

Belton Bridge Center

October 2, 2023

Present: Norman Duttweiler, Peter Goodman, Kathy Clark, Julie Reiser, Susan Elkin, Susan Michelson

Absent: Alison Mann

Guests: Marian Ford, Hector Escarpita, Rob Van Ekeren

Norman called the meeting to order at 3:22pm.

Minutes: Peter Goodman moved to approve the August 2023 Minutes. Kathy Clark seconded. Motion accepted.

Financials: Kathy presented the financials. Kathy disseminated Profit and Loss for January – August for both 2022 and 2023 for comparison. Highlighted items: \$19,193 in savings. \$6418 in checking. This is much lower than last year because \$2600 for annual insurance was paid. The property tax bill will be coming in December. Susan M moved and Peter seconded the motion to accept the report.

Kathy discussed total table count: last year we had a total of 908 tables. This year so far, we had 790 tables. From a “total table” perspective we are in decent shape.

Tournament: Norman talked about sign ups. We have less inquiries than last year. For our last tournament, we had many inquires from El Paso, Albuquerque, Alamogordo, and silver city. Not so this time. Norman will re-send flyers by email. We discussed the requirement to have two yearly tournaments vs just one a year. For a couple of years prior to the pandemic, we only had one tournament per year. When the bridge center opened again, and we were concerned about revenue, we discussed a second yearly tournament – especially since we weren’t ready to have a second unit game every month.

We discussed food. Kathy indicated that we have enough.

We will set up on Thursday. 3PM to help set up: cleaning, set up. Norman will send out an email.

Education: Julie said the lessons are done. We’re hoping that Dave will start a 99er game soon. Someone would come before the game and teach something and afterwards (1pm) have a smaller sanctioned game (maybe 12 boards). Unfortunately, there were only four (4) graduates. Julie is concerned we won’t get enough people. Maybe ask El Paso. Julie will send an email to Nancy Stockton to let El Paso know. Also Julie will contact Phil Anderson regarding El Paso players.

Potential Thursday 99er game. Dave Allen proposed not charging for the first couple of months. We had a discussion about charging players and table rent. After discussion, we agreed that Julie would talk to Dave about not charging players until January 31, 2024; for the same period, and the director would not be charged table rent. The players would have to be notified prior to the start of these games, that after January 31st, 2024, they would be charged a fee for the games.

Unit Game:

So far, unit games are plodding along. It used to be the responsibility of the board to provide food. There are food sign up sheets for the unit games remaining unit games in this year, for anyone who agrees to bring food.

New Directors: Hector Escarpita is in the process of becoming a director. Ellen will be getting more involved to help.

Memorial Plaques: Norman contacted a local company to purchase a new plaque, since we've run out of room on the plaques we have. Unfortunately, the price was almost \$400, which is very exorbitant. Kathy researched and we are getting one from Amazon that is exactly like the one we have in the middle for less than half that price.

Holiday Party: Saturday or Sunday. We will have the holiday party on Saturday, December 9th. Kathy will check the sanction. [The sanction was for Sunday, the 10th. Kathy will make sure it's changed to Saturday, December 9th, 2023.] We will have a Potluck. The lunch will start at 11am and the game will start at 12:30pm. This game will replace the usual 2nd Sunday Unit game .

Later we will discuss the possibility of having some kind of secret Santa.

We will not have a unit game on December 24th.

Player volunteer of the year: We discussed several well deserving people. We discussed giving the player volunteer of the year free games. We've done this before. Norman will include honorable mentions in his "speech" at the annual meeting.

Safety issues: Maybe avoid parking on the side street next to the building. There are some questionable people living across the street.

New Board Members: We appointed a nominating committee (3 people). Susan Elkins and Marian Ford agreed to be on the nominating committee. They will find one more person for the committee. They will set up a meeting. The committee will decide who to ask, and report back to the board next month. We need 3 board members at large.

Bob Kimball will be resigning as web master. Norman will put a notice in the general membership email to see if we have any volunteers to take over that position. If nobody steps forward, Norman can assume the responsibilities.

Membership meeting to discuss Future of the Club (next year): Norman suggested having a meeting in January to see what people want for the future of the club. Or, do people want to just play amongst themselves. We need more participation from more people to keep the bridge club running.

Should we raise the table rent per person per game by \$1. We will have to talk to the directors about this raise. They, in turn can raise the price per game for players. El Paso is talking about raising the price per game as well.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan Elkin and seconded by Norman. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Michelson