

Belton Bridge Center Board Meeting

Date: January 25, 2023

Time: 3:39 pm

Attending: Norman Duttweiler (President), Susan Elkin(Vice- President), Alison Mann (Secretary) Kathy Clark (Treasurer), Susan Michelson(Parliamentarian), Ron Francey,(At-Large), Peter Goodman (At-Large).

Guest: Marian Ford

Meeting was called to Order by Norman at 3:39pm. The agenda was accepted.

Kathy moved to accept the December Board Minutes. Peter seconded. All approved. It was recommended that an addendum be attached to the December 11th Board minutes to summarize the annual meeting of members, also on December 11th, where the new Board was voted in by acclamation.

Action: Alison will provide that addendum and present at the next meeting.

Agenda:

Current Financials: Kathy reported that the checking account has \$10,485.64. She has paid \$1200. For the building and liability insurance for a year of coverage. The savings account has \$19,149.30. There are some restrictions on where money from that account can be spent. Peter moved to accept the financial report. and Susan M. seconded. All approved.

Dance club discussion: Before Covid, two square dance clubs and one ballroom dance club rented the Bridge Center for their activities. During Covid, the previous Board agreed to let them use the facility without charge. Kathy reported that \$200. was recently sent to Belton by one club and a member of a club as a token of good will. In the past, Norman has served as the liaison to the dance clubs including verifying contracts between Belton and the dance clubs. He doesn't think the ballroom dance club is still viable. **Action: Norman will contact Ted Clements, the dance club representative, to discuss future rent.**

Education and Outreach: Peter presented a handout written by Bob Kimball and him titled, Duplicate Bridge: Pickleball for the Brain." A discussion ensued of possibilities for attracting new members, publicity, teaching materials, potential teachers, current teachers, adult learning venues, downtown market and mall locations, and local radio stations and newspapers. Some potential members would be those who play party bridge who may want to learn duplicate, college students, people who have no knowledge of bridge, and people who are moving to Las Cruces. Ron noted the teaching tool on the Belton website called "Jeff's Corner" which comes from Jeff Krall, an accomplished duplicate bridge player. The Belton Bridge Center is also on Facebook.

Susan M. moved that an education subcommittee be formed to focus first on how the curriculum would be presented, who would teach it and to whom, and when. Seconded by Peter. Board approved. Marian Ford and Julie Reiser wish to be on the education subcommittee. **Action: Norman will send out an email asking for members interested in serving on the education subcommittee which will eventually make recommendations to the Board. Alison will put an announcement on Next Door telling people that the Belton Bridge Center is available for playing duplicate bridge.**

Hot water and ice machine: Kathy stated that there is no hot water at the kitchen sink and that the ice machine needs to start running again. She thinks that it was unplugged during Covid and may need some cleaning. **Action: Norman will contact Dave Gose to see what can be done about both issues.**

Bottled water and sodas: Ron was approached by a member who wanted to know why there was a charge for bottled water. During Covid, bottled water was free, and to the Board's knowledge, sodas were charged 50 cents, but bottled water was free. The bottles are often left $\frac{3}{4}$ full, they are ecologically damaging, and the sodas are harmful to health. Since there is reverse osmosis drinking water available in the sink area, and the ice machine will be fixed and the sodas are minimally purchased, Susan E. moved that the current inventory of bottled water and sodas be sold at 50 cents each, and that they will not be replaced. Motion seconded by Kathy. Motion passed. **Action: Norman will send an email to members noting the changes in the beverage options.**

Tournaments: Should Belton have a Spring tournament? Susan E. said there are new rules that allow a local director at tournaments under 25 tables. Alison expressed concern about the low turnout for the 499 tournament which took place in Las Cruces and El Paso. Kathy suggested adding a second Unit game every month. Was there time to plan an event? Could it be sanctioned? Dates suggested were May 6 and 7. **Action: Kathy to talk to ACBL representative to check out sanction for a tournament in May and Norman will ask Pat Calhoon if she would chair the tournament.**

Adjournment: Susan E. moved to adjourn the meeting and Alison seconded. All present approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mann