

WBL Board Meeting

26 August 2009

The meeting was held at Fred King's home.

In attendance: Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Richard Ferrin, Jim Geist, Fred King, Linda Marshall, Ron Zucker; non-voting member Nadine Wood, and guest Gene Fisher.

Don Berman called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Secretary's Report

The Board approved the minutes without objection.

Possible Building Purchase

Gene Fisher was invited to address the Board on the subject of a possible building purchase. As a preface to Gene's remarks, President Don Berman stated that he had five criteria for a site: 1) Location playable (adequate air conditioning, restrooms, lighting) 2) Large enough for expansion 3) Affordable 4) Adequate parking 5) Convenient location, near metro preferable.

Gene said that there were two decisions that the Board had to make, which were independent. First is whether the WBL should seek tax-exempt status as a charitable organization. (The WBL is currently tax-exempt, but not as a charitable organization.) If it was, or a sister organization was created that was, donations, included money willed, would be tax deductible for the donors. Gene Fisher and Mark Kotlarsky would undertake the paperwork for free. The only expense would be the \$750 fee collected by the Internal Revenue Service.

The second question is whether to buy or lease a building. One advantage of doing so would be that the WBL would become better known in the community. A problem is the upfront money. The site Jim Allen and Gene had investigated, near Routes 28 and 270, is not viable because the developers won't furnish the up-front money. Gene estimated that \$1m would be needed, and said that Jim Allen was convinced this would be easily done through bonds with five percent interest.

The Board thanked Gene for his time and efforts on behalf of the WBL.

The Board discussed the two possibilities. Ron Zucker thought it doubtful that the \$750 cost would be recouped through donations. Linda Marshall thought providing recreational activity for adults might not qualify for status as a charitable organization. The Board decided not to pursue this. The Board also decided unanimously that purchasing a building was not feasible at this time.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fred King reported that net cash flow is about -\$320. Rent for the sectionals has been prepaid. We are not making much money on the sectionals. Overall cash flow is about \$32,000 a year, with the net from the Unit Game about \$8600, total income \$16,000, \$6,000 to directors and caddies, \$4,000 to the ACBL. The bulletin is very costly: at least \$2,500 per bulletin. We may consider having a quarterly bulletin rather than six issues a year.

Fred is not as far along with the financial statement as he had hoped due to software problems.

The Treasurer's report was approved without objection.

Nationals

Attendance was 1100 tables more than budgeted. We will get money for the extra tables. There were fewer tables than in 2002, by about 500. More local people attended; certainly the reduced parking rate and additional parking helped. The ACBL wants to put us on a six year cycle.

The company that made the T-shirts sent the wrong color. They will be reimbursed for their cost of \$1500.

Eighty players from Leslie Schaefer's game attended the Nationals. It was suggested that money be appropriated for bidding boxes for her game, however the Board took no action.

October Sectional

Jim Geist volunteered to help on Saturday, and Clyde Kruskal Saturday morning. Nadine needs help during lunch. Ron Zucker volunteered to cook chili.

Nadine was awarded two gift certificates worth \$75 with the gratitude of the Board.

Nadine talked to the Senior Center about possibly holding the sectional there on Friday. Normally they have activities there until 3:30. We may be able to go there at 2 pm on Fridays, starting in March. Nadine will follow up.

Unit Game

Chris Miller reported that the printer is in a shaky state and the computer's days are numbered.

Mark Lavine's game is not included in the trophy races. Don Berman will check the minutes and wording on the web site.

Mentor Program

No report.

Brochure Distribution

Ellen Cherniavsky said that the brochures had been distributed to club owners.

Bridge in Schools

Elaine Conway is helping with this program. No report is available at this time. Ellen Rosenthal continues as adviser.

Future Location(s) of All WBL Events

[As background, Christ the King Church sent a certified letter to Fred King on 17 July 2009 stating that as of 1 January 2010 the rent would go up to \$350. We are now paying \$260, which is up from the \$225 paid for the last two years. Coincidentally, on 17 July Don Berman and Ellen Cherniavsky met with Jerry Kiewe, the executive director at Ohr Kodesh, to discuss the possibility of having our Unit Game in their Social Hall, which has been renovated since the last time we held the Unit Game there. Subsequently, on 13 August, Don Berman, Ellen Cherniavsky, Fred King and Millard Nachtwey met with Mr. Kiewe; Millard concluded that the space would accommodate the number of tables we usually have, including the Geer's game. All agreed that the lighting is better than at the church. According to Ellen Cherniavsky, the women's bathroom has three times the number of stalls as at the church, and is considerably more pleasant. Mr. Kiewe expressed willingness to accept rent in line with what we are now paying. One issue is where to store our tables, since Ohr Kodesh is currently using almost all its storage space. The suggested solution is to build a shed close to the existing one; Ohr Kodesh would split the cost, estimated at about \$1000, with us.]

Fred King moved that the Unit Game move to Ohr Kodesh as of the second Thursday in January, which would be after our sectional.

Ellen Cherniavsky moved that we should pay half the cost of the shed that will be used to store the tables, and up to \$300 per week in rent. Jim Geist seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Don Berman, President, and Clyde Kruskal, Chair of the Unit Game Committee, were authorized to conduct negotiations with Ohr Kodesh on behalf of the WBL.

Fred King will draft a letter to the church.

Machlin Selection Committee

Ellen Cherniavsky volunteered to continue on the committee. Jim Geist said he would forward emails.

Next Meeting

The next WBL Board meeting will take place October 7, 2009 at Hank Meyer's house. The Board thanked Fred King for his hospitality. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cherniavsky,
Secretary