

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

December 7, 2023, at Temple Beth Torah (TBT)

Board Members Present: Margie Butler, Raeann Koerner, Mark Eckhout, Craig Kavin, Kay Mendel, Parker Mann, Sue Houk and Suzanne Brenner

Meeting was called to order at 10:52 a.m. by Margie Butler

Old/Continuing Business

Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Craig Kavin to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2023, meeting, and 2nd by Parker Mann, M/S/A.

Club Operations and Management- Parker

Parker had sent email reports prior to the meeting.

1. Plot for our table count average through November 2023
2. Unit #547 In-and-Out Report
3. Unit #547 Inactive Life Master

Discussion regarding the attendance differences between games on different days:

Wednesday has consistently high attendance mainly due to Stan Snyder and the popularity of the 199er game. Tuesday attendance is up and down but usually at least 8 tables. Thursday attendance has declined and needs to be addressed. The limited game on Thursday has not succeeded either as a 499er or as a 199er.

It was agreed that we would continue to monitor the attendance numbers.

ACBL table fees are increasing in 2024; we discussed how we should proceed in the future with our fees for club games. We could raise the regular fee from \$7 to \$8, or we could charge extra on days when we have special games.

There will also be fewer special games in the year ahead because ACBL will discontinue the increased number special games per year that were added after Covid. No decision was made at this time to make any changes, but we recognize that changes may need to be made in the future.

We discussed who might be able to take over the Club Manager position when Parker's term concludes, but there is no candidate at this time.

Treasurer's Report

Kay had previously emailed three reports:

Sheet 1: Monthly Income and Expense

Loss of \$448 in November partially due to the purchase of the side tables – \$218.00.

Sheet 3: TBT Detail

Loss of \$328.00

Sheet 3 : Town House Detail

Gain of \$24.00

It was discussed that there were a variety of factors impacting the losses. One factor was additional Free Plays during the month: Free plays were awarded to 199er players after one game when a problem with the boards was discovered, and the first three games at the Town House were played free.

It was discussed that other clubs in the area charge more for their games and that we may need to consider charging more for the more expensive ACBL games in the future.

Recruiting for 2024 Board

Mark does not have members for the Nominating Committee at this time but will continue to create the committee.

It is understood that we do need a slate of candidates by January 10, 2024 (two weeks before the Annual Meeting).

Small Side Tables

The small tables that were purchased have been in use and have been well received. Following the game today, Margie will evaluate the storage situation for the current tables that we have with the intention to purchase additional tables. Raeann Koerner made a motion to purchase additional tables based on how many will properly fit in the closet where we plan to store them, Suzanne Brenner 2nd the motion, M/S/A.

Increasing Attendance for the 199'er Game

A variety of suggestions were discussed, but no decisions were made at this time.

Holiday Party

A motion was made by Suzanne Brenner that we will charge our regular game fee for the Holiday Party, providing a main dish for the luncheon and inviting members to bring Potluck items to share, Parker Mann 2nd the motion, M/S/A.

Year-end Gifts

Margie suggested that we give free-play tickets as gifts to unpaid volunteers, as discussed during last month's meeting. Temple staff will be given cash gifts as in the past.

New Business

Schedule Upcoming Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on January 25, 2024. Members will be able to play free and the Unit will provide lunch.

Our next board meeting will be on January 11, 2024.

Margie Butler, President, adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Brenner, Secretary