



**Alberta Chess Association  
Board of Directors  
2019 Planning Meeting  
Black Knight Inn, Red Deer  
November 3, 2018**

## **Minutes**

Attending: President Angelo Tolentino, Vice-President Jim Daniluk, Treasurer Ali Razzaq, Directors Dale Haessel, Guoliang Wu, Magda Marais (Skype), and Rafael Arruebarrena, and Executive Director Leah Hughey.

Meeting called to order at 11:10 AM.

The board reads and comments on the minutes from the 2018 May Board meeting. Jim motions to accept the minutes, Rafael seconds. Four in favor, two abstentions.

Angelo introduces himself and talks about his background in chess. Magda introduces herself and thanks everyone for their support of Jina. Rafael introduces himself and mentions that he wants to focus more on organizing. Guoliang speaks to his past experience as an organizer and with working on websites.

Leah gives a brief address. The AGLC has just released the casino dates for the ACA's quarter, and the ACA will be hosting a casino in Edmonton on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 and Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at the Belvedere casino. She also mentions that she has been contacted by municipal representatives throughout Alberta who are interested in partnering with the ACA in organizing endeavors and requests that any interested organizer contact her for details.

Next up is the assigning of committees.

Planning Committee: Angelo (Chair), Ian Findlay, Jim, and Rafael

The planning committee will need to consider options in case the ACA cannot secure more funding for the ED position. Jim points out that he is one of the few people who served on the board before the ED position existed.

Junior/Coaching Committee: Vlad Rekhson (Chair), Guoliang, Angelo, Cristian Ivanescu, Frank Kluytmans, and Magda.

Leah points out that the junior committee will need to look at finishing some of the 2018's committee work.

Audit Committee: Ian, Dale

Dale wants the audit documents prepared by the ED to include more information on pending transactions and transactions that carry over between quarters.

Appeals: Ali (Chair), Dale, Vlad, and Rafael

Conduct: Angelo (Chair), Jim, Dale, Ali, Rafael

Technical: Angelo (Chair), Vlad, Frank

Bylaws: Jim (Chair), Angelo, Guoliang.

Jim will look for another member from outside Calgary.

Leah has requested that the ACA appoint an ED Funding Task Force, which will have the sole purpose of creating and implementing a plan to restore ED funding. No one is willing to head the task force. Magda and Ian are assigned as members. Leah will look for a head for it.

Jim motions to approve the committees. Magda seconds. All in favor.

Break for lunch at 12:10. Return at 1 PM.

Leah gives a breakdown of the budget. The ACA has \$175,998 in its accounts, with \$11,674 in pending transactions and a maximum of \$45,882 budgeted for future projects, leaving a usable total of \$118,440. For the casino account in particular, the ACA could dip as low as \$27,886 at the beginning of the year if all funded items go through. The ACA should receive approximately \$75,000 in casino funding in August of 2019, which will cover casino-eligible expenses for two years.

The Board sets two numbers at the Planning Meeting: the overall budget for general expenses in 2019 and the amount dedicated to the ED position in 2019. In the previous two years, the Board had set general expenses at \$75,000; however, the ACA has burned off some of its excess casino funding during that time.

Dale motions that the cap be set at \$62,000. There is significant discussion. Jim motions that the cap be set at \$65,000. Dale seconds. There is another long discussion on budgeting details, then the Board unanimously votes to approve \$65,000 as the overall budget.

Next, the Board discusses the cap on the ED position. The ACA has already received \$13,686 for the position in 2019 and is expecting to receive \$27,373 more, leaving a total of \$41,059 available. After a discussion, Ali motions to set the ED budget at \$41,000 if no more funding is found; however, if additional funding is approved, the budget will be \$53,000. Rafael seconds. The planning committee will make a recommendation regarding the future of the ED position before the budget meeting. Unanimous.

The Board moves on to the 2019 tournament schedule. Steve Sklenka has volunteered to organize the Calgary tournaments, so he is slotted in as the organizer for all of the adult tournaments there. A motion by Angelo is considered to switch the timing of the AYCC and Chess Challenge cycles, as the Canadian Chess Challenge happens much earlier than the CYCC. Magda wants the AYCC to be later in the year, allowing for better travel to Fort McMurray. Leah advises against moving the Chess Challenge regionals too early in the year, as some organizers do not want that. In the end, the AYCC is slated for April and the Chess Challenge for March.

Rafael speaks to his wish to hold more active and one-day tournaments. The Board considers combining the Alberta Active and Blitz Championships. The matter remains somewhat unresolved, but the Alberta Blitz Championship is removed from the tournament calendar.

The Calgary International doesn't have a guaranteed organizer this year. Steve Sklenka has submitted a proposal for a Calgary Masters IM tournament, which will be used to help juniors and other Albertans get IM norms. Guoliang is concerned about losing the traditional August date, but Sklenka is unavailable in early August. There is concern about losing the title "Calgary International." Eventually, the board combines the two events into one, but slots it into the September long weekend instead of its traditional date.

Other adjustments are made to the proposed calendar. Rafael motions to accept it. Jim seconds. Five in favor with one abstention.

Angelo has a proposal that all junior tournaments should include a girls section. Dale doesn't want to impose on other organizations. There is general support for increasing the participation of girls. Angelo withdraws the motion.

Dale motions to eliminate associate memberships. There is a lengthy discussion on the various ways the ACA collects memberships and amounts. Dale wants to encourage clubs to pay for regular ACA memberships and to clarify what associate members are eligible for. He changes his motion to: clubs submitting only associate memberships won't be eligible for venue or equipment support from the ACA. Ali seconds. Unanimous.

Angelo motions that the ACA provincial coordinator be sent to the Chess N' Math annual general meeting; he also thinks Alberta might be asked to host the Canadian Chess Challenge in the coming years. There is a discussion of costs. The motion is tabled until the budget meeting.

Dale motions that the ACA start advertising on the website. There is a discussion of logistics, sponsorships, types of advertising, etc. Magda speaks to the importance of sharing the recognition of sponsors. There is general support for getting tournament sponsors listed on the website, but the board is less enthusiastic about general advertising, particularly the risk of inappropriate ads and the possibility of the website looking unprofessional.

Dale motions that the ACA will consider website advertising on a case-by-case basis and that the ED will do limited solicitations of sponsors by posting on the ACA webpage and facebook page about the opportunity. Seconded by Jim. Four in favor, two abstentions.

Daryl Bertrand had sent in a proposal that the ACA create and formalize a transparent and cohesive conflict resolution structure to deal with ACA matters. The Board requests that the ED send Daryl a copy of the ACA's Dispute Resolution Policy to see if that covers his concerns.

The Board discusses ways to honor Jina Burn. The Board declares that Jina will be named the 2018 ACA Coach of the Year. In consultation with Magda, the 2019 Fort McMurray Open is renamed the Jina Burn Memorial.

Leah updates the board on the All-Girls Chess Camps. After the camps in Fort McMurray, Edmonton, and Calgary, there was approximately \$2,000 left in grant money that must be used by the end of the year. As Calgary had girls turned away from their camp due to excessive demand, the board agrees to give the money to the CJCC to run girls events. The events must be in keeping with the original grant proposal, used by the end of the year, and cannot be used towards previously existing or competitive events.

Additionally, the ACA took in approximately \$1700 in entry fees for the camps in Edmonton and Calgary. Jim recommends turning this money into a girls bursary. The board will look into this further at the Budget Meeting.

The board tentatively sets the date of the Budget Meeting for Saturday, December 8 at 11 AM, pending consultation with the rest of the board.

Jim motions to adjourn. Ali seconds. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.