

Route 66 Bridge Club

23-Aug-2021 Board Meeting #15

Start time: 10:03	End time: 11:12	Notes by Mary Heinking
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Board Members Present

President: Phil Wilner

Membership Liaison: Bob Hanson

Secretary/Treasurer: Mary Heinking

Publicity/New Members:

Facility (acting):

Senior Advisor: Greg Burton

Guests Present: None

Board Members Absent

Carol Gammell

Jack Lindley

1.0 Roll Call/Approval of Meeting Minutes

Three of the four Board members were in attendance. It was known in advance that Carol would be in St Louis and unable to attend.

The meeting minutes of 23-Jul-2021 (Board Meeting #14) were approved without additions, deletions, or changes.

2.0 Financials

Financial Statements

Mary sent out updated financial statements to the Board on 15-Aug-2021. Of note:

- We have almost \$43K in the bank (September rent has not yet been paid).
- We have paid all the bills associated with the sprinkler pipe repairs. The final settlement from Hartford was deposited (just under \$700 which brought us to the max of our leasehold improvement coverage). Including the deductible, our net cost for these repairs was \$2800.
- We continue to sell large quantities of prepaid tickets (almost \$5900 since we reopened). Players are redeeming prepaid tickets purchased last year but are also requesting and buying new ones.
- Excluding donations but including sprinkler pipe repair costs we remain above break even although we are projecting a shortfall at least through October. The good news is that we have the cash to cover that projected shortfall.
- Our utility costs remain way above the historical average and we need to remain vigilant in watching the thermostat

In response to a query from Greg, Mary responded that, at current table count numbers, we will remain solvent at least through the end of 2022 although that may not leave sufficient money to repay the loan to Phil Wilner (\$10K).

Both previous meeting action items were completed.

We have reduced our cleaning from twice to once per week (will increase after Easybridge resumes).

Mary created a notice asking the directors to be vigilant in turning down the thermostat to reduce our electric bill.

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3.0 Club Operations

Table Count

Mary distributed a copy of her game tracking report. Weekly game count is holding at around 35 table per week. Break even is about 45 tables per week. That number should be achievable once Easybridge! starts.

We had lined up callers for most games, but Frank Seres has recently decided to stop calling for the Tuesday game. Right now the callers are:

Mon Day: Barb Holloway

Mon Eve: Becky Thomison

Tues: Need

Wed: Steve Mancino

Thur: Carol Gammell

Fri: Greg Burton

Sun: Ted Meyers/Angela Reed/Doris Doyle

Action Item: Phil Wilner will talk with Henry Robin about a new caller for Tuesday

Greg Burton has been working to create the monthly schedule of extra point games. Mary has been sending out weekly emails to highlight the extra point games and the consensus was to continue this. Both of these efforts will continue.

Mary noted that virtual club table count is down. Many players are apparently opting to play in the much cheaper (\$1.35 and \$1.75) games offered almost every hour by the ACBL on BBO. This topic came up with several of the Texas clubs when Mary played in the San Antonio sectional. It seems clear that the ACBL's continuing to host all of these games on BBO is hurting the clubs.

At the request of Fun & Games, the Oklahoma Collective is adding more weekly games in order to generate more revenue. The details were reviewed and signed off by Mary and Phil. Action Item: Phil Wilner to discuss ACBL games on BBO with Henry Robin.

Covid Protocol

Feedback from our members and our Easybridge list indicated that our players want to require proof of vaccination (rather than going on the honor system, as at present). The Board voted unanimously to require proof of vaccination effective Tuesday, 24-Aug-2021. A list (using an old Unit 158 directory) has already been started. Angela Reed volunteered to maintain it.

Action Item: Mary to send out email blast tonight.

Action Item: Phil to make sure that Henry and Ted know. Greg will talk with David Owens.

[Barbara Holloway was in the club getting ready for her Monday lesson and knows of the new requirement.]

We will figure out if/how to handle booster shots later.

Masks will remain optional unless the City of Tulsa mandates for facilities such as ours. This mandate may happen as soon as tonight.

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Director Policies

Greg Burton is going to create a set of director policies. The document will include:

- Movements to be used (which will max the number of sit stills which is an issue). Part of the problem is that the movement is generally not known until the game start time when all players have arrived. Mary noted that the restoration company lost some of our movement cards. She ordered replacements which have now arrived (but lack protective sleeves) and asked that we use these rather than duplicate ones already available thru Baron Barclay
- Start time for game
- Penalizing continued slow play with average minus boards/clock for open games
- Etc

Prepaid Tickets

Effective 23-Aug-2021, Phil Wilner is taking over printing of prepaid tickets from Mary. Mary has retained some of the perforated paper in case there is an urgent need when Phil is out of town.

Facility

Jack Lindley has agreed to take over Ron Crowell's role as our Facility Manager. He will be added to the Board after we vote at the next meeting on our new Board composition.

Supplies

Rex Smith has agreed to take over Ron Crowell's role as Purchasing Manager.

Action Item: Phil Wilner to determine if Rex wants to serve on the Board.

Action Item: Phil Wilner to follow up with Rex to make sure he is looking at the Supply Request form which is now posted on our Bulletin Board. There are at least 2 items on the list.

