

Northern Virginia Bridge Association
Minutes – Board Meeting
November 10, 2009

The November 2009 NVBA Board Meeting was held on Tuesday November 10, 2009 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna.

Those attending were:

Bob Boyd, President
Alan Breed, Vice President
Lynda Flanger, Treasurer
Jennifer Nisenoff, Secretary
Virginia Gibbons, Board Member
Bruce Houston, Board Member
Jim Dick, Board Member
Paul Black, Board Member
Leo Cardillo, Past President
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Editor

The minutes from our October 2009 Board meeting were distributed and reviewed. Paul made a motion to approve and Jim seconded. All voted to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

1. Lynda distributed a view of the table count for Unit Games for the last few years, the NVBA Balance Sheet as of November 8, 2009, the Profit and Loss Statement for October, as well as the P&L for May-October.
2. Unit Game Attendance:
 - a. The Table Count analysis was up-to-date as of the end of October. It showed that our table count for the Unit Games is dropping and we are down about 2 per week.
 - b. The Board noticed two very poor weeks but they were the weeks during which Ocean City and Lancaster were held and we noted that many of our members attended those tournaments.
 - c. The Board is concerned about this trend of lower attendance and we will be focusing attention in the coming weeks and months to understand what is happening and to develop a plan to increase attendance.
3. There is very little change in our Balance Sheet position from last month.
4. The Profit and Loss Statements
 - a. The P&L for October and is showing a profit of \$133.0 for the month.

- b. Our income is about \$20K lower than where we were last year at this time. It is important to note that last year we had a Sectional in October where we earned \$16K. This year our Sectional is in November.
- 5. The Board discussed our ability to assess our financial performance of the Unit Games and the Sectionals.
 - a. Bob sent information from Doug Grove about our Sectionals for the last few years. The numbers are difficult to correlate to the financial statements, since Doug's reports omit rent and some food expenses. Bob is working with Margot to develop an easy-to-read comprehensive report.
 - b. Lynda emphasized that we need to understand the situation so we can close the books correctly at the end of the year.

Old Business

- 1. Committee Reports
 - a. Budget Committee.
 - i. Free Plays – We are about \$1K over budget on Free Plays year-to-date. These are free plays that were actually redeemed and not those that were issued. It should be noted that the budget was derived based on a year when the Unit Game fee was \$7 not \$8 as it is now. This would cause a 14% increase in the cost of Open Free Plays and nearly 17% in the cost of novice Free plays if that went from \$6 to \$7.
 - ii. Food – We also are over budget for expenditures associated with food at the Unit Game. We have spent \$2466 versus a budget of \$2100
 - iii. The Board discussed various approaches to reducing expenses but also the fact that we need to increase attendance.
 - iv. We will spend a considerable amount of our time at the December Board meeting approving the 2010 Budget.
 - b. Policy & Procedures Revision Committee – David was not able to attend due to work commitments. He did report via email that while the Constitution seems to be in good order, the Policies still require numerous changes.
- 2. Holiday Party
 - a. The Board agreed we should plan for about 200 attendees and Virginia confirmed that she is planning for that amount.
 - b. Livingston Johnson has agreed to co-chair this event with Virginia and they have agreed to provide the two main dishes. One will be a beef dish and one will be turkey-based.
 - c. The dinner starts at 5:30 and the Board was requested to be there at that time to assist.
 - d. An announcement will be made shortly before 7:00 asking everyone to clean the tables and be ready to start the game at 7:00.
 - e. We also discussed the possibility of raising the amount charged to people who do not provide a dish. This will be in consideration for 2010.
 - f. The Board discussed the David Murray award and selected a recipient based on nominations from Club Managers and Board Members.

- g. Eric and Ron will determine the winner of the Sara Goodwin award based on attendance at Unit Events.
- h. Leo will ensure trophies are updated and available for presentation at the dinner.

New Business

1. Bob presented a request from Jeff Roman that Transfer responses to 1C openings be allowed in Stratified events (they are already allowed in the A/X section of StratiFlighted games). The Board voted 6 – 2 that we will not allow this in Stratified games. Bob will inform Jeff of the Board’s decision.
2. 2010 Schedule – The 2010 schedule was completed in conjunction with the WBL.
 - a. We are allowed 24 Unit Championships per year but will only be using 22 of them for Unit Games. Since these award black points at 85% of a Sectional, the Board felt that we wanted to be sure not to lose this opportunity.
 - b. We discussed various options to distribute these and proposed that we offer them to the two largest games: Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. We thought this would provide our members with the best chance of participating. We will let the Club Managers know that they can charge any amount they wish for the game; however, the Unit will get \$1/person.
 - c. These games can be scheduled whenever the Club Manager wishes as long as they don’t compete with a Tournament or a STaC.
 - d. Jim, as Club Liaison, will talk to Gene and Candy about this proposal and Bob will talk to Doug about the logistics of obtaining a sanction.
 - e. If either Gene or Candy do not wish to participate, the Board will offer an opportunity to the Club Manager with the next largest game.
3. Sectional games on Thursday mornings.
 - a. Mark Levine has a game on Thursday mornings in Rockville that are included in the WBL Sectionals and he approached the NVBA about being included in our Sectionals as well.
 - b. The Board discussed the following prior to the Board meeting:
 - i. In considering this we thought that we should also include an NVBA Club and Norma has a game on Thursday mornings. We did learn; however, that we couldn’t run a game like this as a “split site.” As such, we will not be able to include a WBL club.
 - ii. We need to understand the financial implications of allowing this with an NVBA club from the club’s perspective as well as from the Unit’s perspective. We also have to consider the opinions of other Club Managers.
 - iii. A major issue is that this game may need to have a Tournament Director which would increase the cost to the Club in question.
 - iv. Bob will talk to Norma to get her input.
4. The Board revisited cost reductions and discussed the machines that are being used in the Charlottesville area that record players and results. The consensus is that the

technology may not be ready for our use and that we would need to really understand a return on investment before we decided to use them.

5. Newsletter – The deadline for the next Newsletter is 11/29/2009 and will include a column by Bob as Unit President and an advertisement for a Unit Archivist.

Meeting Adjourned.

Bruce made a motion to adjourn our meeting and Alan seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2009 at 7:00 at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna. All NVBA members are welcomed to attend. If you wish to attend, please alert Alan Breed in advance so he can ensure we have enough space in the meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nisenoff, Secretary