

RAS Board Meeting Agenda

Nov 18, 2021 2 hours and 16 minutes long

Minutes prepared by Curtis Smith.

Opening Remarks [recurring item] (Thomas)

1. **Board meeting attendees:** All 7 Board members and Shelly DeCorte, a visiting member, attended. Shelly, who has been working with Michael on transitioning the newsletter, is from Greensboro and also raises Corys and shrimp.
2. **Agenda bashing** [recurring item] (Thomas)
No comments from members. The Big items this month are the elections and event planning.
3. **Quick actions/items** (2 minutes per item!)
Instead, we spent 20 minutes discussing 1 item, the FB Live Animals Sales Ban. Inciting incident, a sister group NC/SC group was deleted. In fact, without warning. Thomas feels we have no policy. Thomas feels we are at risk of losing our group, the history, the postings, and the videos. Chris suggests starting a 2nd list. Curtis wants to include Rob, the FB admin in discussions. Thomas suggests changing the policy and then policing posts for violators. Michael supports restating the policy and then policing. Other members suggest explore the policy and other media. After 20 minutes the board agrees to meet again to revisit topic with Rob Crawford the admin present. Result: The Board will meet with Rob on 12/16/21
Curtis repeats the current policy listed aloud:

Sharing Aquatic Resources

RAS doesn't police Buying, Trading, or Rehoming Fish, Plants, or any Aquaria products. However, FB has a policy to

prohibit SALES of animals. Advertise at your own risk.

4. Upcoming dates (Current Calendar 2021, anything missing?)

Google Drive:

5. Approval of Previous minutes (TN)

The BOD accepts the minutes. Unanimous vote.

6. Review of previous club monthly meeting [recurring item] Monthly Zoom talk: Gerald Pottern on bagging and transporting fish. A Total of 41 persons registered/joined call.

7. Review of previous monthly Fish Talk/Social call [recurring item]

Zoom Social: Caroline held a Fish Talk on zoom on 12/11 7:30-10:30 12 people joined. Most left at 9:30. They talked about Covid, Meetings, algae, and Axolotls. The meetings will stay on the 2nd Thursday of the month as per Caroline.

8. Auction Report [recurring item] (TN)

Note: no auction at recent zoom meeting

- So, no spreadsheet
- See auction report (google drive)

9. Group Buy Report

Brandon did a Jehmco order, Jehmco split the order (dry vs. cooler) and billed him separately for each.

RAS owes Brandon \$96.38 which Thomas reported to Chris to cut a check.

.....

Chris will probably do a Wet Spot order in mid-January.

10. Treasurer report [recurring item] (CS)

a. In terms of liquid assets, we have \$21k. Monthly cash flow summary, people are just renewing. Both TN and CS are watching the accounts, so we have two eyes on them. TN/CS: attest those accounts look good, no unusual transactions.

b. The BOD discussed the phishing note that GCS received and pointed out other ones that they had received. got a mail allegedly from RAS President, asking you to buy gift cards. And that others did too. But there were some suspicious things about it.

11. Next Monthly Regular Meeting (Dec) [recurring item]

The meeting will be on Zoom

BAP awards (Paul Parks)

The bod mini auction/door prizes/auction. Thomas suggests 20 -25. Jamye will gather the slides, take notes, and put prizes in the spreadsheets. Thomas will run the mini-auction and may recruit help.

Thomas has door prizes. The annual holiday party was replaced by this program of BAP, Election/mini-auction in previous meetings.

12. December Election planning

2 board volunteers for the at large position (Norman Waaks, Magnus Hedemark) Curtis Smith will run for secretary.

Jamye Carr, as the vice president, will run it and set rules for nominations, finalizing slate, etc. She will take nominees till 48 hours before the meeting.

13. Secretary roles/duties

a. Curtis asked about the specific duties of the Secretary and expressed an interest in running for the position. Michael suggests how they would be farmed out. Thomas defers the division of duties till after the elections. Maggie and Chris bring up the by laws and Michael reads them defining the intended duties of the Secretary. Caroline also indicated an interest in Secretary position, but instead would be willing assist the new Secretary.

b. **Newsletter Editor** - monthly (with updates to all sections as needed), distribution. Shelly Decorte will be running the newsletter. Thomas wants to use the [www.https/.io/groups.io email list/](https://groups.io/email_list/) for distribution going forward. Instead of raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

14. General Event Planning (with Covid in mind)

a. **What are our criteria for resuming face-to-face meetings?** Both the participants and the volunteers must be comfortable with the covid status and safety level (AKA Covid Risk Levels). For general meetings they **discussed security** at meetings, but a number of ideas were floated about how to protect the in-person meetings.

b. **Then the board turned to determine what conditions needed to be met in terms of Covid safety to return to in-person meetings.** Michael will follow up with the school about their criteria. Jamye suggests looking at the level of community spread, a quantifiable statistic. Jamye requests data driven decisions and she want the club to make an announcement about what stats are driving the board's decision to make a gen meeting public or on Zoom. TN repeated his intention to make an announcement about Covid and Meetings. The BOD members accessed web sites for data on Covid and the risk levels for various NC counties and they

discussed their meanings. BOD made a motion to make a specific risk level the prerequisite to holding a meeting and the BOD would like to make an announcement to the Club citing the covid levels as the guiding principle. GCS wanted more criteria listed, but additional methods will need to be discussed latter. Shellie suggests polling and the detriments of the course of action are cited to the BOD once again. Polls require prep work and will need to discussed later. Chris Smith points out that we need feedback. Thomas will research other sites and write a letter to the RAS body.

c. **Neil and Thomas suggested moving the Spring 2022 workshop to Fall, but this was not fleshed out or finalized.**

END