

Raleigh Bridge Club Board of Directors Minutes

December 11, 2024 5:30 pm

Attendees: John Cobb, Russ Weimer, Renee Getz, Eileen Bok, John Gripman, Alex Hudson, Nancy Sparks, Barbara Hudson (Gayle Edwards and Susan Overcash attended the beginning of meeting to discuss hospitality items)

Absent: Karen Popovich, Ken Howard, Gil Vinzani

- Agenda

- New Topics

- Hospitality (Susan and Gayle joined for this topic)

- Holiday Party Planning

- Current status of preparations was discussed
 - Agreement on caterer
 - Agreements made on quantity of food and drink to purchase

- December Mentor Game

- Hot chocolate and cookies
 - Volunteers have been lined up
 - Thinking about February - Mardis Gras theme

- January Sectional

- Current status of preparations
 - In good shape
 - Have learned from the last Sectional
 - Designated greeter at the door
 - Durham sells soft drinks
 - Helps defray costs
 - Mid-size bottles
 - Can talk to Durham to see how many we should buy
 - Need Trash Committee (not part of Hospitality)
 - Pick up trash in general
 - Get full bags to dumpster
 - Action - John to send a note ask for volunteers?(at least 2 per session)
 - Need to handle restrooms as well

- Feedback on twice-weekly F2F experiment, from a Hospitality perspective

- Notes

- Will need to divide and conquer if a second time per week added
 - Trying to build a core base of volunteers
 - Gayle and Susan unlikely to play both nights, but should be able to coordinate

- Treasurer Report (Russ joined for this topic)

- Russ's Reports and Breakeven Analysis were distributed before the meeting for review and were discussed at the meeting as input into twice-weekly F2F discussions
- Holiday Party
 - EOY Award nominations were discussed and recipients agreed
- Sectional Planning
 - Alex said everything is on track
 - Any updates on Pod issues? Alex said all good for now (but the meeting Russ got a notification that Pod business was sold and we have to have our stuff out by January 15, 2025. Group being formed to find a solution.)
- Board members leaving (and recruiting replacements)
 - Renee has let me know that she will be leaving the Board at the end of the year, and I want to thank her again for all of her work to support the Club through being an active Board Member and doing such a great job as Hospitality Chair. So we have at least one Board position to fill, and whoever takes that spot will complete her 2024-2026 term.
 - The 3 people with expiring terms (Alex, Nancy, John C) are eligible for another term, if willing
 - All agreed to be submitted on the slate for another term
 - The Board agreed on a NLM member to contact and see if they are willing to be added to the proposed slate
- 2025 Dues
 - We had a discussion and agreed to keep them the same
 - Barbara has started to collect dues
- Mentor Game
 - Do we want to move these games to 2nd full week of month?
 - Agreed to do this since we seem to have more conflicts during the 4th week
 - Agreed that Tuesday makes more sense if we go back to twice-weekly F2F
- Teaching
 - A member has tentatively agreed to give some lectures after the first of the year and we have some interest from others as well
 - Play and Learn options that have been suggested by the membership were discussed. This will need a leader to spearhead and more discussion. We may be able to get more information from the prospective players once pre-game lectures restart
- Transparency Discussion

- We have received a request from a club member to have our recent Board Meeting minutes made public.
- Proposal is to make a summary of the Meeting Notes available on the website, but scrubbed of individual names/discussions for privacy reasons. Examples would include discussions of potential Award Winners, Ethics Committee details, etc.
- Agreed to start this practice starting with the notes from this meeting
- Readout of October F2F Experiment and making decisions about next year
 - Raw feedback from Members was distributed before the meeting
 - Summary of Feedback (Thanks to Ken Howard)
 - 17 prefer face-to-face (f2f) games over BBO
 - 11 want f2f twice
 - 10 want f2f once. HOWEVER, 5 of them indicated they can only play once a week regardless, so we would not be losing them from a BBO game. That leaves 5 we might lose from the weeknight BBO game.
 - 10 won't or don't play BBO
 - 4 prefer Tuesday if there is only one f2f
 - 11 prefer Thursday
 - 2 would like the Tuesday or Thursday game moved to the daytime
 - 4 would like the Sunday night game moved earlier
 - 1 would like us to enhance our technology so that the on-line game is virtually f2f
 - 1 mentioned getting Lance back as more important than all the rest
 - There was only one vote against allowing robots.
 - Observations from Experiment
 - If we run a F2F game on Tuesdays, the game we are hosting on BBO typically will not make
 - The impact of losing the BBO game on Tuesday for 4 weeks is still being seen in our Tuesday numbers since going back to Tuesday online
 - If we decide to go back to Tuesday F2F for an extended period of time, we should assume we are likely giving up on a self-hosted Tuesday BBO game permanently
 - Discussion
 - Due to limited time for discussion, Agreed to have another BOD meeting to discuss when we have more directors present and have more time. (After the meeting on 12/18/24 meeting was set up to discuss.)