

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday November 19, 2020

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Michael Maieli (M2), Jamye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith, Neil Frank, Chris Smith, John Wisdom, Richard Mullinax (for December meeting planning)

Regrets: None.

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten.

Meeting length: 2H 17min.

Topic: Happenings at other clubs. Some stuff is going on at other clubs. CAAS buys frozen food and resells. For our group buys, persons order in advance and we don't buy extra. We could think about ordering extra but someone would have to provide freezer space. CAAS will have an in-person meeting for November. At Jocks&Jills, which has outdoor seating. This is the normal venue they use. JRAS did a tailgate a few weeks back.

Topic: tailgate: Chris asked his neighborhood association about using their big parking lot. Was told board would need to approve, and didn't hear back. Given we needed a quick decision, haven't pushed. We can revisit in Spring.

Topic: WetSpot order. Chris: 23 participants (and that is missing some of usual suspects). Some people don't have tank space at moment, which is why they didn't participate. Total order was \$2700. Shipping cost used to be \$200, now only \$40 with new shipping fee structure. So really good deal for all. Close to revenue neutral for RAS. M2 points out average purchase is over \$100/person. We are a valued customer at WetSpot!

Chris: Lost a few items this time. One bag didn't get dealt with soon enough, lost 1/2 of those fish. Some DOA shrimp. Did get \$40 credit from WetSpot though.

Delivery at vet school parking lot. Chris was there about 2.5 hours. Some people wanted to chat once they got there. Still a lot of work. Wouldn't want to do more than 4x year. We discuss ways of dividing up the work so that doesn't have to be done by one person. That way we can organize buys more frequently during pandemic. Discussion of logistics of distributing fish, shortening pickup window. Maybe have multiple pickup locations (durham/raleigh) with different person at each. Some good ideas for Chris to consider.

Topic: approval of minutes. October minutes. Some changes requested in email, already done. Minutes approved (unanimous).

Topic: Treasury report. Chris: quiet month.

Topic: review of previous meeting (tank tours). Worked well. General happiness with meeting.

Topic: social hour review. working fine, low attendance, but that is fine. TN: at one social hour, one person volunteered (unsolicited) he'd been to a few meetings over last 10 years. Saw interactions within club he didn't like. Turned him off. Seeing club pass code of conduct was an important step in getting back here (he's been on several zoom calls in last 6 months). M2 recalls person and the incidents. Glad to see him getting back in the club.

Neil: one plus about zoom calls: we are able to put faces to names. Long term problem in past has been putting names to faces. I have previously suggested RAS do a picture directory. Would be good to do

that. TN: agree having a directory would be nice. But has to be done carefully. There are privacy considerations. People would need to opt in. JC describes how they handled a directory at work. TN: have thought having a wiki that RAS controls would be good and provide us with a number of options.

Topic: elections. JC: no nominations came in. Discussion of possible persons to approach. Everyone is busy or has reasons why serving now not an option. Caroline had indicated she might. We are looking at at-large. Named positions all have volunteers willing to serve again. Maybe not ideal, but we could get by without at-large members. Also, board has ability to appoint board members at any time in 2021 to fill vacant slots, so doesn't have to be done at December meeting.

Discussion about what qualifications a board member should have. Bringing someone on who has not attended any board meetings, for example, isn't necessarily ideal. Discussion about getting remote members who don't have to come to every meeting. With Zoom, remote participation can work. Chris: what about an officer from another club? Might bring in some new ideas that way. One thing that might help is better advertise our board meetings and encourage people to attend. Having a "proto agenda" with the announcement would help encourage people to attend.

Discussion about election logistics. And difference between what we have done in past and what we are required to do. The bylaws requirements are actually quite thin. Leaves details up to the VP. Review of what has been done at elections in the past, discussion about various pros and cons.

Formal motion: close down nominations, leave 2 slots open for now, future board can fill. unanimous (except john who has left). JC to send out note.

Topic: take out food proposal for December meeting. M2 sent out a note. He provides background and who he contacted. We all agree doing food and delivering at people's home is not workable. What about having people go and pickup something that RAS has pre-paid? Could be done (m2 called one place to discuss). But it would be complicated. And has some holes in it. TN: the original hope was that we all be able to eat together even if virtual. No one is enthusiastic about any of the ideas. We table until next year, when we hopefully can be together in person again.

Topic: December Auction. RichardM: auction idea was intended to reenergize the meetings. And make up for the lack of festiveness we normally get with food.

JC: We can have a google slide show for auction items. Can be shared screen. Use spotlight and pinpoint tool. we can upload photos, videos, location of pickup, and other info. Slides made available to public in advance, that way they can select in advance what they want to bid on. They will know location of pickup (don't bid if you don't want to drive that far). All payments through RAS website with normal 70/30 split. RM: for the porch pickup portion, buyer/sell have chance to potentially interact with each other. Worked for me with Java moss I sold at last meeting.

Auction will be open to RAS members only. Mirroring face-to-face meetings, you have to be a member to participate (buy or sell).

Raffle will be opt in, you indicate which item you want to be eligible for. That way you don't automatically register for an item you don't want. Let's keep things simple. 3 items. nice-ish ones. List the items in slideshow too.

RM to send out announcement to BAP tomorrow, rest of club 2 days later.

Topic: BAP awards. Plaques will be \$470 this year. Last year was \$455. Budgets in previous years allocated \$750-\$1000. Request board authorization to approve expenditure up to \$600. Approved (unanimous).

Topic: Insurance renewal. TN looked at policy. Actual policy \$63, but minimum premium level means they add \$203 to reach \$266 (we do not get any actual value for this extra \$203). So I called my own agent for an estimate to see what they would say. But getting a quote turned out to be a lot more work than first appears. To understand what you are getting you have to read a 30 page document, and then compare with similar document from other policy. TN: Do we actually even need this insurance? Got it a few years ago because required for using fairgrounds. But we aren't doing that anymore. And we aren't even meeting, so exposure is low.

Board decide to renew, and look at this in more detail next year. Cost isn't that much, and we don't have time to vet properly. Everyone approves.

Topic: membership renewal proposal. TN sent out email. Currently, if you renew in Oct-December, you pay \$10 and then have to renew on Jan 1. Seems complicated and would be better to just have new person renew for remainder of year plus full (next) year. M2 not in agreement that this is needed. Table for now, as more discussion needed. Bring up again in future.

Topic: black worms reimbursement: Gerald has been buying worms all year but hasn't been reimbursed yet (currently owed \$314). We've discussed before, want formal approval so Chris can cut check. Board approves.

Topic: JEHMCO group buy. Brandon organized. 10 persons participated, item total: \$600.95 (\$539.53 after group discount). Shipping was \$77, but RAS cost was only 15.58 after group discount. Chris to reimburse Brandon.

Call ends after 2H17Min.