

RAS Board Meeting, Thursday Sept 16, 2021

Present: Jamye Carr (JC), Michael Maieli (M2), Caroline Morgan (CM), Thomas Narten (TN), Chris Smith (CS), Curtis Smith (GCS)

Regrets: Maggie Poole (MP)

Minutes produced by: Thomas Narten

Meeting length: 2H01min

Topic: September talk. TN did freshwater chemistry, salt water component scheduled for end of September. Discussion about using salt water talk in place of October meeting. TN reports there may still be a separate talk in the works for October, not confirmed. JC willing to do talk on DIY stuff. Re-purposing things for aquariums. Aquarium on a budget.

M2 talks about returning vet school. Back in summer, he (and Dane at vet school) were more optimistic. Did chat with Dane more recently and it now appears unlikely we will get back into vet school for remainder of the year. Discussion about Covid testing and the numbers (Caroline sees this first hand at work). Would be nice to have in-person meeting on December. For awards. Do a small auction. Socialize.

TN reports on GSAS (Greater Seattle club). They just had first in-person meeting since before Covid. They are requiring proof of vaccination. More places (generally) are requiring proof of vaccination now. So it is something we can consider. Long discussion about how/whether to do this. Some support for requiring proof of vaccine at meetings. But worry about push back from some members. Not much fun to be an enforcer. We should also work on live streaming sessions so those that are not comfortable attending in-person have option to participate. Can people participate remotely in auction? One tricky part is item pickup (since remote bidder will not be at auction where item is already bagged). Long discussion about how to make auction with remote participants work (have a proxy bidder, use the chat window, etc.). Not impossible, but some issues to work through.

How comfortable is board with having in-person meeting? Generally yes, but more so if proof of vaccine required. Further discussion. Board agonized. There just isn't a good solution at the moment.

Question: would board be willing to attend meeting if proof of vaccination not required? Board is split. Some would be uncomfortable, some would be OK. Would we turn people away at the door if they were not vaccinated? We'd have to if we decided to require proof.

Discussion about exemptions. Some people don't have vaccination for medical reasons. What about testing? would a "negative" test suffice? Not sufficient to prevent spread. More discussion. No desire to do this. M2 has even received private comments that others may not have seen. Would be easier on all to just have virtual meetings for rest of year.

What about auctions? JC: IMO, as person running auctions, auctions on zoom are more trouble than worth. Aug in-person auction was great. Participation in virtual has been mixed.

Board motion: no in-person meeting on October. Passes. CS abstains. Everyone else yes. CS: I think that was smart thing what we did. But also a place to show some leadership here. Feel like we are perhaps missing an opportunity somehow. JC suggests this is not necessarily permanent just a delay in deciding the issue.

Topic: Social hour. Good thing. Unfortunate that we haven't had them recently. Caroline's schedule has shifted and she will restart social hour. Caroline given green light to make it happen.

Topic: Treasurer report. Chris reports. All looks good.

Topic: Door Prizes. TN has been doing door prizes recently and realizes we need a budget and to better plan in term of what make good prizes. What do people always want? Fish food. Accessories they can use. Would like to be able to buy stuff (say) during group buys and have a stock of things on hand.

Board motion: budget \$60/month for remainder of 2021. Upper bound. Money does not need to be spent. Board approves unanimously.

Topic: Membership fees. Proposal to change 4th quarter membership renewal. Currently costs \$10 for 3 months, then renewal required in January for the new year. Proposal: drop renewal for just 3 months, require full renewal for following year and give them the 3 extra months free. Membership would cover 15 months, expiring at the end of of next calendar year (as all memberships do today).

Motion passes. Unanimous.

Meeting ends @1H25min.