

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday October 15, 2020

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Michael Maieli (M2), Janye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith, Neil Frank, Chris Smith, John Wisdom

Regrets: None.

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten.

Meeting length: 2H 17min.

Topic: HAP. Needs to be restarted. Currently lacking someone to revive it. Chris/TN have chatted about some ideas. Would be nice to have a list of "who is keeping what" so we know where to go to look for specific things and to make sure stuff (e.g., "cool plants") stay available in the region for when our tanks crash and we lose a plant we particularly like. Chris made an attempt to start a thread on the topic on FB, but didn't get very far.

Topic: minutes. Approval of minutes. Curtis/TN got together and have agreement on revised wording for July minutes. Thus, July minutes now approved. August minutes were sent out this week. Board approves. Note that there was no September board meeting, so no minutes for September.

Topic: Treasury report. Chris reviews balances. Shows chart of assets vs. time. Looks good. Not a lot of transactions, consistent with minimal overall activity. TN reports he has checklist of things to look for in account balance. Logs into Wells Fargo and PayPal accounts, verifies that recent activity on account is as expected. Going forward, he will do that each month. That way board has 2 independent set of eyes confirming assets are in place. This is part of overall board due diligence on RAS finances.

TN reports Chris/TN went to Wells Fargo (where RAS account resides). Turns out the EIN (Tax ID number) has not been updated on account. Current EIN on account reflects the number in use before becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. Should be straightforward to fix, but needs to be done.

Topic: Review of previous monthly meeting. Neil's talk on angels went well. Lot of positive feedback. Zoom calls seem to be going smoothly. Effectively had a social afterwards. Ran until 11! Some discussion about how Neil showed tanks (he recorded, then edited down and played back videos). For social, people are just showing tanks live using phone or laptop. Neil reports that recording makes it easier to get the lighting right, etc. But it is also fine for others to just show tanks in real time.

Topic: social hour. Hosted by Caroline on 2020-10-08 and a second one on 2020-10-18. Curtis/TN both joined first call, counted 11 persons overall. TN wasn't on second and doesn't have attendance. Curtis: first was well attended. Second I noticed day before. She wants to do 2 events this month. Told her they can be spontaneous. It is fine that she is doing this on her own. She is not stepping on anyone's toes by hosting these meetings. Neil encourages them to be announced in advance so that people can get them on their calendars. Would help with attendance. Note that last meeting invite was sent to both FB and mailing list (as it should be). Board expresses overall support for Caroline continuing doing this.

Topic: Board Elections. Board elections in December. Required by Bylaws. JC: last year, before election, had a lot of discussion about how to best run election. Then, in end, nothing was contested. This year, let's find out first if we have a need for complicated election. I think all members should have vote. But bylaws don't allow that. Bylaws state that only persons at the December meeting can vote. In bylaws revision, we need to change the rules so that members not at the Dec meeting can vote. Want to present at November meeting and send note to mailing list in advance of elections. Then see if

there is interest. Only then do we need to decide if there is a need to have run a contested election. Zoom does have ways of doing voting. But don't want to go down the rabbit hole if not necessary. (Some further discussion about better way to do elections, e.g., have election in November for more transition before January, but this is a bylaws discussion. M2 points out that December meeting was chosen for elections for increased attendance as many come for the Holiday Party.) For this election, we need to produce a detailed time line with dates and instructions for what to do to run.

Who will continue on the board in 2021? We do a round table. TN willing to continue as President. Jamye willing to continue as VP. M2 willing to continue as Secretary. Chris: plan was to do just one year, but this hasn't been the year we expected. And hasn't completed what he wanted to. So willing to continue. John (at large) will probably not renew. Neil indicates he does not want to continue member at large and will let someone else do it. Curtis will continue. So it looks like at a minimum, we need to recruit for 2 at large seats. Neil: suggests a preannouncement for elections go out even before the November meeting. So folk know to attend the meeting to get more info.

Topic: December Holiday party. Neil: @M2 what about a virtual dinner with real food, with delivery to people at their homes? M2: willing to consider this. JC: what about porch "drop off" where people can pick up goodie bags? M2: I'll take Neil's idea, and see if there is something we could do. Maybe have people go to a Jersey Mike's in their region during a pickup window. Will report back. (Fairly detailed discussion and "what about" ideas. Holiday party is popular and we all lament not being able to have our traditional meeting.)

Topic: Upcoming November meeting. Neil can't attend (presenting at another club's meeting). Richard/Neil/TN have been chatting. Want a meeting. Need it to promote upcoming elections. Want to do a tank tour. Neil: I suggested it in email no one jumped up to run the meeting. Curtis says he'll do it. Neil: tried tank tours a while back. Lot of work to get people to commit, then the day before meeting half of the presenters dropped out for various reasons. Curtis: Can we go to FB and have non-members present? Everyone: yes. We have non-members present all the time.

Discussion of club duties and volunteering. Curtis: they should be pitched as being fun, not chores. Not just work.

