

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday Aug 19, 2021

Present: Michael Maieli (M2), Caroline Morgan (CM), Thomas Narten (TN), Maggie Poole (MP), Chris Smith, Curtis Smith (GCS)

Regrets: Jamye Carr (JC)

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten

Meeting length: 2H01min

Topic: Event Planning.

TN reached out to Holiday Inn about available dates (to rent room for a weekend event, e.g., auction or tag sale). They have rebranded. Will get back to me with specific dates and costs. Discussion about renting for Sept. Would we want to have a tag sale or auction? Don't like Holiday Inn for auction. Room layout has problems (pillars interfere with view). Tag sale would be easiest. But really need more lead time for big event. To advertise and prepare. Covid Delta surge is also a concern. After much discussion, no real appetite to host any event with current Covid situation. Last tag sale we had was well attended. Lots of people in the room. Very crowded. No real way to social distance. We'd have to strongly enforce masking, and even then, far from ideal.

At the August meeting, people wore masks. Almost 100% compliance. TN only saw 2 people in audience unmasked during entire meeting.

Concern about doing anything on November date (we have Ramada Inn reserved Nov 13). High probability it gets canceled due to Covid? Long discussion where we seem to talk ourselves out of doing any big events in the remainder of the year. Too risky. Having a big event is just not what we should be doing from health perspective perspective. Real lack of enthusiasm for doing public events rest of the year. Don't like it, but it feels like the right thing to do.

We will continue to monitor situation, look at October. Maybe November. Wait and see.

Topic: 2022 workshop. Neil has started reaching out for potential workshop speakers. Initial feedback is they don't want to commit more than 6 months out. Due to Covid uncertainty. We note that March is only 7 months away so issue will hopefully clarify shortly.

Topic: Meeting minutes. June and July minutes approved.

Topic: Treasury report. Chris reports our balance is down slightly from previous month. Among other things, fewer membership renewals. Expect trend to continue as year winds down.

Discussion about spending club money. We have a lot in the bank. Not our mission to sit on assets. (This is not a new issue/discussion, has come up repeatedly over last few years.) In past, RAS donated to rainbowfish person twice. Conservation of endangered rainbow fish. Peter Unmack. Former club member, now in Australia. Asked for a donation. 3-4 years back. We did it twice. (See: <https://www.amazonasmagazine.com/2016/01/14/rainbowfish-rescue-help-save-the-rare-running-river-rainbow/>) Some clubs have sent people on collecting trips. We haven't done that. But there are lots of interesting ideas. Had talked about a fund in remembrance of Larry Jinks. Long discussion. Some is rehashing of previous discussions. What we need: 1) a target for our assets. How much should we keep

in reserve? How much is too much? 2) once we have a target, then it makes sense to discuss how to best to use any excess money in a way consistent with our mission.

Topic: August meeting. Overall went smoothly. TN/JC were only officers present. RichardM helped immensely. JC handled sgt-at-arms duties plus registered auction items (went smoothly). Diana's talk went well. Lot's of questions from audience. Auction results: people registered items in advance. See spreadsheet. Highlighted green section are the auction splits (treasurer will need to cut checks). TN bought door prizes that were given out. Diana also donated one of her books as a door prize. Overall: 36 attendees. 35 auction items. Total revenue: \$247 (includes one t-shirt sale). Seller split: \$153.30. RAS split: \$83.70. As reported previously, people wore masks. Almost 100% compliance. TN only saw 2 people in audience unmasked during entire meeting.

Topic: Sept meeting. 2 zoom calls planned. Water chemistry, freshwater & saltwater. TN will do a freshwater chemistry for aquarists talk. Saltwater is TBD (not confirmed yet).

Topic: Roles & Volunteers. TN has started putting together a list of roles and responsibilities. Individual tasks that can be done be a single volunteer (doesn't necessarily have to be board member). For example, need a door prize organizer. Requires a budget (to buy prizes) plus someone to decide what to buy, what to give out, take care of details at the meetings. Other examples include: Vendor outreach, HAP program chair, Newsletter editor, Web Master & IT, etc. m2: We absolutely need to do this. Have a list. Present at the next club meeting. It's a problem that we have too few people doing the work. We need to be sure not to over commit.

Meeting Ends @ 2H01M