

MetroWest Chess Club Board Meeting Minutes

09-18-02

Kennedy Senior Center, Natick, Mass

Minutes Prepared by Harvey Reed & Mark Kaprielian

Scheduled: **6:30 PM**

Opened: **6:42 PM**

Closed: **11:15 PM**

Board Members		Arrive	Depart	Guests Present
President	Mark Kaprielian	Present	6:02	Howard Goldowsky
Program Director	Neil Cousin	Present	6:20	John Martin
Treasurer	Mike Barry	Absent		Jim Klinkenberg
	John Chamberlain	Present		
	Jim Krycka	Present		
	John Niarhos	Absent		
	Harvey Reed	Present	6:15	

Note: All vote tallies are shown as For – Against – Abstention, e.g. 5 – 2 – 1

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I. Meeting Called to Order

A. Introductory Remarks – Mark Kaprielian

President Mark Kaprielian welcomed those present to the meeting. He outlined his intent to run an efficient and productive meeting. He explained that he felt comfortable in the role of moderator for the meeting, as he has had a great deal of experience in that role for the various organizations he has been involved in.

B. Introduction of all present – *members introduce themselves*

All present introduced them selves.

C. Explanation of the meeting process – Mark Kaprielian

Mark distributed several full copies of the Policies and Procedures document and called attention to the section pertaining to the rules of order. A Quick Reference diagram was also distributed. He explained that only one person at a time should ever be speaking. That person is said to “have the floor”. When someone is the lead speaker for a topic, they are in effect, for the time of the discussion, also serving as a temporary moderator. The central moderator will attempt to be passive but will step in should guidance or assistance be necessary. Whoever should happen to be speaking at any given moment should be short and concise in making their opinion known. The moderator may decide that it is time for someone else to have the floor and recognize someone else to speak. Anyone wishing to speak prior to someone else concluding should raise his or her hand to be recognized and potentially be given the floor to speak.

D. Review of Agenda – Mark Kaprielian

No items were added to the agenda.

II. Reports

A. Correspondence Chess Program – Harvey Reed

Harvey related his experience playing and some of those of the others participating and explained about some of the types of play that is available through different organizations. He views the current involvement of the players as an experiment. So far there has been positive feedback. Weekly updates to the web site are made for viewing the games. If things continue will, thought will be put into establishing it as a formal MCC program.

B. GAP program – Mark Kaprielian

The charter for the program has been posted on the web for some time. So far, only one game since its inception in June has been submitted. Some discussion about various aspects was held such as low submittal rate and comparisons to earlier efforts where we just grabbed games and entered them ourselves. We like the idea, but don't know why people don't submit. Howard Goldowsky suggested we open it up to players of all ratings, not just the lower half. Some discussion about use of technology and question about promoting was also occurred.

C. Incorporation Status – Mark Kaprielian

Time was taken for people to read report. Few questions were asked.

D. Membership Status – Mark Kaprielian

Time was taken for people to read report. Some questions were asked about strengthening attracting higher players were asked. Mark asked people to read the recent “position paper” authored by Sisto, Reed, Kaprielian posted on the web. A question about goals for membership was deferred to later in the meeting. Newbie pricing, early encouragement, benefits of membership, book discounts were discussed.

E. Program Director's report – Neil Cousin / Mark Kaprielian

Refer to the Reports document for this Meeting

General approval of the break points, some discussion about exceptional cases that can't be avoided, the discussion (we don't), what about grand prix? We stopped doing it because we were previously in heavy recruiting mode for high rated players

F. Study Group program – John Chamberlain

Time was taken for people to read report. Discussion about getting game scores (recurring issue), how to keep the lower and higher rated people satisfied in the group. Average rating of attendees estimated at around 1300.

G. Summer Scholastics Program – Mark Kaprielian

Mark mentioned that the program was a success and well received. He directed people to read Alan Hodge's report on the web for the particulars. He mentioned that Alan's thoughts on the programs would be posted on the web site some time after the October issue of Chess Horizons in which it appears has been out. A question was asked if we could list the program as a benefit of club membership. The general consensus was that no, it is not of specific benefits to our membership.

H. TD Status – Mark Kaprielian

Time was taken for people to read report. A lengthy discussion about how to identify who the TDs. Mark stressed education, and posting TD on duty. Mark will work with TDs to resolve the issue of how to identify the TD on duty and what to do about the period when time control is likely being reached. John Chamberlain stated that he felt being able to identify the TD would increase the 'clubbiness' of the club.

I. Financial Status - Mark Kaprielian

Time was taken for people to read report. Mark explained the general workings of the clubs finances and the relationship of club dues and tournament income to expenses. John Chamberlain volunteered to create a balance sheet for this fiscal year.

J. Site report – Mark Kaprielian

An ad hoc report was requested on about our site was requested. Mark reported that we have been and continue to be in a good relationship with the Senior Center. Some cleanup issues and one pool table issue are the only matters that we've had to deal with in our time at the center. Our responsibility is to leave site clean, orderly and secure. Mark said that we have indefinite permission from the Dir, but the situation is in control of the town of Natick and could easily change.

