

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 13, 2014
2:00 PM EDT

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Bob Katz, Sue Picus, Howard Weinstein,
Jonathan Weinstein

Others Present: Bob Hamman, George Jacobs, Jill Levin, Jan Martel, Warren
Spector

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President, George Jacobs at 2:04 pm EDT.

II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM

The president noted that at least 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 FROM DECEMBER 1, 2013

The December 1, 2013 Minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. BUFFETT CUP

The Buffett Cup Committee (Bob Hamman, Jill Levin & Warren Spector) presented their report. Bob explained that the Buffett Cup started in 2006 in Ireland and has been held every 2 years, alternating between Europe and the US, ideally being at about the same time as the Ryder Cup although that hasn't always been possible. Warren Buffett consented to the use of his name, but has not provided economic support. The US has won the competition 3 of the 4 times it has been held. In Bob's opinion, it is the strongest event in the world for the purpose of capturing the attention of the public.

Bob is asking USBF to pay for travel (business class) for the US team in 2014. Dates are November 17-21, 2014.

Jill added that Monaco is paying for all expenses for 2014 other than travel, conditioned on the US sending a very strong team. Also, this event provides a unique opportunity to use the Buffett name for publicity and sponsorship.

Warren said he had been communicating with the representative of the Monaco bridge organization as well as Paul Hackett. Monaco wants us to make a commitment about who will be on the team. Have had some informal discussions with players about going, and have been generally successful.

Bob Katz asked how long a commitment from USBF is being discussed. Bob Hamman said that we are currently talking about this year, with hope for future. The commitment is for 13 people – 6 pairs and an NPC. The committee suggested no more than \$75,000 for 2014.

The Board continued its discussion in Executive Session.

The Board terminated Executive Session. George appointed Marty and Jonathan to join Jill & Warren as members of the Buffett Cup committee, to ensure that the Board will have meaningful input in deciding on a selection process and in selecting players for the team. In light of the discussion during Executive Session and those appointments, the following motion was made:

USBF will support the 2014 Buffett Cup by paying Business Class airfare for each player and the NPC on the US team, up to a maximum total amount of \$75,000, reduced by any income received through sponsorship or donations. Any money raised from sponsorship or donations in excess of that required to pay for Business Class airfare will go into the USBF General Fund.

The motion passed 4 to 1.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed whether to consider providing funds to upgrade the coach ticket provided to players in the SportAccord to Business Class as a way to encourage better players to play in the event. No formal motion was made, but there was a general consensus to do that.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be by conference call at a convenient time.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm EDT.