

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday December 17, 2020

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Michael Maieli (M2), Jamye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith, Neil Frank, Chris Smith, Maggie Poole, Caroline Morgan Regrets: John Wisdom.

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten.

Meeting length: 2H 18min.

Topic: MyGroupAuctions. Ted Judy posted a note saying not enough clubs have stepped forward to reach goal of \$1000 to keep MGA site operating in 2021. They plan on shutting down the site at the start of 2021. (RAS donated \$200, which we will get back if site shuts down.)

Topic: Formal recording of board elections. Jamye wants bios from everyone. To send out "official" announcement with bios. 2-3 sentences sufficient. What you keep, why on the board, etc. Same info also goes into brochure. Brochure was published last year for first time. Neil: folk may want to contact the program chair, as people may want to reach out to them, so we should list them in the brochure. We will do an electronic version for 2021, at least for now.

Topic: Approval of November minutes. Approved.

Topic: Review of previous monthly meeting.

Meeting was good. Michael had folk come by and pick up the door prize items they won. Auction committee will apply lessons learned to next auction (e.g., shorter clock, better way to do the door prizes). Chris (Treasurer) needs to do splits and write checks. Discussion about porch pickup and whether distances involved resulted in fewer bids (almost certainly). We may want to discuss central pickup again, if it helps increase the bidding. Discussion about current limitation that paypal is only method supported. We should add another option to use credit card directly. Not good to be turning away potential buyers who may be shy of Paypal.

Topic: Review of Social Hour.

Overall, going well. 10 +/- people on last one. Ran 3 hours, so people find them valuable. Caroline reports she's enjoyed them and enjoys hosting them. Asks whether second Thursday of month is good? Yes. That will be normal time. Discussion about having themes vs. letting it just be an open social hour. Next social will be second week of January.

Separate from "social hour", is there a need for topic focused meetings? Like on tank stands. LED lights, etc. Yes. Maybe this is a third type of monthly meeting. Or maybe this is more of a workshop idea. Suggest that the Program Committee take this up as a new kind of event that supplements what we are already doing now.

Discussion morphs into a need for published calendar. With every event on it, so people more easily can track the different events and different types of events. It can sometimes be confusing when an event notification goes out and people assume its for an existing meeting vs. for a different one. Curtis reports he'd find a monthly calendar helpful when promoting FB events. TN: I would like to see a master calendar (on web page preferably) that we all use as the base calendar.

Topic: Treasurer report. Chris: Current balance at about \$19,500 for a while. No big changes. Our assets continue to increase year-to-year. Gets back to the question Larry had: "What are we keeping all

this money for?" Also as a non profit, our assets cannot increase indefinitely. That said, 2020 has been an odd year. Many of our events didn't happen, so both our revenue sources and our expenditures were lower than expected.

Topic: Budget planning (TN)

TN: We didn't have a proper budget for 2020. I've made a first attempt at 2021. Previous budgets were general targets/estimates (didn't seem to track actual expenses against targets). TN: I'd really like more clarity going forward on tracking exactly where all our revenue comes from. For example, we have a number of members. We have some members that have complimentary memberships. Some are family memberships. From a financial perspective, we do not appear to know exactly how much of the revenue came from paid membership. Money going into the RAS account sometimes comes in lumped together with multiple items (e.g., workshop registration) so that we know how much was deposited, but we don't know how much was registration vs. something else. That makes it difficult to track expenses.

Chris: Suggestion. Have 2021 member registration sheet. Keep track of every membership, when they joined, amount paid, how paid, etc. So we can track it better. We've discussed doing something like this in previous years. Agreement.

Topic: Membership renewals. TN: 2021 membership renewals are due, as all memberships expire at end of calendar year. Need a publicity push. Default recommendation should be to renew through web site. Checks and using square are still fine, but preference would be to go through web page. Keeps things simple. Discussion of alternate payment methods. Venmo (person to person). Paypal. Square (credit cards on site). Discussion also about need to treat everyone equally in terms of how they pay. E.g., paying by credit card/square directly to treasurer should be fine and we should advertise it, as not everyone is comfortable with Paypal. TN: I will look at adding support for direct credit card payments to our web page (i.e., bypassing Paypal).

Topic: Group buys. Chris: wetspot shipping is now almost minimal (flat fee per order). Simplifies everything. TN: We just need a written report (can be simple) of wet spot buy details for the records. Showing what RAS costs were. Additional discussion about a group buy from another vendor. As always RAS is open to the idea. Just need a proposal and sponsor. And buy needs be open to anyone in RAS.

Topic: January Monthly Meeting. Ryan Chan will present on breeding Amano shrimp. Jamye: For auction, plan is to have 5 BAP items for auction during the meeting. Then have a separate larger auction on following Saturday. Similar to December auction. Could include dry goods. Would like to run Saturday auction as an experiment. Lot of support for trying Saturday auction. Not a new topic, and this seems like a good way to do it.

We then discussed speaker remuneration. In past, we have been giving out shirts to speakers. Haven't been doing that recently. Suggestion of giving speakers free 1 year membership in the club. This would be for speakers who give a full presentation (not mini-presentations). Support for this idea.

Topic: wall of excellence. How can we best honor the giants of our club? Wall of excellence idea is to provide a place (e.g., web pages) to house information about such honoraries. Much support for the concept. But would be a significant amount of work. Jamye says she's really interested in this type of project. Need to organize a committee with a clear charter to kick off this effort

Topic: Misc. Michael renewed PO box. Also got a copy/subscription to TFH. Also has Buntbarsch publication available in digital form on USB going back many years. Neil points out that there may be restrictions on redistribution. These are typically benefits for individual members only. Michael will check about that.

Ends after 2H 18min.