

APPROVED MINUTES OF ACBL UNIT 547 BOARD MEETING

March 10, 2022 at Temple Beth Torah

“Bridge for Everyone”

Board Members Present: Parker Mann, Margie Butler, Mark Eckhout, Kay Mendel, Craig Kavin, Doug Hahn.

U547 Members Present: Linda Forsyth

- Meeting was called to order by President Margie Butler at 10:33 a.m.

Order of Business

Additions and Changes to the 2022 Board of Directors

- Margie introduced U547 Member, Linda Forsyth. Linda is present for most of our games at the Temple and at our Sectional Tournaments where she is always bringing a cheerful demeanor. She is an avid volunteer to our club, likes our people and is most often seen playing a large part in hospitality. Linda knows we are in need of an additional Director and when approached, agreed to join our Board. Her agreement was warmly received. Doug Hahn made a motion that Linda Forsyth be appointed to complete term previously held by Barbara Fitzgerald. M/S/A
- Mark Eckhout asked to take on the duties of the office of Secretary. He felt there were economies of scale for what is reported in the minutes and publicized in the Bridge Buzz. Doug moved that Mark be elected as Secretary. M/S/A

Approval of Minutes

Under Miscellaneous Comments, Parker Mann is to investigate additional Special Games, not maximize. Parker moved to accept minutes as corrected. M/S/A

Treasurer's Report

- The Valentine's 499er Sectional Tournament, Feb 12, 2022, with a few small expenses outstanding, will net a profit of approximately \$600.
- The Saturday and Sunday BBO games are being played at a financial loss currently averaging \$25/mo for the first two months of 2022. The Board's consensus is to keep the BBO games in place – especially for our members with limited mobility and health concerns.
- The Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday games at the Temple are starting to run in the black!
- The Monday game in Camarillo at the PVRPD Senior Center continues to run at a loss: averaging \$400/mo for the first two months of 2022. The current contract ends on March 28. The future of the Camarillo game is addressed later in the meeting.
- At the end of February 2022, Reserves are setting at \$40K.
- Upon completion of the report and discussion by the Board, Craig Kavin moved, Parker seconded that the (excellent) Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. M/S/A

Club Manager Report

- Parker Mann announced, his smile barely perceptible, that he would be on vacation for 2 ½ months starting April 22. (First stop – Ireland). He confirmed, post meeting, that Barry Brenner would step in for him during his absence.
- Parker shall rough out the calendar for the months he is away. Barry will update as information becomes available.
- Parker presented a two page ACBL document listing all the types of Special Games, their Masterpoint ratings, how frequently they may be used and the ACBL added fee per table. Implementation shall be discussed later in the meeting.

Old Business

Monday Games at Camarillo Senior Center

Mark Eckhout presented the current status of the Monday games at the Camarillo Senior Center. Table count remains at the 3 & 4 levels where eight tables are required to break even. The unit is losing an average of \$400/month. A thorough discussion followed with the following results.

- Doug moved that we end the Camarillo game at the end of our contract, March 28, 2022, pending no further developments during the month of March. M/S/A
 - Further developments include:
 - Bob Gruber's negotiations with PVRPD to lower their fees for our Senior, Public group.
 - Discussions with a local philanthropic organization that may cover some/all of our expenses for a period of time while we re-build our game.
 - An option by the Monday players to increase table fees from \$8 to about \$14-16 per game.
- Based on Margie's survey at the Valentine 499 Sectional the following options will be evaluated if and when the Camarillo game continues.
 - Set up a reservation system for a Limited Game so the lower level players will know whether or not there will be a lower level game.
 - Publicize that there is a Guaranteed Partner for the game. The survey indicated they did not know that.
 - Consider a different day, Wednesday, not Monday, for the game.

If the Camarillo game is terminated on March 28, we may revisit the decision in several months if conditions indicate the potential for a successful re-start.

Strawberry Sectional

After a discussion of our volunteer capacity to host the two day sectional, the following plans were made:

- Parker presented a motion to host the Strawberry Sectional at the Camarillo Senior Center on Friday/Saturday, May 13/14, 2022. M/S/A
- Josh Rosenbluth will inform ACBL of our changes. May 20/21 is an alternate date if a problem arises with our first choice.

- Linda Forsyth, with considerable assistance from our veterans, will be the Tournament Chair for the Strawberry Sectional. A Co-Chair shall be sought.

New Business

Special Games and Game Fees

ACBL has created numerous special games whose purposes are twofold

1. Increase the amount of masterpoints awarded at the club game level
2. To help fund special contests and events throughout the federation.

VUBC participation in these special games is limited to “Club games” where the added ACBL fee is \$1 per table. Ventura Bridge Club absorbs this fee: VBC does not pass-on the fee as some clubs do.

Kay Mendel commented that she and many of her friends are not motivated by the opportunity to earn more masterpoints.

Craig Kavin’s experience is that many higher level players will choose to attend clubs that are offering special games; especially the “Special Fund games”. They are motivated by the opportunity to earn more masterpoints. As these players show-up for our Special Fund games, our club earns a reputation as a good club at which to play; we gain increased prominence in the nearby Districts..

After considerable discussion, Kay moved and Craig seconded to increase the game fee at Temple Beth Torah to \$7 per table (still the lowest in CA) effective April 1, 2022. M/S/A

VBC’s will not pass-on the additional ACBL table fee for the Club games. We will take a wait-n-see approach whether or not to pass on the added table fees for the Special Fund games.

VUBC will promote our low cost games and all of our many Special Club games to attract more players from nearby Units and Districts. Some of the Special games offer Gold and Red masterpoints.

The President adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Eckhout, Secretary