. Also, the flyers need to be changed to reflect availability of pairings much closer to the event.

CADDIES

No report.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Richard reported the website is current.

ANNUAL BRUNCH

The date of the annual brunch will be January 7th, 2024.

JOHNKE & REITMAN TEAMS

Tod said he has already received several entries for the upcoming Johnke tournament, and with reduced expenses and the price increase, we may at least break even. He has visited the new location and it is very nice. Once he has a final count on entries he will notify Abby, Peri, and Pat so they can order the correct amount of food.

PRIZES

While we will be replacing trophies with certificates, Tod advocated for keeping the three plaques presented by the executive board. It was decided the plaques and the rotating trophy will remain, and the Life Master pens will be replaced by another token of achievement. Tod will research possible replacements.

PRO-AM

Pat and Fred discussed possible dates for a coordinated Pro-Am. It was decided to hold the event on July 6th.

NOVICE PROMOTION

No report.

MEMBERSHIP

Joel said his efforts to reach out to limited masterpoint members have not been successful.

FLYERS

No report.

AUDITOR

Doug is ready to begin the audit, and will make arrangements with Mark to pick up the books.

Doug also pointed out it is not acceptable to have the Sectional security deposit disposed of by the payee. Either it should be held in abeyance for the next tournament, or returned and marked void.

DISTRIBUTION

No report.

CLUB COORDINATOR

No report.

NEWSLETTER

No report.

WEB PAGE

Richard is working on updating the webpage to count visitors, while excluding robots. He is also developing an online registration platform for the Sectional Swiss events.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat said it is time to appoint a nominating committee to fill expiring board positions. The committee will consist of a chairperson, two board members, and four non-board members. Gale has agreed to chair the committee, and Amy has volunteered to fill one of the board member positions. Joel volunteered to fill the other position.

Richard and Carole will work together to establish an email voting system.

A motion was made by Pam at 6:39 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Carole and passed without objection.

