

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday April 18, 2021

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Jamye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith (GCS), Chris Smith, Maggie Poole (MP), Caroline Morgan (CM) [first part], Michael Maieli (M2)

Regrets: none

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten

Meeting length: 1H56min

Topic: Carolina Expo held last week in SC. Tables all sold out. GCS argues there is a big pent-up demand for people to sell their fish. JC: stats came in on expo event. One of the state's largest single day event. May have doubled attendance compared to last year.

Topic: Meeting minutes (February, March). Both approved.

Further Discussion of minutes and recordings. Currently, we only hold recordings until minutes approved. That policy was decided previously when it we first agreed to record board minutes for the purpose of producing minutes. Intent at time was recordings were to facilitate creation of minutes but not be kept indefinitely. But with Caroline not currently able to be at the meetings, it would be useful to retain recordings for longer. Board agrees to keep recordings for 6 months. Available to other board members.

Formal motion: Keep recordings for 6 months. Available to other board members. Approved unanimously.

Topic: March Meeting (Speaker: Dennis Wong). Good meeting. First international speaker (Dennis Wong from Singapore). Dennis stayed on for more than an hour afterwards. Lots of discussion and questions. 34 people total on call. Somewhat less than other meetings. Chris: loved it. M2: Agreed. Well done.

Discussion about publicity for events. Detailed discussion about FB and FB "Events". How they are created, what needs to be done. We are doing them a bit ad-hoc right now and its not always clear who should be responsible for a particular event. GCS says he's willing to do them on FB, but is also happy to let others do them. We just need to coordinate and get agreement. Board could use regular "reports" from Program Chair on what is happening. With Neil no longer on the board, communication flow is perhaps not as smooth as it could be. TN: We have a program committee, but it hasn't been meeting consistently. JC would be happy to be on committee (as auction chair), but not until june. TN to circle back with Neil about publicity for meeting speakers.

Topic: social hour. Didn't have one (with Caroline now working evenings). They've been fun, we should continue them. Would also be good to have one board member on just to track how they go.

Topic: Treasury report. TN: Per due dilligence (monthly), I did verify the account balances. All looks good. Me/Chris had chat about how big of a balance to keep in Paypal. Currently several thousand dollars (money has been flowing in through web registrations, but is not being spent). Paypal is not a bank, not in the traditional regulated sense, anyway. So it's actually unclear whether we have same protections against (say) fraud as we would at a regular bank. So we agreed that we should keep balance in Paypal below \$500 as a general rule, with rest kept in RAS bank account.

Chris shows the finance numbers. \$2800 moved from Paypal to WellsFargo. He reviews how he is tracking the individual items in the various accounts (Paypal, WellsFargo, Stripe) and verifying that they all line up. Board spends a fair amount of time looking at details. Chris is able to show every transaction and what it is for.

Topic: Flyer/membership cards. TN: think RAS flyer came out really nice. Much better than last years (printing quality is better). Thanks Jame! Glad we mailed those out with membership cards. Thanks to M2 for sending them out. Got them all done quickly and took them to the post office for delivery. Got a few "returned" mailings, have followed up with email for those members.

Topic: stores supporting club. PP sent mail about updating list of stores. He found a couple of out-of-date entries in newsletter. M2: I do check formally in December. Might have missed one. But prompted by email has cleaned things up. TN: list of shops should really be up on the web site!

Topic: restarting auctions: TN: last meeting we talked about not doing mossballs and plants for a while. Would be best to have guidance on what people can do to protect themselves. JC: would like to restart. But having trouble getting sellers and buyers. Last auction had a lot of No Sales. Discussion about effectiveness of recent auctions, whether Saturday auctions is better than Thursday auctions, etc. All agree face-to-face auctions is what everyone wants.

TN: talked to Cindy at Ramada Inn. We can get Ramada Inn banquet room. Will cost us some (\$200?) but we could handle that. Problem right now is room capacity. Under currid Covid rules, only allowed to have 40 persons in the room, which is too low for us. But restrictions are likely to ease soon.

TN: GCS also talked to Lake Crabtree about outdoor event possibilities. TN: things we need to confirm. Is it OK to host an auction on site? Would that be permissable? Some venues may have funny restrictions about "commerce".

M2: have we made decision to have picnic now? No. Just discussing possibilities for events. M2: lake shelley does not allow reservations. But I'm close by, getting there first has not been a problem. TN: my concern is that lot's of folk may want to do outdoor events, so we may have trouble getting a spot. Safer to have a reservation. Long discussion about possibilities and things to consider.

Another idea: Have virtual auction, then have the event be the pickup spot. People could socialize and pickup fish. Interesting idea. Additional info needed for auction site: electicity? Can we bring microphone and speakers? Can we host an auction?

TN asks for sense of board (not formal action): 1) Have auction before (e.g. zoom), and only pickup at event. 2) auction done on site. More in favor of auction on site. JC asks for help on auctioneering. She's happy to do auction, but would rather have someone do the auctioneering. Agreement to find someone else to do auctioneering.

Topic: Group buys. Chris: WetSpot. He will do delivery at his house, require people to pickup at his house. To make sure that pickups happen within 4 hour wetspot window for reporting issues with delivery. Some concern that pickup being in Durham may discourage folk close to Raleigh but not Durham.

MP raises issues of trying to get more notice about scheduling of next group buy for planning purposes. It would help if people would know when next group order will happen so they can plan? Discussion. Support for general idea.

Call ends @1:56.