Minutes of the Board of Corvallis Duplicate Bridge Club

Dec 18, 2018

Present: Board Members -- Sandy Allen, Walter Dobek, Allison Evans, Dennis Harms, Paul Hochfeld, Joyce Willco, Nick, Warden, and Karla Layton; Invited Guests—Stan Blascow, Carol Harms; Interested Observers--Becky McKenzie, Eileen Milligan, Iva Neyhart, Mary Vance, Ted Overman, Jan Boger, Mitch Willcox, Gayle Peterson

Absent: Mary Alice Seville

Appointment of someone to run the meeting (Decision)
Since Mary Alice was absent and since Dennis recused himself from running the meeting. Joyce nominated Allison to chair the meeting and Dennis to serve as secretary. Sandy seconded, and both agreed to serve in those roles for this meeting.

Approval of the minutes from Dec. 11 meeting (Decision)
Joyce read a list of corrections that had been provided to her by various people since the draft minutes were circulated. The meeting minutes from the Dec. 11 minutes were approved as corrected.

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Letter from Brian
It was decided to read a letter from Brian to the Corvallis Board and to the Unit Board. It was read out loud by Karla. Nick moved and Walter seconded a motion to include the letter in the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. It is attached at the end of these minutes.

Report from Stan:
At a meeting on Dec. 14, the Unit Board voted to appoint Stan Blascow as the Principal Fact Finder (PFF) to develop a narrative of the events of the StaC game on Aug. 21 and the subsequent actions of the Corvallis Board, both collectively and individually. Stan presented a detailed description of the approach he will take in gathering information and the process he will follow to ensure confidentiality. The following is a summary from Stan that he provided after the meeting. This is an excellent summary of his report.

From Stan:
I discussed the nature of the role that I would be willing to play in the investigation. I explained the distinction between what I would provide as a volunteer investigator and how that would differ from a formal investigation that would be initiated should someone ask for that in my role as Unit Recorder. I also provided the board with some details of my preliminary thoughts on how the investigation would proceed including the nature of interviews, signed statements, generation of a narrative, scope of the investigation, and in general what the Corvallis Board members could expect from me. I discussed what I consider to be reasonable expectations of confidentiality with the interview content, and my expectations regarding cooperation from interviewees. I tried to highlight the differences
that board members could expect if the investigation became a formal one. I expressed my view that this process would serve us best in remaining informal, but that if anyone approached me in my role as Unit Recorder that I would have no choice but to investigate formally. I think it might also be nice to acknowledge the Unit’s role in twisting my arm - that is appointment of a PFF.

Motion 1: Paul moved, and Karla seconded that we should contact Brian to see if he (a) wants us to put Stan’s narrative in the minutes and (b) he wants us to delay release of the findings to Board minutes until after the appeal is finished. The motion passed unanimously. Dennis was assigned to ask Brian.

Dennis did follow up with Brian and Brian thinks it will be prudent to not release Stan’s finding into Board minutes until after the conclusion of the appeal. He certainly didn’t want Stan’s investigation to be slowed down due to the appeal.

Motion 2: Paul moved, and Joyce seconded a motion that the Corvallis Board would not modify the report generated by the fact finder. The motion passed unanimously. Stan may provide an executive summary as part of his narrative that would be put in the Board minutes.

Motion 3: Dennis moved and Paul seconded a motion that we thank Stan for agreeing to the effort and pledging the full cooperation of the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul’s Questions

Paul stated he had a number of questions he felt the board needed to answer before the investigation was underway.

Question 1: If the Unit Board decides to review the narrative and evaluate Corvallis Board actions, will the Corvallis Board embrace and accept those findings with humility? We briefly discussed this. The overwhelming sentiment was against endorsing a statement to accept a Unit evaluation before the narrative is available. No motion was made.

Question 2: Should the Unit Board refuse to submit an evaluation or should the Corvallis Board not accept the Unit’s evaluation, who on the Corvallis Board should be recused from the meetings at which our board’s evaluates our behavior?

Motion 4: Paul moved, and Dennis seconded a motion that “The body of the board that digests the final report to determine if the board, collectively and individually, acted responsibly and professionally not include people who were on the board at the time of the response to the incident.” Much discussion followed, and the motion was defeated with 5 opposed (Walter, Nick, Sandy, Joyce, and Karla) and 3 in favor (Allison, Paul, and Dennis).

Question 3: When an evaluation is completed, either by the Unit Board or the Corvallis Board, and it is not a unanimous decision, will we allow for dissenting opinions to be submitted with that evaluation? After a brief discussion, no motion was made and no decision was reached.
Christmas Party

Motion 5: Dennis moved, and Paul seconded a motion to official thank the people responsible for the very successful Christmas Party. The motion passed unanimously. The people to be thanked were particularly Anne Larson and the people that put on the “party bridge” event. That included Eric Larson, Becky McKenzie, Karen Nelson, Janie Peery?. The people that were responsible for the food included Chloe Jarvinen, Karla, Layton, and Jane Lackey. A special thanks to Allison Walkingshaw who did the decorations for the tables at the dinner and the invitations to the party bridge event. Finally, Dick did an awesome job of directing.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Harms, standing in for Allison Evans, secretary

Letter from Brian

Members of the Corvallis board and Unit 477 board,

I have remained silent regarding issues surrounding the STaC game I directed on August 21st, 2018. However, rumors and falsehoods per this situation are swirling at an alarming rate.

Based on emails generated by our club manager on August 22nd, 2018, that were sent to the Director in Charge of the STaC games and then forwarded to the highest levels of ACBL, an ethics charge of cheating was filed against me.

The matter was initially referred to a local disciplinary committee headed by Walt Theis. A hearing by that committee cleared me of all charges based on the facts that were presented in that hearing. That matter is currently under appeal. Given that situation, it is not proper for me to comment on the process that led up to those charges being filed and related matters. These are more appropriately addressed with the Board after the appeal.

There is one rumor out there that I would like to address first and foremost. I have no intention of bringing a lawsuit against anyone (persons or board) per this matter. I hope that puts an end to this falsehood.

From this point forward, let's all agree to cease this seemingly endless generation of unsubstantiated rumors or statements whether they be about myself or anyone else in the club. When you hear a rumor or innuendo, my suggestion is that you contact the targeted person for clarification. This is just common courtesy.

I am asking that none of you be responsible for spreading any rumors but more than that, I am expecting and requesting that you be proactive in quashing any rumors that you hear, question
things that sound implausible, find out the source of the rumor and let people know that the actions they are taking are not only wrong, they are making matters worse, not better.

In summary my hope is that we have a place that we can come to and enjoy the company of partners and opponents and play the game we love.

Thank you,
Brian