

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017
11:00 AM CDT
KANSAS CITY

Directors Present: Dave Caprera, Marty Fleisher, Bob Katz, Beth Palmer (by phone), Josh Parker (by phone); absent: Greg Humphreys, Brad Moss

Others Present: Jeff Aker, Jan Martel, McKenzie Myers, Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck, Howard Weinstein, Gianarrigo Rona, WBF President, David Harris, WBF Counsel, Yves Aubry, EBL President, Nader Hanna, CBF

ACBL Representatives: Bonnie Bagley, Robert Hartman, Bob Heller, Al Levy (by phone), Ken Monzingo, Merlin Vilhauer, Jay Whipple (part of meeting).

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Fleisher at 11:00 am CDT.

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. 2018 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DISCUSSION

Bill Pollack reported that we should start worrying about visas for people to attend the World Championship in 2018. Need to talk with US State Department and get letters or whatever needs to be done. David Harris said that if we need anything from WBF, they will send what is needed. Contact person should be Simon Fellus (?), David Harris or Gianarrigo Rona.

IV. ACBL/WBF DISCUSSION

Howard Weinstein discussed the ACBL motion regarding funding for WBF dues; the motion had proposed that ACBL would no longer pay WBF dues and would provide some funding to USBF, CBF & MBF so they would have some of the funds needed to pay those dues. One issue some members of the ACBL Board have is that WBF calls Zone 2 an "associated Zone" because ACBL is not Olympic compliant. Before the ACBL Board meeting, there were discussions between ACBL Board members and USBF administration about future funding for WBF dues, and as a result of those discussions, the motion was tabled until Toronto and ACBL & USBF will work on funding sources and perhaps also try to persuade WBF to reduce dues.

Ken Monzingo clarified that ACBL pass through of donations to the International Fund and contributions by individual members is not proposed to be changed. What his motion sought to change was only payment of WBF dues, which they want to transfer to USBF/CBF/MBF. In addition, ACBL would no longer appoint representatives to the WBF Executive Committee, the 3 NBOs would do this.

Robert Hartman added that what he sees is the ACBL wants to clarify the relationship between ACBL & the 3 NBOs. The ACBL and NBOs should get together and figure out what they want to do and then make a proposal to the WBF.

Howard Weinstein added that with regard to representatives to WBF Executive, he thinks all of the NBOs and ACBL should share the appointment of representatives. Marty asked what organization would decide how it is done and Howard said that would be the Zonal organization.

Nader Hanna said that our Zone has always been strange because originally ACBL did many of the NBO activities and also served as Zonal Organization and now want to separate things out.

In summary, between now and Toronto, representatives of ACBL, USBF, CBF & MBF will come up with a plan to deal with funding for dues and teams, choice of WBF representatives, and formal structure.

Gianarrigo Rona discussed the history of formation of USBF, CBF & MBF to comply with Olympic requirement that there be a separate NBO for each country. ACBL & WBF worked out arrangement where ACBL would continue to act as Zonal Organization. Also worked out arrangement that the number of teams in Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup would depend on number of members in the zone – Europe would have 6 teams and 5 representatives to WBF Executive so long as they continued to have 350,000 members; North America would have 3 teams & 5 representatives to the WBF Executive Committee as long as they continued to have 160,000 members.

V. JUNIOR USBCS WILL BE NAMED AFTER MICHAEL SEAMON

Joe Stokes reported that Jimmy & Patricia Cayne have donated \$50,000 toward the expense of running the Junior USBCs, which are held every 2 years to select USBF teams for the Junior World Championships. The Caynes asked that USBF name the Junior USBC for Michael Seamon, and the Junior Committee is in favor of doing so, but needs to work out the details of exactly what will be done to accomplish that and make a specific proposal to the Board. The Board agreed in principle to naming the JUSBC after Michael Seamon.

VI. USBC CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Jan explained the revisions to the General Conditions of Contest and Special Conditions of Contest for 2017. The Board unanimously approved the 2017 Conditions of Contest.

VII. USBC BUDGETS

Jan discussed the budgets for 2017 USBCs and the economic effect of holding the USBCs in Schaumburg in 3 years out of 4, which will allow us to purchase screens and other supplies and store them in Schaumburg, which will significantly reduce our shipping costs. The Board unanimously approved the budgets for 2017.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be by conference call at a time to be scheduled online.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Marty thanked the ACBL Board members & world representatives who attended for their interest and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm CDT.