Topic: Tailgate. TN: Discussed at last meeting. Need a place, someone to run with it. I've not done much. Called one place, didn't get response. I think we should just admit we don't have energy and table the topic for this year. Some agreement. More discussion. Curtis argues there is demand for a way to sell stuff. No disagreement on that point. Issue isn't that we think it would be bad. But we don't have a place. Chris says maybe he has a possible place. Club house in his neighborhood. Would that be OK? (Concerned that location isn't necessarily perfect.) Yes. Please pursue. Chris asks would we be willing to spend \$150 for this? JC says 200 would be fine. Chris: let's not get hung up on money. This should be year to give back. Overall support. Chris to pursue. Weekend of Nov 7/8 is a target.

Topic: Mygroupauctions. TN: We use mygroupauctions for our big spring/fall auctions. Ted Judy currently running it himself and paying out of own pocket. For 2021, wants \$1000 in donations. Asking for \$100 from 10 clubs. To keep it running through 2021. They have 38 clubs using it (before Covid). Runs on AWS plus some programmer costs.

TN: Spoke with Megan McGuire from Madison club to get the background. Separately, she mentioned that they had an online auction recently. Big success. Made couple hundred, and that was just their split. We should look into this.

Chris: \$100/club is a drop in the bucket. We were one of first users when it was first created. We always expected there would be a cost for this. Are we supportive of that? yes. any nays? none. TN: no brainer. We should maybe donate even more. Can we tell Ted Judy that we have more money here? If they are far short, perhaps we can step in. Chris: What about us owning it? I think we could do something with it. I have to believe there is demand for that? TN: my understanding: not great software, written in an old language. Not clear a good foundation. Owning it is non-trivial. Not clear we want to use this long-term. One group is using it right now (still). Everyone else (including RAS) is pausing. Neil: there are other clubs. They use different stuff (not mygroupauctions). We should review what others are doing.

TN: 38 clubs using MGA before Covid. But right now not using it. There is other software. but, we have not done a review of what is out there and what would be a good fit for us. We would need to review what is out there, what our requirements are, etc. to make sure we make a good strategic decision on what to use and what to invest in going forward.

Discussion about giving more money (if others don't deliver).

TN: my view: there has to be software out there that we can use. But we simply haven't done the research. Note: tactical vs. strategic. we need MGA for the short term (tactical). We should support them. Strategically, we need to review what software we should use long term. Maybe its something other than MGA.

JC: I think we are backing a dying horse. Don't like MGA. has issues. Not happy after having used it. I've used auction software at other places that is easier to use. Don't think the learning curve for new software is that bad. Don't want to throw money at MGA.

Chris: what dollar amount do we send them? suggests 200. Neil says 100. More back and forth about how much to give. In the end, board approves 200.

Topic: BAP "lifetime member" proposal. Create RAS "lifetime member" for achieving 1000 BAP points. Discussed last time, but not formally approved. JC moves to approve. Vote is unanimous (minus John, who has apparently stepped away).

Topic: Group Buys. Jehmco order completed. Chris should look at spreadsheet we just got from Branden so he can be reimbursed. Seemed to go well. No known issues.

Wetspot order. Chris: when we have meetings, there are guardrails (i.e., dates) that force things. If we have tag sale, both will happen at approximately same time. Best would be to have wetspot after tag sale. But we need quick answer on tag sale. Chris: will see about Nov 7/8 for tag sale. Then wet spot 2 weeks later. That would be week of 16th.

Topic: 2021 Budget. What is going to happen with workshop in 2021? Best case, we delay until fall and Covid situation gets better. Neil: if we target Oct/November, we should nail down a date and get hotel. It's easy to wait too long for nailing down dates and venue. Or keep it simple and not have workshop. TN: agree with this. None of us want to spend time on something that is not likely to happen. Discussion of virtual workshop (all one day). Note: program committee wants \$600 for 6 virtual speakers in 2021. That would maybe work better than single day virtual event anyway. JC: no problem paying someone 100 to drive up from Charlotte or Wilmington. That's a big commitment.

Neil: let's be clear, time preparing talk is where the speakers invest time. Note: Program Committee is asking for \$600 because we don't expect 12 talks for the year. In past we had social meetings, mini talks, etc. 600 would be for full length presentations. JC: no problem with this. Education is our primary mission. No problem with this and more.

M2: I won't support this. Where does this stop? Pandora's box. We have money now, but things can change. Curtis: I'm drawing a line. Neil: one thing not mentioned. Going back to workshop, we did honorariums for first time. I approached someone who said he'd come if he got an honorarium. Ted Colleti, as an FYI, told me 1/2 of clubs he speaks at give honorariums. You (RAS) don't. Just be aware. Also, I got invited to speak recently. I was offered 100. That made it easier to say yes. Then got invited to another club. No mention of honorarium. they gave me 100 afterwards anyway. I'm now going to speak at 3 others. NJ has a list. I'm on that list. I'm proposing to use 100 to get "giants of the hobby". We need this to recruit good speakers.

Chris: can we find out what other clubs are doing? Neil: don't know how to do this. TN: think question is legit. There is a FB group where this could be asked.

Motion to authorize \$600 for 6 non-local/RAS speakers. Chris seconds. Passes. (john still absent). M2 opposed. so 5 for, 1 against.

Neil: note: in past, RAS speakers got dinner and shirt. Right now we aren't even doing that. Going forward, I'd like to see us doing this (or something) again.

call ends after 2H 17M.