4.0 Easybridge!

Update

Mary created a combined list of potential Easybridgers (over 160 names). She sent it to Carol Gammell who added a few more names and provided some further contact details. Mary then created a sublist containing the names of the more "advanced beginners". These were the 46 players who attended the majority of the 2020 Easybridge morning sessions and who were on the road to becoming committed players. As discussed at the last meeting, the thought was to host (3) review workshops for these players in September and then to begin with Easybridge lesson #8 in October (while we start anew with lesson #1 in the afternoon). Mary created a script and Roy Ann Coleman and Phil Wilner contacted the names on the list to determine interest and comfort level. Only about half of the list picked up the phone and many voice mail messages were left. About 8 of the 23 names on Roy Ann's list and 7 on Phil's list are in favor of the reviews and are good to begin in September/October. A few others would like to start but will only return if masks are required (however, Mary Heinking noted that she and Barbara Gardner will not be teaching if masks are mandated).

Mary also prepared a master set of instructor notes and handouts for these workshops; Phil has already completed photocopying.

Kathy Bradshaw has been certified by Ed Scanlon. There was no additional cost to Route 66 as Ed honored the money that had been paid in 2019 for the certification of Peggy Gaffke (that certification was not used). Kathy and Carol Gammell will form an Easybridge teaching team.

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Path Forward

So, right now the plan is to host the 9-Sep workshop and evaluate. Mary and Barb Gardner will be out of town for the 16 and 23-Sep workshops (at a bridge camp), but Angie Reed has volunteered to help as has Kathy. We may need a few more helpers.

Our max capacity per session is about 60 (and 50 works even better). This means that we will likely need to add a 3rd Easybridge session starting in January (timing based on feedback from Ed Scanlon and Susan Williamson). The thought is to use Monday afternoons, making sure to work with Barbara Holloway so that she can continue her lessons.

Action Item: Mary to finalize plans for 9-Sep workshop. This will include email blast, script for follow up calls, teacher/helper plans, etc.

Action Item: Mary to finalize plans for 16 and 23-Sep workshops.

Action Item: Mary to finalize list of Easybridgers for the afternoon workshop and write a script for the callers (Phil, Bob, Angie, Carol, Barb G).

Action Item: Mary will likely need to order more Easybridge 1 books.

Action Item: later this fall plan for the 3rd set of Easybridge classes.

5.0 Board Composition

Background

We have been talking about the need to expand the Board and distribute the workload for over a year. That discussion continued at this meeting.

Current Board

President: Phil Wilner (officer)

Membership Liaison: Bob Hanson (officer)

Secretary/Treasurer/Webmaster/Education: Mary Heinking (officer)

New Member/Publicity: Carol Gammell

Facilities/Purchasing: Jack Lindley for Facilities and Rex Smith for Purchasing; not sure if Rex wants to serve on Board or not. But the positions will be separated.

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Proposed Board

President: Phil Wilner.

Leadership, fundraising, preside at meetings, serve as ex officio member of any committees which are established, legal interface, printing of pre paid game tickets (although this may be delegated to someone else)

Membership Liaison: Bob Hanson
Ombudsman, member meetings and feedback

Secretary: TBD

With President, create and publish Board meeting agenda. Publish notes from Board and any Membership meetings

Treasurer: Mary Heinking

Track table count, pay bills, deposit funds from game receipts/donations, etc. Make sure there is sufficient petty cash in small bills. Purchase any needed bridge supplies. Generate monthly game schedule (virtual and face to face). Serve as Oklahoma Collective liaison.

Webmaster: TBD

Maintain website. Update home page with game schedule, member achievement, news, President update, etc. Send out email blasts created by others. Maintain membership directory on website. Answer queries sent to club email address.

Education: TBD

Oversee the Easybridge program and any other education program which the club may elect to put on or have hosted by independent teachers similar to current Monday lessons.

Publicity: Carol Gammell

Market the club and Easybridge

New Members: TBD

With rest of Board, look to expand our membership. Help onboard new players.

Facilities: Jack Lindley

Maintenance of facility, any interface with building management.

Purchasing: Rex Smith (not sure if this is board position or not)

Purchase needed non bridge supplies for kitchen and bathroom.

Senior Advisor: Greg Burton (not a Board member currently per bylaws)

Provide Board with his experience, director oversight, schedule special games.

The thought is that, with the exception of the President and Treasurer, that the other Board member roles should only require about 5-8 hours per month. The current philosophy is to have a 100% working Board.

The thinking is to maintain (3) officer positions: President, Membership Liaison, and Treasurer.

Meetings would require a simple majority of all Board members OR presence of all 3 officers.

Action Item: Phil Wilner to talk with Karen Goodson about becoming the Secretary.

Action Item: Mary Heinking to talk with Rick Snyder about serving as Webmaster, or Education, or New Member Board member.

Action Item: Mary Heinking to draft bylaw revision (Article VI)

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6.0 Other New Business

None.

7.0 Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday, 4-Oct-2021, at 10 am at the club.
Mary will develop an agenda in advance of the meeting and review with Phil.

8.0 List of Meeting Minute Attachments

None.