

**MINUTES**  
**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION**  
**MONDAY, JAN. 19, 2015**  
**9:00 PM EST**

Directors Present: Cheri Bjerkan, Marty Fleisher, Bob Katz, Brad Moss, Sue Picus, Josh Parker, Howard Weinstein,

Others Present: Marty Harris, Jan Martel, Joe Stokes, Stan Subeck

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Howard Weinstein at 9:05 PM EST.

**II. ATTENDANCE: ESTABLISH QUORUM; WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

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. The President welcomed the new Board members.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 1, 2014**

The December 1, 2014 Minutes were unanimously approved.

**IV. APPROVAL OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

The Board discussed the revision to the officer positions, adding COO and CFO as officers, removing Treasurer, and placing the President, Vice President, COO, and CFO on the Executive Committee.

The Board unanimously voted to waive the 30 day advance notice requirement for a Bylaw amendment and unanimously voted to amend the Bylaws in accordance with the language sent to the Board with the Agenda for this meeting. Jan will post the Amended Bylaws on the USBF website.

**V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Several Directors nominated Howard Weinstein as President, Cheri Bjerkan as Vice President, Stan Subeck as CFO and Jan Martel as COO and Secretary. These officers were unanimously elected.

**VI. 2016 USBCS**

Jan reported that we will probably be able to go to the Grand Hyatt in Denver for the Open and Senior USBCs in 2016. Jan reported that she is close to having a

contract for the Grand Hyatt and that McKenzie Meyers visited the hotel and the playing space is good, as are the rooms. Brad reported that the location of the hotel is excellent, with many good restaurants and shopping very nearby.

Room rate for the Open will be \$149 a night and for the Seniors will be \$169 a night (June is a very popular month in Denver). We will have to pay for the individual playing rooms at \$100 a night. The Board approved Denver in principle and left it to Jan and Howie to work out the details with the hotel.

The time and place of the 2016 Women's USBC will be decided later, after the 2015 Women's USBC has been held and we find out how it works out.

## **VII. COMMITTEES:**

Howie announced and the Board approved:

Bylaws Committee: Marty Harris (chair), Bob Katz, Josh Parker

Elections Committee: Brad Moss (chair), Cheri Bjerkan, Josh Parker, Sue Picus

Executive Committee: Howie Weinstein, Cheri Bjerkan, Stan Subeck, Jan Martel

Finance Committee: Marty Fleisher (chair), Cheri Bjerkan, Sylvia Moss, Josh Parker, Stan Subeck

Hospitality Committee: Lisa Berkowitz (chair), Martha Katz, Sue Picus, Suzi Subeck

Junior Committee: Joe Stokes (chair), Marty Fleisher, Barry Goren, Bob Katz, Jan Martel, Michael Rosenberg

Nominating Committee: Cheri Bjerkan (chair – term expires 2015), Janice Molson (term expires 2015), Bill Pollack (term expires 2016), Mitch Dunitz (term expires 2016), Robb Gordon (term expires 2016), Joe Stokes (standby), Debbie Rosenberg (standby).

Stipend Committee: Josh Parker (chair), Marty Fleisher, Jan Martel, Brad Moss, Sylvia Moss, Stan Subeck

Team Selection Committee (for events for which we do not hold Team Trials): Cheri Bjerkan (chair), David Berkowitz, Bob Katz, Howie Weinstein, Beth Palmer, Danny Sprung

Tournament Appeals: Robb Gordon (chair), Ron Gerard, Howie Weinstein, Bill Arlinghaus, Sandy Arlinghaus

Tournament Planning Committee: Jan Martel (chair), Lisa Berkowitz, Bob Katz, McKenzie Meyers, Susie Miller, Sylvia Moss, Suzi Subeck

ITTC: Howie Weinstein Chair

SITTC: Bob Katz Chair

WITTC: Beth Palmer Chair

Vugraph Committee: Jan Martel (chair), Peggy Kaplan, Danny Sprung, Joe Stokes

The Board unanimously approved the committee lists sent & announced by Howard, subject to amendment of the Bylaws to remove the requirements that a Board member must chair each committee and that there must be a majority of Board members on each committee.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board went into executive session and invited Marty Harris, Jan Martel, Joe Stokes and Stan Subeck to join them. The Board came out of executive session.

## **IX. JUNIOR REPORT**

Joe reported that we now have about 80 juniors participating in the online training program.

Marty F reported that he had discussed with many people the issue where a 4-handed team won the Junior Trials and that team added a pair who were not expected to play enough to earn WBF masterpoints. The question Marty was assigned to investigate was whether that was an acceptable procedure for the future or whether in the future we should allow a 4-handed team to go to the World Championships without a third pair or whether we should require the addition of a pair but with the requirement that that pair must play enough to earn WBF masterpoints.

Most people whom Marty spoke with thought that what had been done was acceptable and there were good reasons to add a pair without requiring that they play enough to earn WBF masterpoints.

Marty personally favors requiring 6 players and requiring that they play enough boards to earn WBF masterpoints, because USBF spends a significant amount to money to send these players to World Championships and we shouldn't do that without expecting them to play, and also it is "unsportsmanlike" to have a third pair who isn't expected to play.

This raised the question of what is the goal of the USBF Junior program: to win? To expose Juniors to World Championship bridge? Something else? Brad added that he thinks the Juniors are unique in that our goals are to provide a training ground, and also there is a "cross-border" phenomenon that exists in the Juniors that is good and having someone go and not play enough to earn masterpoints undermines that.

The Board deferred further discussion to email, asked Marty to write up his reasons for favoring 6 person teams with a mandate that each player play enough to earn WBF masterpoints, and Joe to put together a statement of the reasons for allowing the NPCs of Junior teams discretion to play one or two players less than the amount required for WBF masterpoints. After reviewing these written presentations, the Board will discuss this through email and then at its in person meeting in New Orleans.

**X. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Stan reported that we have moved all the bank accounts and he hopes to have the audit done soon.

Jan, Joe & Stan will try to put together a budget for the next four years before New Orleans.

**XI. SECURITY ISSUES**

Robert Hartman had said at the USBF Board meeting in Providence that there would be new security measures in place for NABCs. Howie hasn't heard anything from Hartman, but Stan reported that the ACBL Board is moving forward on this.

**XII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Monday morning, March 16<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm EST.