

[Final as Approved]
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2018

ATTENDEES: Marty Bley, President
Georgette Weiss, Vice President
Ann Atcheson, Treasurer
John Wertman, Secretary
Joe Hertz, Board Member
Kevin O'Brien, Board Member
George Parkins, Board Member
Bob Boyd, Recorder
Carol Crawford, NVBA Member
Ron Kral, Webmaster
Lucy McCoy, Newsletter Liaison
Eric Poskanzer, Membership Chair

Unable to attend: David Lindley, Board Member
Howard Stevens, Board Member

CALL TO ORDER: The President called the July 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:45 a.m. on July 22, 2018 at Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously with no changes.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Action Items/New Business

Marty led a discussion of action items and new business:

- For existing Action Items: The 0-20 invitations via Pianola are in process; we'll hear more about the Welcome to the NVBA booklet in August; the NVBA member results from Raleigh have been publicized; the Board Member free plays for 2017-18 and 2018-19 were distributed by the Secretary; director training will be discussed in August.
- Thanks to good work from Joe and Ron, we got an SSL certificate for the NVBA Website, which will make it more secure. The domain was also renewed. The Secretary was requested to obtain certifications for NVBA from Dunn and Bradstreet and/or the Better Business Bureau.
- We selected Katy Culp and Ann Atcheson as our 2018 Goodwill Committee members. David Rodney (D6) will be notified.

- The Board discussed the possibility of instituting a ride sharing program for the NVBA Unit Game. No decision on the idea was made – we will investigate how much it would be used and potentially look for someone to coordinate it.
- The Board approved an updated joint NVBA/WBL membership directory. The approximate cost to NVBA is \$500.
- We held a discussion about the 2018 LM/NLM game. We have a well-developed guidebook for how to run the event, but it wasn't fully followed this year. Next year, we will make a point to have greeters and name tags. A significant issue was some players who were hard to reach and/or don't use email accounts. This will be dealt with next year.
- The Board is still considering possibilities for a dedicated bridge site in Northern Virginia. Sheila Ellis has a contact who could potentially rent us a floor in a building close to 395 for a reasonable rate. We will explore this possibility.
- The Board picked future 2018 meeting dates: August 12, September 23, October 21, November 11, and December 9.
- Bob Boyd led a discussion on the study he led of the A/X game. Committee member Carol Crawford also shared insights. The study was prompted by complaints about the small size of game each week and the occasional weak competition. Bob and his colleagues concluded that WBL's business model for their A/X game isn't replicable in NVBA as they have a base of stronger players. The players surveyed in NVBA would prefer a dedicated A/X to continue in part so they can use mid chart conventions. In order to strengthen the NVBA A/X game, we will need to develop a strong mentoring program for the X and higher-level B/C players. This development program would be focused on email interactions, social gatherings as learning opportunities, and people playing together with mentors in other club games or local sectionals. The Development program would also have to extend lower – higher B/C players could mentor up and coming B/C players. The study also did determine that the Board should consider changing the night of the NVBA Unit Game. If we did that, would we be able to attract some top A players who usually play in the WBL game? We will discuss options in August.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT: The next NVBA Board meeting will be held at 10:45 am on August 12, 2018 at the Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia. Future meeting dates in 2018 are referenced above. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Wertman, Secretary