

MINUTES
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UNITED STATES BRIDGE FEDERATION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

6:00 PM EDT

BY ZOOM CALL

Directors Present: Aaron Silverstein, Steve Garner, Lynn Baker, Steve Beatty,
Eric Gettleman, Marty Fleisher, Tom Reynolds

Others Present: Jan Martel, Max Schireson, A.J. Stephani, Adam Wildavsky, Julie
Arbit

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Aaron Silverstein at 6:01 pm EDT.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPT. 13, 2023 BOARD MEETING

Lynn Baker moved, Steve Garner seconded, that the minutes from September 13, 2023 be approved. Passed unanimously.

III. CFO

Per the USBF bylaws, the vacant CFO position is to be filled by the vote of the Board. Aaron Silverstein moved, Lynn Baker seconded that the Board appoints Max Schireson as Chief Financial Officer. Passed unanimously. Max (legal name Mordecai) is thus authorized to manage the USBF's Chase Bank checking accounts #977336957 and #3312075061.

IV. RESIGNATION AND REPLACEMENT BOARD MEMBER

President Aaron Silverstein appointed Marty Fleisher to fill the vacant Board member position for the remainder of the elected term. The Board welcomed Marty.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The continuing members from the 2022 Nominating Committee are Cheri Bjerkan, Eric Gettleman, and Brad Moss.

Aaron Silverstein moved to add Brian Platnick (Chairman) and Debbie Rosenberg to the Nominating Committee. Lynn Baker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. **MARRAKECH REPORT**

Adam Wildavsky and A.J. Stephani reported from Marrakech on the following:

The WBF affirmed that Zone 2 will have three teams and the U.S. will have two teams with no plans to revisit the matter. However, if the amount of dues paid by the USBF changed, the matter would likely be revisited. Currently, the U.S. pays roughly twice as much in dues as the next largest NBO.

The WBF is close to confirming Buenos Aires as the WC site for 2024. It looks increasingly likely the site will be in Macau in 2025.

The WBF has a new marketing and publicity committee.

Jan Martel and Adam Wildavsky will follow up with the WBF on a possible U.S. site (Seattle?) for the Rosenblum in 2026 or WC's in 2027.

Adam Wildavsky departed the meeting.

VII. **2024 USBCs**

a. **FORMAT**

Jan reported that the format will be the same as usual but with Open, Mixed, and Seniors all starting face-to-face in R16, which may be a KO or RR depending on the number of teams. If eight or fewer teams enter one of these events, it will probably end two days earlier, but may start two days later rather than changing the schedule.

b. **HOSPITALITY**

Jan reported that the hotel will provide lunch and space for the first four days of the larger events, akin to what was done for the first two days in 2023. Hospitality will return to pre-pandemic format (including social space and vugraph) and host lunches starting with the semi-finals. Breakfast will continue to be served in the suite and there will be some space for players to eat.

c. **VACCINATION**

Aaron Silverstein moved, Eric Gettleman seconded, to remove the COVID vaccine requirement for the USBC's unless otherwise required by local regulations. Passed unanimously.

d. **LOVEBRIDGE TIMING/CLOCKS**

Jan reported that pairs will be able to see their pair clock whether or not they are running behind. This will be updated only at the beginning of each hand. The

IMP/VP penalties will remain on about the same scale, but each penalty applies for more late minutes.

e. **ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Board discussed requests for accommodations at the USBC's. Jan will follow up with Marty Harris around legal obligations for these events and the Board will revisit logistics for requesting accommodations at future USBC's. This may involve communications with the WBF to parallel accommodations offered in the WC's.

Marty Fleisher and A.J. Stephani departed.

VIII. BYLAW AMENDMENT

The Board discussed logistics for abstentions in votes re: Bylaws Section II.A.1.c and agreed to modify the language for when a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote is achieved. Jan will send around draft language.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Tom Reynolds moved, Lynn Baker seconded to adjourn at 7:23pm. Passed unanimously.