

Minutes -- April 4, 2022 MCA Board Meeting

In Attendance:

L. Nizin, M. Sobol, R. Prosten, J. Simon, M. Binder, P. Sherman, L. Israelite, I. Kushnir, M. Weisberg, W. Kargher, E. Feldman (by phone)

Meeting called to order @ 8:32 AM by President Les Nizin. Meeting conducted electronically via Zoom.

Secretary's report:

Morris Binder moved adoption of March 7, 2022 minutes as previously distributed, Second Weisberg. Nizin calls for changes or corrections. Unanimous voice approval of minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Nizin moves acceptance of Treasurer's report as submitted. Binder seconds.

Nizin notes that there is no **budget** included and reaches out for Feldman via phone. Discussion of who should prepare next year's budget and how it should be done. Feldman feels the incoming administration is better placed to do this and Sobol believes that it should be done by former Treasurer Feldman.

Sobol indicates that his request was for a projection for end of this year. But, noting that he is "doing a 180" he does not see this as a task for the incoming President. Feels all outgoing officers should fulfill duties until July 1. Notes that Federation wants a budget projection from us by end of April – a simple projection of income & expenses, not necessarily an activity by activity analysis. Feldman notes that spreadsheet request from JFGN requests very specific breakdowns – by event and month.

President Nizin recently had a "**monthly**" meeting with the Federation and the WCA. On dues, they have agreed to our request: whatever monies we (and the WCA) have at the end of our fiscal year, June 30, will be earmarked, and possibly applied to any future dues increases demanded by the Federation. JFGN is looking for another half million dollars to run the plant – and their expectation is that by January of next year, the building will be open and operational. (Ed Feldman notes that, in MCA's experience, depending on the year, this number has been between \$12 - \$30,000).

Funds accumulated will be held aside but how they'll be applied depends on numerous other factors, including future contributions, performance of the markets, and ability to control rapidly increasing costs – insurance in particular. So no dues increase at this time, but probably at this time next year.

Michael Sobol notes that JFGN is looking for an additional \$100,000 from WCA & MCA – without reference to relative size of the two groups – just not doable – so they'll have to figure out something else. This \$100,000 would be over and above any dues supplied to the Federation by MCA & WCA.

With regard to the operation of the building itself, Jeffrey Feld has told us that:

- No charge ever for any MCA use of building
- JFGN will have a primary caterer – costs to be covered by us if we utilize, but we can choose alternative.

Unanimous acceptance of report as submitted.

President's Report:

Luncheons

Luncheon at DeRomo's this Thursday, close to 100 registrants. After cancellations, my calculation is we have 96 or 97 people in attendance, which is pretty good. From this point forward, if anyone cancels, we're going to abide by our policy, and not refund.

Last month, we voted to have one price for next year's lunches – \$37. DeRomo's is costing us \$36.75 for Thursday's lunch, no idea what the Roma's will be charging next year, something to be discussed with the Event Manager. There's a commitment from the Audubon for \$35. So do we just stick with, and advertise \$37 across the board going forward (“that's my suggestion at this point”) or do we want to think about it until we get closer to the season? Prices may have increased by then.

Larry Israelite says no need to decide now, as registration will not be open until October.

Les notes that that the number would have an impact on the budget being submitted to JFGN, so happy to leave it at \$37.

Bereavement

Steve Brazina and Steve Weiss, both founders and original board members of MCA died within last month. WCA will be honoring deceased board members by purchasing pavers honoring their service at new JFGN building. General agreement that we should similarly honor all deceased board members with pavers consistent with what WCA is sponsoring.

Max Weisberg suggests that at the end of the year we're going to contribute more money anyhow, so “kill two birds with one stone” and donate a paver – as the proceeds would go to Federation it would be a “win win”. Nizin and Sobol agree with concept, but say JFGN wants money over and above the end of year reversion. Federation wants “new” money – is already counting our year end surplus as “old” money.

Additional discussion of Weisberg suggestion. He wonders why the JFGN, having undertaken a building bigger than it can afford, is leaning on us. Nizin notes that JFGN board and Jane Schiif have insisted that “this building is for YOU!! (MCA & WCA members).

Sobol moves, second Kushnir “that we buy pavers, equal to what the women are buying, for all deceased board members, past, current and future at the \$360 or \$720 level”. Motion passes (all in favor except for 1 abstention).

Guest policy

Discussion of substitute guest policy suggested by Feldman committee. Nizin moves, Binder seconds its acceptance. Motion fails. Old policy remains in effect.

