

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
10/25/2007
8 PM CST
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Jan Martel, Bill Pollack, Joan Gerard, Rose Meltzer, Steve Beatty, Bob Hamman, Lou Ann O'Rourke

Others Present: Barbara Nudelman, Michael Becker, Gary Blaiss, Peter Rank

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jan Martel, President, at 8:03 PM

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The chairman noted that a majority of the directors were present at the meeting, thus establishing a quorum for the purpose of transacting business by the Board.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007
CONFIRMATION OF EMAIL APPROVAL OF MINUTES MEETINGS OF
OCTOBER 15 & 18.**

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board on Sept. 11 were accepted and approved as submitted. The Board affirmed its approval of the Minutes of the Special Meetings of the Board on Oct. 15 & 18, which had previously been approved by email vote of the Board.

**IV. REPORT FROM PETER RANK ON PROCEDURES INVOLVING USAI
VENICE CUP TEAM**

Peter Rank reported that the USBF Board filed a written complaint with Jan Martel, President of the USBF concerning the USA1 Venice Cup team. The complaint referred to paragraph IV.A.10 in the USBF Grievance, Appeals and Disciplinary Procedures. Rena Hetzer, acting on behalf of the USBF has sent out a notice of this complaint and charge to the six (6) members of the USA1 Venice Cup Team and the non-playing Captain. The Chairman of the Grievance, Appeals and Disciplinary Committee, Rose Meltzer accepted the Charge from the President and selected the Hearing Panel and the Chairperson of the Panel. Peter further stated that he will be representing the Hearing Panel on a pro bono basis, providing the panel with advice on legal matters and he will write up the decision of the Panel for their approval. Sometimes there are pre-hearing motions and Peter recommended that the USBF Board get their own legal

counsel. All questions for the Hearing Panel will go through Peter. Peter further explained questions about possible Hearing Panel bias and stated that the Panel itself can question its members and then come back to the Chairman of the GAC and ask for a replacement. The charged parties will also have an opportunity to object to the Hearing Panel.

Steve Beatty was appointed the liaison for the Board with our attorney and he will contact the people that we have suggested as possibilities and retain one of them to act as the Board's attorney in this matter.

V. ELECTIONS FOR USBF BOARD

Nominating committee has been appointed: Rose Meltzer, chair, Ira Chorush, Peggy Sutherlin, Bart Bramley, Marty Fleisher. Meltzer, Chorush and Sutherlin are continuing for a second year. Bramley and Fleisher will continue again next year. Rose reported that she will report a slate by our next meeting

VI. INTERNATIONAL FUND & SHANGHAI STIPEND

Barbara delivered the initial stipend checks to the team captains in Shanghai. (\$3000 per player and captain for the RR) and has now mailed the additional checks to the teams and captains who participated in the KO stages. Barbara reported the following amounts were expended:

Basic per diem thru RR	\$126,000
Entry Fees	\$21,000
Additional per diem for ¼ final team	\$4,200
Additinoal per diem –all others	\$58,200
TOTAL	\$209,400

The total received from the ACBL from the 2007 International Fund plus some remaining from 2006 is \$205,434.57 leaving us \$3,965.43 short. We have received \$59, 520 through August 31, 2007 for 2008. A motion was made, seconded and carried without dissent to take the shortfall out of the 2008 fund and worry about a problem in 2008 if it occurs.

VII. USBF REGIONAL

Jayne Thomas would like to hold a USBF Regional in 2010 on a cruise ship. She is ready to give us the particulars if we are interested. The USBF Board discussed this idea and was unanimously in favor of working out the details. Barbara will talk with Jayne and ask to get a proposal from Jayne which will include the dates, the per table fee that the USBF would receive, as well as any possible sharing of cruise fees.

VIII. JUNIOR EVENTS IN BEIJING

Joan reported that there will be three (3) team events in Beijing: The under 28, under 26 (the Patino Trophy) and under 21 (the Damiani Trophy). Since there are now 2 additional events and we have already named the Defending Team from Thailand to compete in the under 28 event, we now have to have Trials for the other two events and perhaps move members of the under 28 team that qualify for the under 26 team to the Patino Team Event. Joan will write to Panos and get as many details as possible and Jan will write to Meredith Beck and ask her to get this information out to all of our juniors. More discussion will take place at the Junior meeting scheduled for San Francisco. It was determined that we would be able to send these three (3) teams and likely a team to the University Teams (FISU) as well since room and board will be paid for all three teams in Beijing provided they stay in the "apartments" close to the playing site

IX. PUBLICITY CONCERNING USBF ACTIONS TAKEN INVOLVING USAI VENICE CUP TEAM

The Board decided that we want to keep a low profile. We do not want to try this team by publicity. The front page of the USBF web site will state that action has been taken regarding the incident that took place at the Closing Banquet in Shanghai and provide a link to the Minutes of Board meetings. Then interested people will be able to click on the minutes and read more details.

X. REPORTING TO ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan will report to the ACBL Board of Directors what has been done to date and that we have diligently followed our procedures in making a complaint and a charge.

XI. HEARING PANEL

Rose Meltzer, chairman of the GAC reported that in accordance with our procedures, she has formed a Hearing Panel to hear the charges against the Venice Cup USA1 team. The panel is: Rhoda Walsh (Chair), Wafik Abdou, Peter Boyd, Kitty Cooper and Nadine Wood. Only one of the members of the standing Grievance & Appeals Committee (Wafik Abdou) was eligible to hear this matter, all of the other members having conflicts. Therefore, Meltzer asked the Board to appoint four (4) temporary members of the Grievance & Appeals Committee to substitute for members who were ineligible. The Board appointed Rhoda Walsh, Peter Boyd, Kitty Cooper and Nadine Wood as temporary members of the Grievance & Appeals Committee.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Barbara was looking for direction as to how we are going to provide monetary support for our teams in the future. She stated that as of this date there appears

to be approximately 10-15% less money coming into the International Fund as there was last year. The Board agreed that this might make our projections of how much support we could provide to our teams in error and agreed that this discussion will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

XIII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 8:00 PM CST via conference call.

XIV. ADJURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at : 10:30 PM CST