

FTLBC Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date – May 13, 2024

4:01 p.m. – Meeting called to order by President Jonathan Salt

Board members present: Daniel Tordella, Allen Bozek, Knyvett Lee, Alan Rubin, Bella Ionis-Sorren, Rick Shapiro and Jonathan Salt.

Club manager Emilio Lopez was present.

1. **April 2024 Board Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes of the April 8, 2024 FTLBC Board meetings were approved.

2. **Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Rick Shapiro announced his resignation from the Board, effective 6/13/24 or such earlier time as agreed by all concerned. The Board thanked Rick for his long hours of quality service to the Club.

a. **Accounting/cash procedures:** The Board discussed the possible need for revisions to cash / reporting / book keeping procedures to include possible elimination of cash payments by members for game fees.

b. **Cash:** Total bank, *PayPal* and petty cash/change balance was \$88,945.58 as of April 30, 2024.

c. **Operations:** FTLBC had a net operating loss of \$2,588.57 for April 2024 and has a net operating gain of \$42,707.75 year-to-date through April 30, 2024.

3. **Club Manager's report:**

a. **Table count** for April 2024 was 438 compared to 317.5 in April, 2023.

b. **Club cleaning fees:** The Board approved the cleaners' notice of increase to \$490.00 per week, which the Manager reported was still less than the *market* rate.

- c. Possible Club Rental: The Board discussed possible rental of the Club premises to 3rd parties and reviewed a proposed rental contract submitted by Board member Lee. Insurance and other considerations were discussed. Club rental (or not) to be determined.
- 4. **President's report**: President Salt reported:
 - a. Allegro sponsorship: Probably will not happen because of lack of continued interest by Allegro.
 - b. 24 FTLBC Budget: Pending.
 - c. Credit from Paradise AC: Pending. Probably will not happen.
 - d. 2025 Cruise: Joint cruise venture with Quick Tricks has been approved and is in progress. To date, 12 rooms have been booked.
 - e. Possible bylaws update: Pending.
 - f. Recognition Policy: Pending.
 - g. Accident/liability reporting: Barbara Sunshine, Insurance Committee Chair, to follow up.
 - h. Punch card usage: May be discontinued as part of accounting revisions. Board member Tordella to follow up informally with members that presently utilize the punch cards.
 - i. Banner Modification: To be followed up by the Club Manager to more clearly identify the Club to passersby.
 - j. Guest fees for non members: Possible increase to \$15.00 was discussed but not submitted to Board vote.
 - k. Mike Wolf zoom lessons: Approved.

5. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Events Committee: FTLBC needs an Events Committee chair.
- b. House Committee (Chair Allen Bozek):
 - (1) Chair Alan Bozek continues to expertly manage the committee.
 - (2) Emergency lights maintenance / replacement pending.
 - (3) Volunteers for this crucial committee are needed.
- c. Education Committee (Chair Robin Kupperman):
 - (1) Beginner bridge series – possible resumption in the fall.
 - (2) Two over one and advanced beginner lessons being considered.
 - (3) Limited mentor game participation is waning.
 - (4) Let's all remember to be nice and welcoming to all the new players.
 - (5) Supervised games, free 30-minute lessons and mentor games continue.
- d. Grievance and Ethics Committee (Chair Daniel Tordella):

The Board suspended a club member for repeated zero tolerance violations.
- e. Insurance Committee (Chair Barbara Sunshine): Nothing to report.
- f. Membership: Chair Rosemary Boden reported:
 - (1) Chair Boden expressed concern that players who have not paid the membership fee for 2024 are pay the member rate.
 - (2) Chair Boden suggested an increase to \$15.00 for non-member game fees.
 - (3) Chair Boden reported that she reviewed ACBL data and reported that:
 - i. 750 people have played bridge at FTLBC since 1/1/2023;
 - ii. About 450 people have paid the 2024 FTLBC membership fee;

iii. FTLBC has 400 players with less than 300 masters points, which suggest that the Club should focus more on the newer and less experienced players to foster growth (and survival) of the Club.

(4) Chair Boden will be absent during much of November 2024 and suggested procedures to implement in October to maximize 2025 membership / dues, **especially to have a daily second separate table/station at the Club to enroll members and accept payment.**

g. Marketing (Chair Knyvett Lee):

(1) The Board agreed that the banners should be modified / increased to expose the words "Bridge Club."

5:28 p.m. – Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Daniel F. Tordella – FTLBC Secretary