

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday Aug 27, 2020

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Michael Maieli (M2), Janye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith, Neil Frank, Chris Smith, John Wisdom

Regrets: None.

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten.

Meeting length: 1H 55min.

Topic: Quick items. We've received additional membership renewals via online registration. M2 will update his master list and circulate to board. Code of Conduct has been posted to the web site. Porch pickup program has been updated to allow any arbitrary dollar amount. User can select \$1 and \$5 increments in any quantity. A few people have made use of it already, seems to be working. Curtis talks about donations more generally, club is a 501.3(c) organization (tax exempt) and porch pickup program further solidifies effort to make it easier to donate to RAS in a tax-exempt manner. Discussion about how useful that is given recent tax-law changes surrounding itemization of tax deductions (makes deductions less attractive to pursue generally). BAP has been turned over to Paul Parks. He is working on updating the spreadsheet/database to add features and enhancements. HAP is currently in limbo. We do not have a HAP chair and there has been little activity in last months (TN).

Topic: Still need to get videos of recent RAS meetings edited and posted (TN).

Topic: Approval of June meeting minutes. At July board meeting, M2 was not present, and wanted to give him a chance to review minutes. M2 reports that he's OK with the June minutes, so they are now approved. July minutes have also been reviewed, but Curtis wants to clarify some of the wording surrounding the Facebook discussion. Thomas/Curtis to work offline on revised minutes.

Topic: Treasury report. Chris reviews status of RAS accounts. Reports on activity, of which there has been little in last month. Discussion about how (for due diligence purposes) the board should verify accounts are in order. In addition to Treasurer, TN (as President) has access to both the Paypal and WellsFargo accounts. He can log in and verify assets. Going forward, he will do so monthly and independently confirm to the board that assets are in order.

Topic: Review of August regular meeting. Neil presented on photography. TN reports it was good with lots of positive feedback from others. General agreement. Interaction was good with other members contributing their experiences to the discussion. Discussion about presentation mechanics and whether Neil had issues with the remote presentation and use of zoom technology. Overall, no issues. Neil did report one issue he had where he made last minute change by adding one slide and then slide show went into automode unexpectedly and he had to manually intervene. TN reported he didn't even notice this "glitch".

Topic: Next regular meeting (September). Matthew Bills will present. Neil has requested a more detailed bio for promotion that we can put up on web page and using in publicity (FB, email, etc.). Neil previously did send out title of talk, which is enough to get the publicity/advertising rolling.

Topic: Group buys. TN: would like one person coordinating group buys. Not necessarily doing the work. But it is important to have clarity about responsibility of duties. Blackworm buys discussed. Shipping costs are unclear. Vendor just doesn't break out the costs. There are only 2 suppliers of blackworms we know of. One out in California. But we've had problems with them. Other (current) vendor is Eastern Aquatics. Charges \$300 for 10lb, shipping included. So we have to estimate shipping.

There has also been discussion about weight. We don't always get full 10lb of worms. Issue is they can lose weight during shipping. And some may die and be removed before weighing ahead of redistribution. So actual "delivered" weight varies. Need to close with Gerald and get him reimbursed for previous buys.

Topic: M2 reports that wetspot is moving to a fixed rate for shipping. chris: not sure what it means. I'm used to seeing total shipping of \$300-400. If I read new pricing right, it will be significantly lower. Discussion of whether cost is per box, per order, per "double box" (as they are actually shipped). Is it time for next order? Yes. We should do that. Discussion about week of Sept 14. Chris willing to organize. Who will beat drum on FB? JC says she can do it. TN: basic info (paypal contact, how to order, etc.) should be same as last time. Use previous note as starting point and update. TN to email info to JC.

Discussion circles back to whether we have a coordinator for group buys? TN is effectively doing it now unless someone else wants to. Would be good for someone new to take this role. But recognition that it would help to have done a buy first to understand what is involved before being coordinator. Need to define "role" of coordinator. To add clarity of what is expected, we could then recruit someone. Things to cover include: a) provides a point of contact if someone not responding to email, b) provides status/update reports to board, report on finances, c) work with treasurer on accounting/reimbursement, d) promoting/coordinating/publicizing, e) verifying all participants are dues-paying RAS members, etc.

Topic: Curtis brings up "Tailgate" event. Essentially an outdoor version of tag sale we hosted in 2019. Other clubs are doing this. Have cars meet in a parking lot somewhere, let folk sell aquatic items out of car. Keep it simple. Ohio club is doing it. Charlotte maybe as well. General support for the idea. Question is who can drive this and make it happen? Big issue is where. Need to find a place and work out the cost. Discussion of possibilities (e.g., state fairgrounds, but cost is likely not cheap). Need a formal proposal with details worked out before board can approve anything. E.g., how will we satisfy NC Covid-19 guidelines? Even outdoor events are limited to 25 people at present. Curtis reports he is not in position to own this. Anyone else? While there is support for the idea, no one in a position to own the item.

Topic: BAP proposal for lifetime membership (per Paul Parks). Proposal for special category of lifetime achievement after 1000 points. Would grant lifetime membership in RAS. Very few people would be eligible for this. To date, only Larry and Neil have 1000 points. Seems clear that very few people would reach this milestone, and when they do, they will have had made tremendous contributions to the club. General support, but want time to think about it. Is there a precedent implied? Can we handle it administratively? Would this open up requests for lifetime membership for service or other contributions to the club? No formal action taken. Only had ten minutes to think about proposal. Will be reviewed at future meeting.

Topic: Facebook: We had a good discussion about FB at last meeting. Rob considers FB group part of RAS. Historical tensions that had been cited in past seem to be moot now. Should we have a formal motion saying that FB is part of RAS? Discussion. There has been confusion in past about "FB is not RAS". Real issue is there are dues-paying members, and there are folk on FB. Not the same thing. Note that even groups.io list has 300 members, only half are dues-paying, so this is a more general issue than just with FB. We need to do a better job of clarifying the two types of members (or participants?) to reduce confusion.

Topic: Committees: TN goes over list of committees in our bylaws. list of more than a dozen. Curtis: do we have committees doing stuff we aren't tracking? TN: no. Do we need all these committees? Probably not. Agreement that they should be reviewed. TN: we do need a publicity group. We have a gap. Think we should look at what we need to do and figure out which ones are needed. Real questions: what are we not doing that we should be doing? What is best way to achieve? Committee? Individual for role?

Topic: Meeting adjourns at 1H55min.