

MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

August 4, 2023, at Temple Beth Torah (TBT)

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

Absent: Raeann Koerner

Guests: Susan Lang

Meeting was called to order at 10:47 a.m. by Margie Butler

Old/Continuing Business

Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Craig Kavim to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2023 meeting, and 2nd by Parker Mann, M/S/A.

Treasurer's Report

Kay had previously emailed two reports:

Sheet 1: Monthly Income and Expense

Sheet 2: TBT Detail

Sue Houk made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for June 2023, and 2nd by Craig Kavim, M/S/A.

Club Operations and Management- Parker

Parker announced that attendance had been lower in July, but it was determined that there was a possibility of a variety of factors to contribute to this: 4th July holiday, closed one day due to scheduling issue with TBT, regional tournament in Long Beach and nationals in Chicago.

Parker had shared an email he received from the ACBL about a program they were initiating regarding contacting members who had not been in recent attendance with a promotion to entice them to possibly return playing at a local club. The board agreed to participate in the program.

Parker investigated the possibility of using software that would allow for the use of Bridgemates during team games. The directors that he had discussed this with were not currently interested in using the product. Craig offered to speak with Brandon about the use of the software, and both Craig and Margie are going to seek out more information to assist in our evaluation for future use of the software.

Parker informed the board that there had been some potential issues during our last team game event where some players had felt that they had not been treated in a manner that we would expect at a table in our games. Margie suggested that we possibly purchase the “Happy Face” card that could be placed in the bidding box, that would allow someone to place this on the table if they felt that there were actions/words at the table during the game that made someone feel uncomfortable.

Mike Gaddis Memorial - Margie

Permission from Mike’s family is still needed for us to proceed with the obituary. Margie will follow up with BJ about gaining the needed permission. It was also discussed that Mike’s photo and information on our current Web page now be removed.

Meeting in Camarillo – Mark

Mark provided prior to the meeting a written overview of the items he was to discuss during our meeting. In summary:

1. VUBC is currently not invited to return to the PVRPD Senior Center, but Mark will continue to work towards developing a working relationship for the future. We were provided with the opportunity to use the Freedom Center in Camarillo.
2. There was a discussion regarding continuing with the Fall Sectional as planned, but due to the situation with PVRPD, other sectionals in nearby areas already scheduled, and the effort needed for the upcoming Regional event, that we should not continue with the event. Kay Mendel made a motion to cancel our plans for the Fall Sectional for this year, and 2nd by Parker Mann, M/S/A.
3. Mark suggested other potential ideas to further our relationship with PVRPD with no decisions made at this time, but open for discussion later.

Ventura Townhouse -Margie

Margie shared the results of the survey asking members if there was an interest in playing bridge at the Townhouse. It was determined that we will try having a game on Saturday, beginning at 11:30, playing 24 boards. The plan is to offer play for no charge for the first month for all players. The fee for the game will be determined in the future. There are some items that still need to be determined: check-in procedures, mask procedures, how to handle snacks, etc. The first day to begin was suggested to be September 9th.

Margaret Raven Bridge Docuseries – Parker

Margie and Parker provided additional information regarding the Docuseries proposal. After discussion, Parker Mann made a motion to accept the proposal, and Mark Eckhout 2nd the motion. The vote was to not accept the proposal.

New Business

Request to purchase new tables

Stan had requested additional tables be purchased. Kay Mendel made a motion to purchase 3 or 4 tables as determined by the best purchase option, Craig Kavin 2nd the motion, M/S/A.

Sanctioned 0-20 game, or change of 499er game to a 199er game

After discussion it was decided to leave the 0-20 game on Tuesdays as is. In addition, to ask Stan to encourage the players in the 199er game to try the 499er game before any change are made to our current game schedule. It was discussed to possibly offer a free play for the first time to encourage attendance.

Set up procedures

Margie will determine the best way to move forward with the coordination of the weekly set up on Tuesdays for our games.

Break time procedure

It was suggested that there needs to be clearer procedures for break time during a game to ensure timely play.

Director Fees

It was suggested that we consider an increase in the amount that we compensate our directors for the services. Margie will inquire if there are suggested standards by the ACBL.

Margie Butler, President, adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Brenner, Secretary