

Columbia Bridge Club
Board Meeting held @ Capital Senior Center
November 3, 2008

Attending: Chris Webb, Bob Webb, Jim Chianelli, Karen Coulter, Janice Ripley, Bernetha Henry, Tom Gabriel, Mike Bitonti, and Sam Robison.

Also in attendance: Brent Holcomb, Mary Townhill, Dick Coulter, Dode DeFiori, Carolyn and Lewis Cromer, Patrick Lauterbach

C. Webb called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

Secretary: Minutes of the October meeting were approved with two corrections: GNT dates should be Feb. 13 and March 14; the money market account that is to be opened is with the interest from our certificates of deposit. Coulter moved to accept the report with second by Robison. Carried.

Treasurer: profit for the month of October is \$999.78 and total cash assets are \$70,683.97. To date \$1,950 has been collected from members who agreed to purchase bridge mate machines. B. Webb will continue to collect the remaining pledged funds. There was discussion regarding the insurance and utilities on the Cypress Street building. The insurance has been discontinued, but the utilities will remain connected. Motion to accept report by Gabriel with second by Coulter. Carried.

Education: (Townhill) This Thursday will conclude the two nine week ACBL courses. They have been very successful, and an evaluation form will be completed by students in order to obtain feedback. This Wednesday will be the final supervised play session for 2008 (Open House the following week). Ripley and Townhill feel the supervised play aspect of the education program is vital and needs to continue. However, with the new courses that they will be teaching in January, they are requesting that others volunteer to be mentors in that program. A request will be put in T&T. Two new courses will begin January 8 (Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century and Basic Fundamentals of Bidding). Additionally, a 9 week beginner course will be taught on Saturday mornings starting Jan. 10. B. Henry has begun teaching two free bridge courses at her church – one for beginners and one for intermediates.

OLD BUSINESS:

OPEN HOUSE – all set to go on 11/12 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM – we are all encouraged to invite some prospective members! There are flyers and tri-fold brochures to help in your endeavors.

501C(3) application is in the works and is to be submitted soon per C. Webb.

ACBL 3 Star Club rating status: C. Webb asked for a volunteer for someone to take over this project. We believe all criteria are being met and we simply need to contact the ACBL and confirm this and take necessary steps to get this status. No volunteer was forthcoming – volunteer request to be put in T&T.

L. Cromer will compose the exact wording for the proposed by-law change regarding allowing members to vote regardless of the number of times they played in the previous year as long as dues are paid and they are in good standing. He also agreed to compose wording for plan of distribution of funds should the club dissolve (necessary info for the 501C3 application).

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Webb reports he has contacted three real estate agencies (Russell & Jeffcoat, Bob Capes Century 21, and Coldwell Banker) regarding the sale of the Cypress Street property. He did first contact Deb Thomas to see if she would be interested in the listing; however, due to family medical issues she was unable to accept. These three agents are in the process of composing a marketing presentation and will meet with the committee (Levy, Robison, Chianelli, and Clemenz) in the next week or so. They will then make a recommendation to the board, and an agent will be chosen. We hope to have the property on the market early December.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:

L. Cromer provided copies of the discipline policy that he, Clemenz and H. Momand have comprised. Offenses and resulting actions to be taken are outlined in detail. He asked that all members review this policy over the next few weeks so that it can be revisited, revised as necessary, and adopted in the near future. Once the policy is adopted, the membership will be informed (website, posted on bulletin board, T&T, etc) and it will be enforced by all directors. Cromer's suggestion is that there will be no appeal committee, but rather directors would have discretion to impose the penalties as needed. Then if there is any appeal from a ruling, it would come directly to the board. Bitonti will meet with directors before the next meeting to discuss the "process" regarding zero tolerance and who handles the ultimate decisions when these issues arise.

B. Holcomb addressed the board regarding several issues: his concerns over the poor attendance at the Thursday PM game; request to raise the MP limits at the Friday game (both sections); and suggested awarding a "free play" to the winning pair in the Friday "under" game. No solutions to boost attendance at the Thursday PM game could be found;

however, we will hold a “special” game each first Thursday night of the month. An 8 is enough team game will be held December 4. Any changes in master point limits at games will not be discussed further until the zero tolerance policy has been adopted and been effectively in use for a sufficient length of time.

Motion was made by Henry with second by Coulter and unanimously carried: effective immediately a “free play” (to be used in an OPEN game) will be awarded each Friday to the first place pair(s) in the “under 100” side game.

C. Webb agreed to post “No Trespassing” signs at the Cypress Street location.

Next meeting: Monday, December 1, 2008 @ 5:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:36 PM.

Submitted November 5, 2008

Janice J. Ripley, secretary

To be posted @ club without objection