

Potomac Curling Club Board Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2004

I. Call to Order:

Board members in attendance: Barry Bass*, John Bittner, Rich Collins, Nick Datlowe, Michael Fry, Dominique Banville, Ann Drummie, FL Ettlín, Barry Nichols, George Shirk

Board members absent: Kate Monagan

Other members in attendance: Charrissa Lin, Derek Surka

* Bass did not arrive until after election of President. His vote for that office was done by proxy.

II. Treasurer's Report

See report from May 15, 2004 Annual Meeting

III. Election of Officers

1. President

Two candidates were on the ballot. Bittner nominated Nichols (Collins second). Nichols declined the nomination. Bass (via proxy) nominated Banville (Datlowe second). Banville accepted the nomination. Bittner nominated Drummie (Ettlín second). Drummie accepted the nomination.

Drummie and Banville briefly outlined their interests and priorities. They also fielded a variety of questions from other board members, including how each perceived her ability to handle the demands of the job. Lin suggested that the board might wish to continue the discussion amongst themselves. Banville and Drummie subsequently left the room, allowing the remaining attendees to discuss the matter privately for several minutes.

Motion: Close discussion (1st—Collins; 2nd—Ettlín)

Vote: Motion approved

Drummie and Banville returned, and the board voted. Banville was elected president. (Shirk abstained.)

2. Vice-President

One candidate was on the ballot. Fry nominated Bass (Bittner second). Bass accepted the nomination.

Motion: Close nominations (1st—Bittner; 2nd—Collins)

Vote: Motion approved

The board voted, electing Bass to the office of vice-president.

3. Treasurer

One candidate was on the ballot. Nichols nominated Collins (Datlowe second). Collins accepted the nomination.

Motion: Close nominations (1st—Ettlin; 2nd—Fry)

Vote: Motion approved

The board voted, electing Collins to the office of vice-president.

4. Secretary

Two candidates were on the ballot. Ettlin nominated Fry (Collins second). Fry indicated his interest in stepping down, but declined to refuse the nomination. Ettlin then offered accept a nomination. Datlowe nominated Ettlin (Collins second).

Motion: Close nominations (1st—Banville; 2nd—Collins)

Vote: Motion approved

The board voted, electing Ettlin to the office of secretary. (Fry abstained.)

IV. Old Business

1. Mixed Nationals Budget and Contract

[Prior to the meeting Surka had distributed a draft budget prepared by event chair Scott Edie (attached).]

Bittner voiced his concerns:

- The budget projections were overly optimistic; most seemed to project a net loss to the club. If fundraising isn't successful—PCC didn't have a good year for fundraising—the club could lose \$10,000.
- Club members may resent losing ice-time for so much of the season.
- The potential gains may not outweigh the potential costs.

Lin, a two-time participant in the event, said she felt the projections for income were reasonable and not overly ambitious. Banville pointed out that the event committee will include a fundraising committee—something the club hasn't had this year, hence its poor performance in this area—and reminded us that hosting a national event was one of the club's 5-year goals. Bittner said he was simply concerned about the club's ability to make its loan payments; he wouldn't oppose the event if the board was committed to hosting it.

Nichols expressed his concern that the club also risked burning out its members through volunteering commitments. He noted that the club was already [approximately] \$10,000

short of making its first loan payment (due in November, 2004); an additional \$10,000 loss would be very problematic. On the other hand, he observed, if we really want to be the *National* Capital Curling Center, we'll need to take on this kind of event.

Drummie pointed out that a marketing committee had already begun working on the event. She expressed confidence that the club would not lose money.

Datlowe said he was not significantly concerned with the loss of ice time during the season—between the Inaugural Bonspiel and the Mixed Nationals, the membership will only lose ice time for the weekend of the GNCC Mixed Playdowns, which is only a weekend event. Moreover, members will be able to come to the club and watch a unique event.

Banville suggested that the next step would be to edit the contract (to eliminate and/or edit provisions that don't specifically apply to our situation) and have it signed. She and Surka agreed to review the contract and discuss the board's concerns with Edie.

2. Wireless Internet Connection

Bass reported that he'd spoken to the company, which agreed to waive the initial set-up fee. Collins noted that we'll need to communicate the acquisition of wireless Internet to the membership.

3. Kitchen Committee Update

Collins distributed a draft design and budget (attached). Noting the approximate costs, several members argued that the committee should establish design and construction priorities before raising money and beginning construction. (The committee shouldn't commit itself to design components that it can't pay for.) Collins asked for permission to broadcast the design and start collecting donations. Nichols offered to provide (i.e., loan) the initial funds so that the work could begin ASAP. Bittner said he was not in favor of accepting Nichols' offer because it would be yet another debt for the club to repay. Bass and Ettlin argued in favor of letting the committee start. [Drummie observed the growing number of fundraising efforts—Mixed Nationals, kitchen and bar committees, etc.—and suggested that the club should coordinate the efforts and establish a set of standards/protocols for fundraising. Nichols suggested that fundraising for the Nationals be limited to sources outside the club, while kitchen and bar donations (for example) could be solicited both inside and outside of the club.] Datlowe asked Collins when the committee could provide a prioritized list of kitchen upgrades and more concrete cost estimates. Collins and Nichols said they could provide the info at the next board meeting.

Motion: Authorize the kitchen committee to start general fundraising and publication of the building designs. (1st—Ettlin; 2nd—Bass)

Vote: Motion approved

V. New Business

- 1. Summer Planning**—The board discussed the need to begin preparations for the upcoming season. First on the list are the budget and the organizational chart.
- 2. PCC Golf Tournament**—Banville reported that proceeds from the golf tournament would go toward the kitchen committee. The board agreed that participants should be told ahead of time that their entry fees would be used for more than the cost of the event.

VII. Next Meeting: June 10, 2004

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn (1st—Ettlin; 2nd—Datlowe)

Vote: Motion approved