



**Alberta Chess Association
Board of Directors
2018 Planning Meeting
Black Knight Inn, Red Deer
December 3, 2017**

Minutes

Attending: President Vladislav Rekhson, Vice-President Jim Daniluk, Secretary Ian Findlay, Directors Terry Seehagen, Dale Haessel, Brad Booker, Jordan Rohatynski, Daryl Bertrand, Wojtek Kowalczewski, and Executive Director Leah Hughey.

Meeting called to order at 11:10 AM by President Vladislav Rekhson.

The board reads and comments on the minutes from the 2017 May Board meeting. Dale motions to accept the minutes, Terry seconds. Unanimous.

At President Rekhson's request, all of the board members introduce themselves. Rekhson then gives an overview of what to expect from the meeting.

Leah Hughey presents the ACA financials. The ACA received a casino deposit of \$75,875 in August of 2017 and will not receive another until August of 2019. Additionally, the ACA is expecting an operating grant of approximately \$54,000 in the spring of 2018. After considering all liabilities and money already budgeted for other projects, the ACA has \$108,600 available in its operating account and \$82,100 in the casino account.

Rekhson explains the differences in the accounts, as well as the limits in spending on the casino account. The board discusses setting the spending limit for the next year. Wojtek mentions contingency funds. The board engages in general discussion starting at 11:50 as Vlad Rekhson steps out; the meeting resumes at 12:02. Jordan proposes that the ACA allocate \$128,000 for next year's budget with \$75,000 being allocated for general expenses and \$53,000 for the ED position. Jim seconds. 7 in favor with 1 abstention.

Rekhson then explains the roles of each of the ACA committees - Junior/Coaching, Audit, Bylaws, Technical, Appeals, and Conduct. Each committee is discussed and volunteers are added. The results are as follows:

Planning Committee: Vlad Rekhson, Terry Seehagen, Brad Booker, Wojtek Kowalczewski, and Ian Findlay

Junior/Coaching: Jina Burn (chair), Cristian Ivanescu, Vera Li, Wojtek Kowalczewski, Vlad Rekhson, Jordan Rohatynski

The board breaks for lunch at 12:20. During lunch, Wojtek gives a presentation about growing chess in Alberta, followed by an informal discussion.

The meeting resumes at 1 PM.

Audit Committee: Dale Haessel and Ian Findlay return as auditors. The board discusses the best ways to keep the audit members updated on financials.

Bylaws Amendment: Jim explains the bylaws that have been added over the last few years. While the bylaws need to be updated to take into account technological changes, there is no pressing need for changes this year, and the committee is not formed.

Technical Committee: Vlad Rekhson, Ian Findlay, Jim Daniluk, Daryl Bertrand

Appeals Committee: Vlad Rekhson, Micah Hughey, and Ali Razzaq return as the primary members with Jordan Rohatynski and Brad Booker serving as alternates.

Conduct Committee: Vlad Rekhson, Micah Hughey, Daryl Bertrand, Jim Daniluk, and Brad Booker

The board agrees to form a new committee to look into supporting smaller and new chess clubs around the province. The Membership Committee: Wojtek Kowalczewski (chair), Leah Hughey, and Jordan Rohatynski.

Wojtek wants the technical committee to send out at least one update per year for tournament directors in order to improve performance.

Jim moves to approve the committees. Daryl seconds. Unanimous.

The board moves on the 2018 tournament schedule. A request is made by Jordan and Daryl for a tournament workshop so that they can help as tournament directors during the year. Rekhson will attempt to create one over the holidays.

Minor adjustments are made to the dates and organizers for the first few tournaments. The board discusses Stefan Sklenka's proposal that the March of Kings be renamed the Steinitz-Menchik Chess Classic. After a discussion, a poll is conducted. Six directors favor renaming the March of Kings, two want to create a second tournament, and no one votes to keep March of Kings as is. Therefore, the March of Kings is renamed as the Steinitz-Menchik Chess Classic.

The board discusses Alexey Taranik's proposal that the Red Deer Open is eliminated in favor of putting a second rapid tournament in Red Deer. The board discusses the possibility of creating an Alberta Blitz Championship. A poll is conducted. Four directors prefer to add a blitz championship, two want a second active tournament, and one wants the Red Deer Open to continue. The board adds a blitz championship to the schedule.

The board discusses finding an organizer for the Edmonton International. Vlad Rekhson emphasizes the need for the tournament to continue. Terry volunteers to try to find an organizer.

Vlad Rekhson proposes adding a Junior Battle of Alberta. After a discussion, he calls for a poll. Four vote in favor, two opposed, and two abstentions.

At 3:06, Ian motions that the tournament calendar is approved. Terry seconds. 7 in favor and 1 opposed.

The board moves on to Vladimir Pechenkin's proposal regarding the financial reporting due at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The ACA bylaws (ARTICLE IX. FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION, Section 2) call for the board to submit an audited financial statement covering the most recent fiscal year. Leah details the reason for this: the document is required by the Alberta government as part of the Society Annual Return, as well as by funders of the ACA, such as RPAD. She spoke to two people at the corporate registry who emphasized that the financial statement should only cover a consecutive, twelve month fiscal year, and should not be done as a budget analysis.

Wojtek moves that the Executive Director continue doing the financial statement based on the fiscal year and in accordance with the ACA bylaws rather than as a budget analysis as done in the past. Seconded. Unanimous.

The board discusses the funding request from Agnieszka Matras-Clement, who has asked for a grant to attend the 2018 Canadian Women's Closed. The tournament, scheduled for December of 2017 in Montreal, was only announced in late October/early November. Agnieszka, who has recently become the highest rated female player in Canada, qualified to the Closed by being the runner-up in the last zonal. Various options are discussed, and concerns are raised over the late grant becoming a precedent.

Ian proposes that Agnieszka receive a one-time \$1,000 expense reimbursement to attend the 2018 Canadian Women's Closed. Seconded by Jordan. The board discusses conditions. The proposal is accepted with five in favor and three abstentions.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 27 in Red Deer. This meeting will discuss budgeting items.

The board discusses how to assist smaller and new clubs. Leah expresses a need for direction in this area, as current ACA policies are problematic from a logistical standpoint, as well as unfunded. Wojtek has been working on the issues. He brings up several ideas, including better ways to find out what the clubs need, better forms of feedback, and ways to measure success. The discussion is postponed until the budgeting meeting, with the Membership Committee to further discuss the issue beforehand.

The board discusses the alternate sentencing program currently under development in Lethbridge, where youth offenders are assigned chess as an alternative to punishment.

Daryl Bertrand's proposal is discussed. During the 2018 tournament season he wants all sections to be seeded according to the relevant rating (CFC or FIDE); eg, if a section is not FIDE rated it should not be seeded with FIDE ratings. The proposal is passed off to the technical committee.

Further proposals are deferred to the budget meeting.

The meeting adjourns at 4 PM with 7 in favor and one abstention.