III. Topics for Discussion and possible Action

A. Articles of Incorporation – Mark Kaprielian

1. Final Review if ready from the lawyers looking it over.

Mark reported that the document is still in back and forth review phase with the lawyers.

Motion_2002-09-01
Kaprielian, Krycka 2nd
To that we budget up to \$1000 to handle legal fees for incorporation and related non-profit filings.
Passed: 5 – 0 - 0

2. Signing the document

Once the back and forth editing process is complete, acceptance of the document and subsequent signing of it by all the board members would be offered up as a motion.

3. Completion of Email Vote on Bringing Bylaws into conformance, if not already completed.

The email vote on the Bylaw changes was not completed due to issues raised on several matters. A walk through the proposed changes was done and additional discussions were held. This produced a new version the group felt was ready for approval.

Motion_2002-09-02
Kaprielian, Chamberlain 2nd
To accept the Bylaw proposal as marked up at the meeting.
Passed: 5 – 0 - 0

B. Upcoming Elections – Mark Kaprielian

1. Prospective Board members

The non-board members in attendance were asked if any of them desired to express an interest at this time for running for the board. All wished to give it more consideration.

2. Should the Board size be increased for the next year.

This matter was not addressed.

3. Solicit from those in attendance whether they are willing to serve, desire to serve or wish to no longer serve on the board in the 7 various positions.

The following shows the status of various people in desiring to be on the board as ascertained in the week prior to the meeting.

President	Mark Kaprielian
Program Director	
Treasurer	
Willing to serve on the Board	John Bottini Harvey Reed John Chamberlain Jim Krycka
Willing to step off if others desire to be on the board.	Neil Cousin John Niarhos
Would prefer to not serve next term	Mike Barry

4. **Appointing the Club Elections officer for this year's election.**

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

C. **Insurance – Harvey Reed**

Harvey gave an overview of the reasons behind getting insurance and the factors in deciding what was appropriate. Some general clarifications were requested and explained.

Motion_2002-09-03
Kaprielian, Cousin 2nd
To accept the Zurich insurance proposal as prepared by Kathleen Fair of Fair-Yeagar insurance, Natick
Passed: 5 – 0 - 0

D. **Study Group Program – John Chamberlain**

1. **Assuring that the group meets every week.**

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

2. **Pool of available Study Group Leaders**

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

3. **Having material prepared in advance**

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

4. **Purchasing materials to enhance the program**

a) **Projector for demonstrations**

Time was taken for people to read proposal. Technical issues of connectivity, reliability, brightness, noise and other issues were discussed.

Motion_2002-09-04
Chamberlain, Krycka 2nd
That we plan to buy an LCD projector for educational purposes.
Passed: 4 – 0 - 0

Motion_2002-09-05
Reed, Krycka 2nd
That we approve an expenditure of up to \$800 for the purchase of a LCD projector, to be determined by John Chamberlain and Mark Kaprielian.
Passed: 4 – 0 - 0

5. **Establishing a process to ensure the well run operation of the program**

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

6. **Other steps that could be taken to improve the program**

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

E. Proposal for Book Study Group – Howard Goldowsky

Time was taken for people to read proposal. Howard discussed the overall approach the class would take. Some discussion about enlisting the aid of a Master either in person or over the Internet to assist with clarifying positions was held.

Motion_2002-09-06

Reed, Cousin 2nd

That the board accepts the proposal presented with a budget limit of \$300 for access to guest speakers.

Passed: 5 – 0 - 0

F. Establishing a regular set of board meetings to be held – John Chamberlain

Motion_2002-09-07

Chamberlain, Krycka 2nd

That we establish a regular set of board meetings to be held January, April, July and October on the 2nd Thursday of said month.

Passed: 3 – 2 - 0

G. Summer Scholastics Program – John Bottini (via submitted proposal)

Time was taken for people to read proposal. No discussion was held an a motion was put forward.

Motion_2002-09-08

Chamberlain, Krycka 2nd

That the board accept the proposal presented for the 2003 Summer Scholastic Program.

Passed: 5 – 0 - 0

H. Club Sponsorships to tournaments – John Niarhos

1. Granting a stipend to a top rated club member to a national tournament.

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

2. Granting a stipend to a scholastic player

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

a) Invited players to prestigious events

(1) When money supplied by the some other major organization

(2) When money not supplied by the some other major organization

b) Membership Criteria in the club to qualify – 2 weeks, 2 months, X games ??

3. Any events we want to try and send a representative too?

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

I. Adoption of new Policy and Procedures - Organization of meetings – Mark Kaprielian

1. Responsibilities placed on board members

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

2. Guideline for Agendas

This Topic was skipped when reached in the agenda.

J. Other Topics that may arise during the meeting

- Some discussion about the Grand Prix program and TLA submissions was held.

Motion_2002-09-09

Krycka, Reed 2nd

To Adjourn.

Passed: 4 – 0 - 0