

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday July 16

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Neil Frank, Jamye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith, Chris Smith,  
Guests: Paul Parks, Maggie Poole, Robert Crawford  
Regrets: Michael Maieli, John Wisdom  
Minutes by: Thomas Narten

Topic: meeting recordings. JC has recordings of the two zoom meetings (Jamye, Paul Parks). They are posted on Youtube, but only privately, not searchable. First video still needs to be edited down. Action (TN/JC): Edit down videos, make publically available. Put together a note with URLs pointing to the recording and post to FB, mailing list and web page.

Topic: Membership discussion. Master list needs to be updated to reflect most recent renewals. We received a handful at end of June, start of July. Chris reminds us that membership is prorated. Effective July 1, membership (for rest of year) is only \$15 (and drops further to \$10 on October 1). A couple of people registered at start of July and paid the old rate (they are due a partial refund). Web page has now been updated.

Topic: Porch Pickup. Previously, Neil asked about putting up "Porch Pickup" donation option on RAS site. He had a back-and-forth with person who said he was "member of Facebook group". Discussion about being a member of RAS proper (paid membership) vs. just being in the FB group. Long discussion about whether FB "badges" could be used to identify paid RAS members on FB. Rob then reports that "FB badges" do not seem like a good fit for RAS (they are very FB specific and inflexible) and the "badge" idea was dropped for now. But there was interest in something like it.

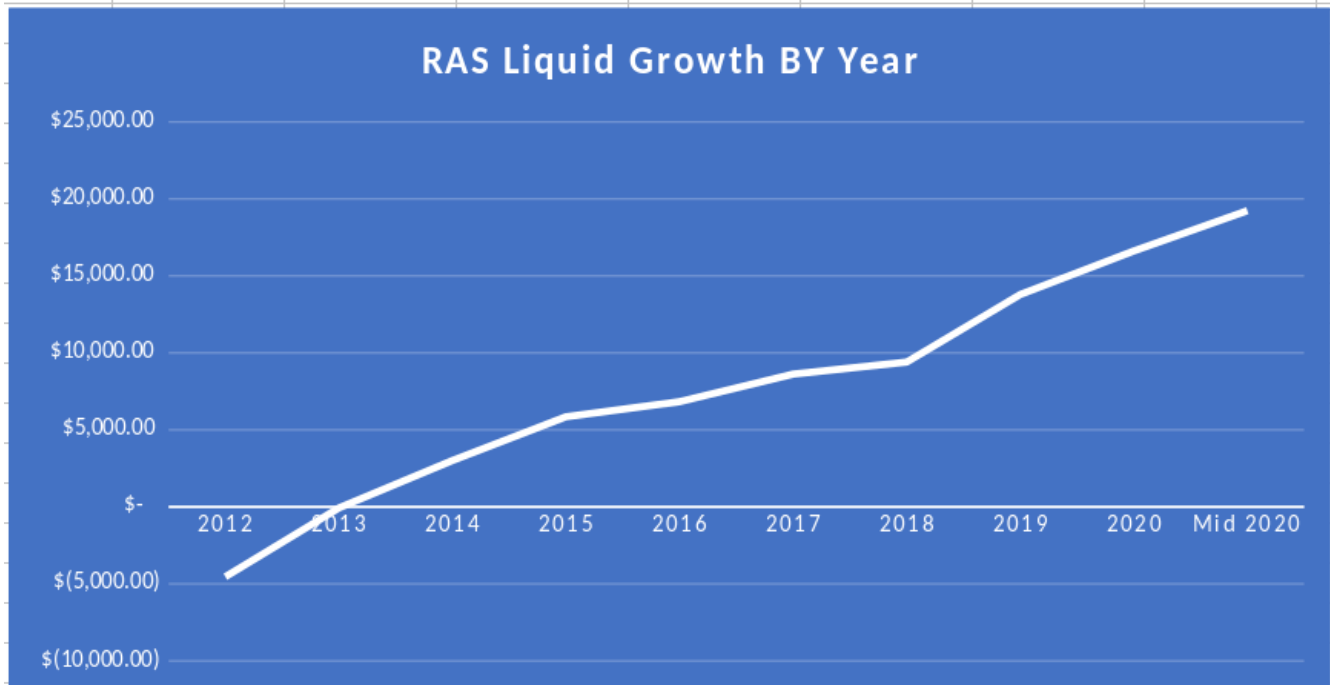
Topic: BAP. TN: BAP. Turned over to Paul Parks, but haven't gotten together with him to provide access to documents. Wearing President hat, like all activities, want to see some formal overall governance structure. Paul is in agreement (and has proposed some of this already in his documents). Committee to vet changes to program. Improve documentation, etc. There has been quite a lot of discussion and review on the BAP mailing list already. TN: don't see the board as having a formal role in approving everything BAP does. BAP committee should run on its own. Board should get involved only when there are issues (e.g., disagreement leading to an appeal).

Topic: Meeting minutes. TN: finally have my attempt at public minutes writeup for June meeting. 2+ pages. Goal is to make it readable by someone not at meeting with sufficient context to get a sense of what was discussed and what actions were taken. Discussion. General approval. TN: want to get them published ASAP, but would like M2 to have a chance to review/comment. Neil: wasn't at meeting, so can't comment on accuracy. but seem readable (and points out typos). JC: incredibly detailed. Suffice. should post ASAP. Think they were accurate. TN: want them published. ASAP. but would like M2 to have chance to approve.

Formal action: approval, subject to M2 reviewing and approving. Approved by vote: TN, Neil, JC, Chris, Curtis.

