

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday January 21, 2021

Present: Thomas Narten (TN), Jamye Carr (JC), Curtis Smith, Maggie Poole, Caroline Morgan.

Regrets: Michael Maieli (M2), Chris Smith,

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten.

Meeting length: 1H24min

Topic: MyGroupAuctions: mygroupauctions did reach their goal of gathering \$1000 in contributions, so will be available for use in 2021 (RAS contributed \$200 to MGA). From Ted Judy:

MGA has been saved for 2021! The Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists have offered to make up the difference between the amount money pledged/sent for 2021 hosting and what is needed. So... the previous post about NOT making our goal is not correct and will be deleted.

Topic: Approval of Previous minutes

TN: December minutes. Got them out late, also want M2 and Chris to have chance to review before approving. Discussion about approving via email so we can publish without waiting til the next meeting. Approval deferred.

Topic: Review of previous monthly meeting (Ryan Chan's Shrimp Talk)

TN: Nice talk, lot of positive feedback during/after presentation. Auction was good, though not everything sold. One person responsible for majority of purchases. Discussion about where details (spreadsheet) are stored on Google Drive. Board members can see all the details there. Gross of \$315, RAS netted \$205 of that (mix of donations and splits).

JC: 24H before auction, only 5 items submitted. Made me nervous. Then overnight, people added items. Total of 22 items. Blue-eyed ancistrus came in at last minute, and 2 batches sold @ \$38 each. Having auction on Saturday 9 days after regular meeting seemed to work fine. And support for continuing not having auction and regular meeting on same date. Keeps individual meetings shorter.

Discussion about opening to buyers that are not RAS members. For now, it's easier for tracking what is going on (e.g., if we need to track down someone). No strong desire to change at current time. Also, mentioned that for a seller, knowing buyer is a RAS member may make them feel better than meeting a complete stranger with only tenuous ties to the club.

Discussion of auction date. For January, date was 9 days after regular meeting. Worked fine, will continue doing that in future.

Topic: Review of Social Hour

Worked fine. At least 10 people at one point.

Topic: Treasurer report

Chris (treasurer) not on call. TN did review accounts, transactions look as expected. Chris will need to cut checks for the January auction splits.

Topic: Using Google Drive to store Board documents

TN: We spend time looking at Google Drive "Board Items" folder, what is stored there, how to navigate it, etc. It's centralized location to store club files. All board members have access to it. Contents are not public.

Topic: Calendar (official, showing all meetings, events, etc.)

TN: Have a start at official RAS calendar. Shared file in Google Drive, can contain notes (for tentative dates, etc.) and be a working document. This document should be considered the definitive calendar and any event dates should be listed in this file. As we discuss, Jame adds dates (in real time) for the remainder of the year. Additional discussion about how to create events in FB and how to set up a calendar so if you click on it it takes you to more info.

Topic: 2021 memberships

TN: Membership renewals are coming in. We now support either PayPal or direct use of credit card. Already have 72 paid renewals. About 1/2 are through credit card, the rest through PayPal. Stripe used for credit cards. Although we already have "Square" for credit cards (for swiping using reader on phone), Square is not supported by Squarespace for online credit card processing. Hence, had to create account for Stripe. M2 is not on call, so we defer discussion on membership cards.

Topic: Group buys (TN)

Chris doing WetSpot (not present to discuss). Jame working group buy for Pleco jerky. Has something like 10 people interested. Getting 12 packets. Jehmco group buy recently completed. (7 Participants, Order total: 648.35, RAS cost: \$15.65) BrineShrimpDirect order in progress, waiting for delivery (11 Participants). As always, RAS is open to additional group buys, just need need sponsor + interest.

Topic: Monthly Regular Meeting (February)

Gary Lange will speak. Will aim for 5 BAP items to auction afterwards. Folk doing Pleco Jerky may be willing to talk about their program. They are trying to create a market for invasives.

Topic: Invasive species policy (TN)

Triggered by FB post mentioning availability of *H. polysperma* (plant). An invasive species. In past we have disallowed selling of invasive plants within the club. However, we don't have a written policy regarding invasives in general. Should we? Goes beyond plants. Mystery snails mentioned in post too, which a lot of people have. Should we set up a committee to review & develop a policy? Would need to consult community, make sure it is vetted by community. What will BAP/HAP do when people bring in invasives?

Topic: Taking care with Personal information

TN brings up issue of being careful with membership stuff that could be considered "personal". The definition of "personal" can be pretty broad, including stuff like email address, mailing address, phone numbers, etc. We should take care not to make information publically available that does not need to

be. For example, posting a link to a file on Google Drive (where the file's access control is set to all allow anyone with the URL to view the file) should be done only if the file does not contain "sensitive" information. E.g., posting a link to FaceBook means 1900 people can potentially access the file, and that doesn't even take into account that the link may get forwarded to other places. JC points out that we should make an announcement before auction that contact information has to be exchanged to connect buyer to seller.

Call ends after 1H24min.