Current Out of Town Guest Policy

An out of town guest may attend a MCA function under the following conditions:

- 1. The attendee must be an out of town guest and must be accompanied at the event by a MCA member in good standing*
- 2. The guest attendee can attend one (1) MCA function in a calendar year*
- 3. In order for the guest to attend a MCA function he must be pre-approved by the Activity Coordinator of that activity*
- 4. A guest can only attend a MCA function if all MCA members who wish to attend that MCA function have the opportunity to do so*
- 5. All waivers/release documents required of MCA members to participate in that MCA activity must be executed and submitted to the Activity Coordinator by the guest including but not limited to the MCA long form waiver / release before the guest can participate in that MCA activity.*
- 6. Any fee that is paid by a MCA member to attend or participate in the event must also be paid by the MCA member's guest*
- 7. The attendee must possess the requisite skill level to participate in the event; i.e. pickleball, kayaking, and biking.*

Dinner Dance

Michael Sobol updated financial information relating to dinner dance. Income \$85 times 180. Subsidy \$5,000. There's the total income. There's the bill from the caterer at 19,009 18. So net loss after the \$5,000 subsidy is \$1,011.35. This is after an adjustment by the caterer who presented 6 ounce steaks instead of the 8 ounce steaks originally contracted (and billed) for.

Les Nizin notes that at the March board meeting Sobol offered to personally pick up the cost overrun, once its extent was known. Suggests it would now be in order to consider Larry Israelite's previously deferred motion (seconded by Sobol) to reimburse Sobol for full overage of \$1,011.35. Sobol says that is not needed as bill has already been paid in full. Nizin wants it on record that such a payment was subsequently approved by the board.

Jim Simon suggests that charging attendees an additional \$10 would have solved the issue and saved the MCA \$1,000. He suggests that should be the practice in the future. Sobol believes that this will not be an issue going forward as next year's dance will be at Vineyards – easier to control costs. Nizin notes that subsidies to dance have increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 to \$5,000 and now over \$6,000.

Discussion of whether and to what extent future dances are to be subsidized. Sobol says he would accept a no subsidy situation.

Original Motion to cover the \$1,011.35 is called & passes without dissent.

Refund Policy

Larry Israelite reports that approximately 73 members are due refunds of approximately \$2,800. Believes it should be dispensed lest it be a drag on next year's income if we don't issue refunds. This is an end of year change from prior stance that we should not refund. Payments made by credit card can be reimbursed by credit card if less than 6 months old. Otherwise a check has to be issued. There is a \$.30 cost to us for each credit card refund, but not clear what happens to the 9% transaction fee connected with original charge. Larry indicates the work involved in the refunds would take less than an hour. (No motion – seeming acceptance of refunding all).

MCA Officers' job responsibilities

President Nizin notes that as by-laws were being changed, Larry Israelite had submitted a document last October that specified officer duties, but removed them from bylaws. He did this so that changes could be made quickly. Contents were not considered while bylaws were being discussed. Nizin believes it should be adopted if future officers are to know what they are agreeing to do. In response to a question from Prosten, Nizin says this document (dated "April 2022" is identical to the original document dated "October, 2021" – only the date on cover has been changed.

Prosten believes that the current document does not reflect duty shifts urged by Israelite at the March 4, Board meeting to insulate him from the ire of some members. The duty shifts proposed involved alterations in the duties of Treasurer, Secretary and President. While the shifts were not all adopted as proposed there were changes made to the duties of the President and the Membership Engagement head – changes Prosten believes not reflected in the document currently being considered.

President Nizin expresses concern that future officers have not been fully informed about the duties of the jobs they will be elected to in 3 days. And on July 1, they're going to be told, "wait a minute, that's not your duties anymore. Your duties are going to be this plus that."

Michael Sobol says that there will definitely be changes in duties, so the matter should not be discussed now – it should be deferred until a new board is in place. He notes that the job Les is taking on is too big for one person and that as President he (Michael) will be handling a portion of the Program Chair's duties. President Nizin notes that a motion to table would take precedence and Sobol so moves, Israelite second. Motion fails 3-7.

Prosten notes that there has apparently been much discussion of this material amongst a very few people. He moves to defer consideration until the next meeting so that further explanations of duty changes can be put forth. Second Sobol. Motion passed.

Les will be inviting newly elected officers to the next meeting – perhaps they'll better understand their job functions as a result.

Program Committee Report:

Michael Sobol reports attending a meeting of younger MCA members and some of their friends who are not members, but interested in creating a group that has a younger profile. They call themselves MCA Next Gen and their target members would be 65 & under. However, their programs would be open to all MCA members. They understand that all of their participants must be MCA members and that they will be subject to the MCA's bylaws and procedures – particularly Wild Apricot.

