

## **Minutes – ACBL Board Unit 380**

Date: February 23, 2022

Time: 11:00am

Place: Belton Bridge Center

Present: Marty Poel (President), Billie Edington (Parliamentarian), Bob Kimball (Treasurer), Ellen Schneider (Secretary), John Randall (member-at-large)

Not Present: Cliff Denton (member-at-large)

Guests: Dave Allen, Norman Duttweiler, Hector Escarpita, Ron Francey, Harry Johnson, Rob Van Ekeren

### **Initial Business:**

- Marty took a moment to wish Linda Randall a speedy recovery and asked that she be kept in our thoughts and prayers.
- Ellen confirmed that the number of board members present (5) satisfied the quorum requirements stated in Article VIII, Section 6, of the ACBL Unit 380 Bylaws.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- Bob made a motion to accept the January 19, 2022, minutes. Billie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **New President/Board Vacancy**

- Billie made a motion that Marty Poel become President in accordance with Article IX, Section 2, of the ACBL Unit 380 Bylaws. Ellen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Marty will send an email to the membership asking for volunteers to fill Linda's vacancy on the Board. This person will serve on the Board through December 2023.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Bob reported that the Unit currently has a balance of \$8,382.08 in checking and \$19,136.13 in the A1 money market account.
- Bob stated that the club currently has a profit of \$787.97. He pointed out that this profit is due to the total building rent income (\$555.00), ACBL reimbursements (\$519.03), memorials (\$1050.00) and total rent income from games (\$730.50). Bob pointed out that the ACBL reimbursements were a one-time payment, so the profit will most likely be less next period.
- Billie made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## Face Mask Policy:

- Marty led the discussion on whether face masks should be required or optional. He said that it is a fact that the Covid virus is everywhere (even in the Belton Bridge Center) and that wearing masks decreases the spread of the virus. He commented that strong feelings on this issue divide the members of the Unit. He requested that the Board's policy satisfy 'strict scrutiny.' He referred to his written statements posted on the agenda, including the suggestion that face masks be encouraged but not required to enter the Belton Bridge Club building. He also suggested that the Bylaws be amended to include a policy in the event of community emergencies. Ellen recited the procedure (Article XII) for amending the Bylaws and it was agreed that this item would need to be revisited at a later time.
- There was a discussion on whether the Board or game owners have the authority to enforce the mask mandate.
- Rob Van Ekeren stated that the Board dictates the rules and that he would enforce the Board's face mask policy. He suggested that we allow masks to be optional in odd weeks and require them in even weeks which would give everyone a chance to play. Marty responded that we should decide on one appropriate policy and enforce it at all the games.
- Bob talked about the survey he recently conducted on face masks and vaccinations. He reported that 1 or 2 members commented that they cannot wear a mask. He also reported that the majority of the responders want booster shots to be required. He suggested that the Unit buy 4 or 5 air purifiers.
- Dave Allen pointed out that ACBL requires face masks and vaccination for tournaments. He said the Unit could allow masks to be optional and see what happens. He questioned whether or not the Board has the authority to set a face mask policy for his games. He said he should be allowed to require face masks at his games if the Board makes them optional. He pointed out that he has a large game on Mondays and does not want a policy that would alter that status.
- Hector Escarpita spoke in favor of making face masks optional. He pointed out that the state has lifted the indoor face mask mandate. He said that all players are vaccinated and boosted, so there is minimum risk if masks are not worn.
- Ellen spoke in favor of requiring face masks. She argued that since all players are in the high-risk population either by age, medical condition or both that the Unit should err on the side of caution. She used a tape measure to show that players who sit across from one another at the bridge table are just a little over 3 feet apart and players who sit next to one another are less than 3 feet apart.
- Harry Johnson wondered if we could build extensions onto the tables to ensure that players are 6 feet apart. He read the state guidelines which state that although face masks are optional, organizations and businesses have the right to require face masks. He said he is in favor of requiring face masks.
- John Randall stated that he favors making face masks optional.
- Ron Francey stated that he trusts the science and favors following CDC guidelines. When asked what the CDC guidelines are in regards to face masks, Bob said the CDC recommends them.

- Bob made a motion that face masks be required but that 4 people per game be allowed not to wear one. No one seconded the motion, so there was no vote.
- Ellen made a motion that face masks continue to be required. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 1.

**Membership:**

- Marty commented that now might not be the best time to increase our membership. Due to Covid, we might not want our games to fill up 12-14 tables. Bob said any efforts would most likely only lead to one additional table of players.
- The Board discussed forming a focus group to develop ideas to increase interest in Bridge. Bob made a motion that John Randall be appointed to chair a committee to explore the issue of membership. Billie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Partnerships/Sunday Games:**

- Marty stated that we need a go-to person for partnerships.
- Billie reviewed the Board's responsibilities for the Sunday games. Marty will be in charge of finding a director for the games.

**Additional Agenda Items:**

- Due to time constraints, the remaining agenda items were tabled.

**Next Board Meeting:** TBD

**Adjournment:** Billie moved that we end the meeting. Bob seconded the motion and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Schneider