Topic: Treasurer report (chris). Chris reviews chart showing overall liquidity of last few years (same as shown at previous meeting). Overall finances are good. Our yearly asset total has been increasing steadily and linearly with positive trend continuing even through first half of 2020. Chris then reviews the Wells Fargo account (checking/savings) and how he is tracking activity. Discussion about moving some assets from checking to savings to get better interest rate. Agreement in principle, but interest

rates are really low everywhere, so hasn't been a priority. Chris then reviews the group buy, new addition is Kasselmann book buy (10 books total, club has 2 extra for future use).



Topic: 990-N form: Chris: July 15, submitted form 990N to IRS. Turned out to be easy. Needs to be done once every 3 years. Took 10 minutes from start to finish!!

Topic: Workshop summary (finances): We should probably close it out. One person we haven't reimbursed, but he hasn't been responsive to mail. May not even be expecting reimbursement.

Topic: Review of previous meeting. Paul's talk. Went really well. Everyone liked it. More people on this call than previous. Q/A went a long time (which is not a bad thing). Only issue was last-minute renewal of Zoom (Jamyne no longer has her account). For now, we will pay Zoom month-to-month (\$15/month). Thomas has the account. Note: TN can create/schedule meetings for others in the club to use. Q: are we archiving the questions in the chat? Chat has had good discussion. We haven't been, but it would be a good idea. Note: people asked questions in the chat, Jamyne filtered them a bit and then relayed the question to Paul to answer for the group. Neil asks if anyone did zoom on small device (e.g., phone) and how well does it work. No one had experience.

Topic: Facebook thread. Started out with JC's logo thread. Came up with draft, posted it. A week later, thread got ugly. Not helped by people making incorrect assumptions and assuming the worst. E.g., some thought the board was changing the RAS logo (we were not). In fact, the board hadn't done anything formal on the topic. JC had presented the idea at a previous meeting as an FYI because she wanted a logo that could more easily be printed on a sticker. The current logo (with Discus) is nice, but the coloring makes it hard to print cheaply. TN spoke by phone with one of the posters. Person felt that JC was speaking as board member rather than as individual. Also thought business issues should not be discussed on FB at all. While I understand that view, I do not agree with it. Thread discussion devolved into name calling and "old white guys" type references. In addition, comments were deleted afterwards, which makes it hard to go back and read the entire thread in context.

More discussion about difficulty in going to thread and reconstructing what was said. In FB, people can delete their own posts. People can also delete threads they start and that deletes all responses as well. Moderators (CuS/RC) do not delete stuff in general. Happens very rarely though, and moderators did not do so on this thread. All deletions were done by posters themselves.

JC will make some stickers for whoever wants them. General support from everyone. This is not in conflict with RAS. JC asks: if I go forward with this, will I get blowback from the board? More discussion. Answer is no. But maybe better to not call this a "logo", as its really more an effort to come up with a new bumper sticker. And we are not proposing to change the existing logo. In fact, we'd encourage more folks to propose ideas. Discussion about getting more participation from members (some are graphic designers) and maybe even have a design contest.

Topic: Code of conduct: TN did some research, looked at other clubs and orgs, found one on PVAS site. Liked it and thought it was spot on. General support. Discussion about "social media" terms in text. Neil proposes some text changes, for which there is agreement.

Discussion about language related to "social media" leads to discussion of FB and is it RAS or is it independent of RAS. Robert says the FB group is a RAS group.

TN: There is a longer history here. FB group was formed in 2014. Although Rob felt he had support from RAS to form, there were also times when the FB group was viewed (by some) as an outsider and not formal part of RAS. Over the years, leadership was not always seen as being comfortable with it. Maybe felt threatened by it (as its membership count exceeded that of traditional dues paying membership). This led to occasional incidents of "don't post that on FB as this is only for RAS members". Reality has long been that FB is an important component of the club. Lot of interaction there, especially because of ease of posting photos and videos. Group continues to grow, and now boasts 1700 members. This compares with a current dues-paying membership count of 160. It is estimated that 1/2 of the current RAS members do not participate in FB. Curtis offered to try and count who was a dues-paying member and who not, but board felt that was only of limited value and not necessary.

That all said, one big confusion has been that folk that join the FB group often think that means they are "RAS members". And are confused about their being a distinction. Robert/Curtis pointed out that they do communicate this distinction at the time FB membership is approved. Being a dues-paying member has specific benefits, and the club just needs to continue making that distinction clear. Curtis didn't feel that either membership branch sees these benefits clearly delineated.

JC: robert/curtis have done a great job as moderators in the group. One of best FB groups. Many are worse (more contentious, etc.) Lots of good interactions happening there. We would be doing the disservice to club to not include them.

TN: Can we formalize that FB is part of RAS? Rob says yes. He considers it a RAS group and will abide by RAS board decisions. For example, he would welcome having being able to use a RAS Code of Conduct to push back on inappropriate behavior.

More discussion about FB governance. Curtis/Robert monitor the FB group according to their positions as FB admin/moderator and act within the standards of FB moderation. That said, they will listen to the board and want to be treated as The RAS FB group.

Back to Code of Conduct. JC suggests changing word to "RAS associated social groups". Agreement. Are we ready for formal vote? yes. NF proposes, JC seconds. Unanimous approval from board members.

Topic: August Zoom meeting: Will Neil be speaking? Yes. On photography with cell phones. We also have a speaker for Sept. Remaining months are open, in past we had pizza party, Christmas party, etc. That is, we didn't have a talk at every meeting. So we will need to do some followup to identify possible meetign topics. JC mentions Zoom breakout rooms. Could be used for break-out rooms like we did with SIG meetings in past.

Call ends at 2H25M.