

Minutes  
MISGA Board of Directors Meeting  
December 5, 2023  
Montgomery Country Club  
Laytonsville, MD

A scheduled meeting of the MISGA board was called to order by President Ciandella at 9:55 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Present were Tom Ciandella, Paul Bate, George Blair, Chuck Woods, Carl Lazar, Greg Morris, Lloyd Stimson, Bob Hodges, Tom Tarpley, Jack Sullivan, Gary Kramer, Eric Branfman, Mike Capoletti, Jake Jacobi, Mike Olson and Ken Bacon. Absent were Jim Ewalt, Doug Walters and Pete Sorge.

Tom presented his year-end comments, expressing thanks to board members and directors. He thanked outgoing secretary Mike Olson whose term as an officer and division director is expiring. The new secretary will be Chuck Woods, effective 2024. Tom will become director for Div 1 and Tom Hackett will be assistant director. Jake Jacobi has agreed to succeed Chuck Woods as chair of Planning and Policy.

No new report from vice president.

Secretary Olson reminded the board of the updated bylaws distributed after the last meeting. The minutes of that meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer George Blair reviewed 2023 financials, mentioning a small operating loss of \$1,000, due mainly to division rebates. Other line-item variances were minimal.

Jake Jacobi presented Associates report. The due date for dues was earlier changed to Sept. 1 and it has worked well for financial purposes. The annual associates dues report is used by the board for planning purposes and two major tournaments. Total associates down 3% from 2022 and one club loss with Chartwell's departure. During COVID we lost 17% of our associates.

Jack Sullivan reviewed the annual audit of the operations budget and the MISGA tournaments. Results indicated no issues relating to any of the financials.

No report from general counsel Jim Ewalt.

1.

Tournament chair Jack Sullivan announced plans for a MISGA tournament Feb 28-Mar 2 in Crystal River and Oct 6-10 in Virginia Beach. A spring event is being planned in 2025 from May 6-11.

Historian Lloyd Stimson reviewed updates to rosters of past presidents and board actions taken over last several years.

Membership Carl Lazar announced the loss of Eagle's Nest due to lack of participation and a Club Rep. No new prospects on the horizon.

MISGAGRAM editor Bob Hodges wants submissions by 12/26 to next edition, including an address from the president.

Tom Tarpley presented update on Past Presidents and Ad Hoc. He presented a green jacket to director Carl Lazar.

Planning chair Chuck Woods advised he would be presenting bylaws changes later in the agenda.

Gary Kramer reviewed handicap policy changes in the World Handicap program. He will submit a summary for the next issue of MISGAGram.

Greg Morris advised we had over 100 players in two 2023 tournaments (ABCD and Two Player).

There is no need for qualifying rounds due to large participation. Both Holly Hills and Crofton have agreed to host the same events in 2024. Paid out 35% of prize pools to tournament winners, thanks to a budget subsidy from the board.

Jake Jacobi said the website was running well but not actively used. Communications via the website can be enhanced with more support from all clubs and reps. Estimated 50 updates during 2023.

There is a cost for third party support of website and host fee, both paid annually to maintain our domain name. Ken Bacon will assume website oversight in 2024. Where there is time-sensitive information posted to the website, a medium is necessary to alert members to access the site. Jake has been alerting leadership mailing list of important issues and relies on division directors to send this on to their club reps who would then share with club members. **THIS NEEDS TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM FOR ANNUAL MEETING WITH DIVISION DIRECTORS.**

2.

Division 1-There are three new club reps. There is concern about dwindling participation at Eagle Creek.

Division 2 – Earlier issues this year threatened continuity of division. Jake Jacobi assumed interim role as director and addressed the challenges, including two separate bank accounts, now established as one account. Doug Walters from Rattlewood will replace Jake in the spring.

Div 4 - Paul Bate could not get Blue Mash to host any MISGA events. A change in ownership has influenced that course's policy toward MISGA. Paul is still trying to keep the club involved, with 12 members during 2023. Concern for Norbeck's low participation.

Div 6 - Greg Morris advised 2300 participants total at all events in 2023. All member clubs are continuing strong support for MISGA and events during the year.

Paul Bate asked if consideration should be given to division structures going forward. **BOARD WILL DISCUSS FURTHER AT FIRST 2024 MEETING.**

## Old Business

Terms of officers should be addressed. Chuck Woods has submitted proposed amendments to allow two-year terms for president and vice president, limited without reelection and other officers and committee chairs for two-year terms, eligible for reelection. He moved we adopt these changes effective immediately. The new language will be updated in the MISGA bylaws. After a second, discussion ensued. Point was made that future discussion needed on allowing remote/virtual meetings when necessary. **BRING THIS UP AT FIRST 2024 BOARD MEETING.** Original motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on subsidizing tournament entry fees by \$10 per participant, due to anticipated year-end financial condition. Consensus was to take no action at this time.

Issue of event no-shows discussed again. Problems seem more evident with those clubs using off-site meal providers.

Cancellations are handled differently, some through pro shop and some through reps. Should ask club reps to articulate their cancellation policy and procedure as part of the confirmation letters exchanged among clubs.

Some discussion about whether to propose standardized player roster letter for host clubs. **NEEDS FURTHER DISCUSSION AT FIRST 2024 BOARD MEETING.** Issues with TMR software for signups for those clubs using the system. The problem seems to be with GoDaddy host. Chuck Woods is pursuing the best process going forward.

3.

## New Business

Tom confirmed incumbent committee chairs will continue in office in 2024.

Chuck Woods will post unlocked club and division reports formats to the MISGA website in an effort to reach more uniformity in reporting.

The board agreed annual board and rep meeting will be at Prospect Bay March 26 with backup March 27.

2024 Budget presented to board prior to meeting and discussion led by George Blair. Loss of two clubs reflected in dues total of \$16,000. CD renewed at 4.65 interest this past summer. Will delete internet and substitute \$325 for annual website license expense. Reduce division line and leave contingency at \$2000. **FINAL APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET WILL BE ON AGENDA AT FIRST 2024 BOARD MEETING.**

Lloyd Stimson presented some new past president green jacket pocket patches he secured for current and future past presidents.

Disciplinary issue in Div 1 between with a visiting associate at Prospect re behavior regarding 50/50 and play fee issue. Behavior was abusive and Tom advised the player he would not be allowed at Prospect mixers going forward. Motion made under Section X 3.c, member will be disciplined per bylaws protocol, the intent being to remove this player from MISGA membership entirely. Passed by unanimous vote.

Motion and second to adjourn, passed as of 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by

Michael Olson, Secretary