Michael read their mission statement:

The mission of the younger MCA division is to encourage members to network with each other, build solid relationships and have fun. This will be achieved through the organization and participation in various activities as established by the executive of this division.

Prosten thinks the idea great but is concerned with the terms "Division" and "Executive". There is no other grouping in MCA that uses such terms. Israelite says its not what it might seem – these are businessmen who talk a different language. They will not have separate officers and will not be a division – just another MCA interest group.

Sobol yield rest of his presentation to Max Weisberg, who presented a suggestion for an annual Norman Goldberg Sportsman of the year award:

1. *A committee of 3 will be appointed by the Head of Programming, subject to the approval of the President.*
2. *Eligible Groups:*
 1. *Pickleball*
 2. *Bocce*
 3. *Kayaking*
 4. *Biking*
 5. *Walking*
 6. *Shooting*
 7. *Golf*
 8. *Ping Pong*
 9. *Pool*
 10. *Other recurring sports activities that may be added to the MCA catalog of programs.*
3. *Any MCA member who has been active for 2 full years and has been a regular participant in at least one sport may be nominated.*
4. *Nominations may be made by any participant in one or more of the eligible sports.*
5. *The committee will announce the winner which does not require board approval.*

The award would read as follows:

Norman Goldman Award for Outstanding MCA sportsmanship. This award is presented to the MCA member who has inspired friendship and camaraderie by acting as a mentor, teacher and advisor for sporting and athletic events, while enhancing MCA as an organization.

Discussion of the concept centered on timing, eligibility and that the sport had to be physical in nature. Phil Sherman wondered why center on sports? Why not games, socializing or eating? Sobol suggests that Phil develop criteria for such awards and present them for consideration.

Consensus that award is a good idea, perhaps should be presented at a different time of year – maybe March – so as not to compete for attention with the Volunteer of the year (Founders') award. The award will be a nameplate on a plaque that will hang on wall in MCA's office at Federation

After further discussion Max Weisberg moves to create a Norman GoldmanSportsmanship award . First one to be presented at MCA's first membership meeting of the year in November. For the first award, Goldman's widow Jen and the bocce players would be invited to participate. Jen will also be invited to present the award. Award need not be annual. Will be reserved for particularly meritorious situations.

Motion passed unanimously.

Technology & Membership Report:

Larry Israelite presented a visual report which is attached as "April Report.PDF".

Membership Committee:

Thas total members as of a couple of days ago at 657. 5 new members in March. Ira would like to have the membership polled about their summer plans and residence. He believes there are at least 260 (self-described) full time resident members. We might assess their wishes for Summer programming.

Larry Israelite agrees to put such a poll together.

All members have now signed waiver.

Larry Israelite wonders if money from new members is being applied to correct MCA fiscal year by JFGN. Feldman says that the Federation accepts the payments no matter when they come in, but has a set protocol as to when the money is recognized. It is Federation policy and beyond our reach. If somebody pays for a year's dues in March, for example, that income is not recognized by the Federation until the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Documentary Films:

Richard Prosten reports reaching out to Temple Shalom with our preferred dates for next year. They were willing to give us the first Tuesday of November, December and January, but couldn't commit beyond that. There will be a \$200 fee for use of the sanctuary. For each movie, there will be a minimum three hours of their AV tech person at \$75 an hour (4200 minimum), and \$100 extra for custodial.

Larry Israelite had a subsequent conversation and believes we can get fees waived.

LesNizin proposes that going forward the Doc Films Group will be called the Brazina Doc Film Group. This has been discussed with WCA and his widow Rhonda. Unanimous support and approval.

Michael Sobol believes the Temple should not be charging us at all, given its relationship with JFGN. He will explore further.

Les reminds all of lunch scheduled at Ninja.

Sobol reports that WCA will be buying \$360 pavers as memorials.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM

Next (Virtual) Board Meeting May , 2022 @ 8:30 AM

Richard Prosten
Secretary

At the request of Michael Sobol, the board was polled for approval to spend up \$1895.00 (\$900.00 now) to engage the services of a comedian for a Dec 20, 2022 comedy show. President Nizin reports it was approved. approved by the board

At the request of the President, post Board meeting polls were conducted on 2 items:

1. To permit the glass tour of 4-13-22 to be co-ed as to the 7 members that had previously signed on for the event.....The vote 8yes, 3 no response...the activity as outlined is co-ed.

2. To approve the appointment by the President of Spencer Forman as treasurer, to fill the unexpired term of Ed Feldman, June 30,2022... The vote 8 yes, 3 no response. The appointment of Spencer Forman is effective immediately.