



## **Northwest Chess Special Board Meeting Sunday, January 26, 2020 via Zoom (online meeting)**

In attendance: Chouchanik Airapetian (WCF), Eric Holcomb (Business Manager), Alex Machin (director-at-large), Duane Polich (Publisher), Jeff Roland (ICA) and Josh Sinanan (WCF). Ralph Dubisch joined at 8:19 p.m. Absent: Adam Porth (ICA). Time: The meeting was called to order at 7:51 p.m.; and was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes – The December (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter) meeting minutes were read in summary and approved [Duane/Jeff].

News – (1) It was reported that the Portland Chess Club has a new board of directors. (2) Duane spoke with Frank Niro on Jan. 20 at Pacific Northwest Chess Center (PNWCC). (3) ICA has a new easier way for members to add a NWC magazine subscription online. (4) The WCF still needs to decide on a dues increase; there was not enough time to discuss at the WCF board meeting in January.

Bylaws – Due to the change in status of OCF and ICA, NWC Bylaws changes are needed. Eric drafted Bylaws changes for review, and these were discussed in December, at which time a motion passed to give Frank Niro one additional month to make progress before any Bylaws changes are adopted. Although we are still waiting for Frank, the board discussed and decided to adopt the new Bylaws anyway. Motion [Duane/Jeff], passed unanimously. Separate motion [Eric/Josh] to make Jeff Roland, Alex Machin and Ralph Dubisch directors at large under the revised Bylaws. Passed unanimously.

Memberships/Subscriptions – No additional discussion.

Budget/Finances – The NWC budget is temporarily OK again because of the generous donation made by Josh. A business plan is still needed. Will review finances at the regular 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter meeting.

Grand Prix – It was suggested that the 2020 Northwest Chess Grand Prix be named in memory of Mike Neeley, a former NWC editor who was active in Tacoma in the 1990s. Approved with motion [Ralph/Duane] and unanimous vote. There was a second motion [Ralph/Josh] calling upon WCF to add “in memory of Mike Neeley” or similar language to the name of the upcoming Northwest Chess Open event. This motion also passed unanimously. An article about Mike Neeley subsequently appeared in the March magazine. Mike’s surviving family has approved these actions.

Magazine Committee – A digital edition of NWC magazine is still to be decided. An inquiry will be made with David Hendricks regarding the online registration system, and if it could be used as the platform for making a digital issue available to subscribers. Chouchan suggested some ideas for the magazine to add variety: contests, stories for and by kids, puzzles, selfies, etc. It will be left up to the editor and publisher to decide on new types of content.

OCF Negotiations – Duane and Josh are in communication with Frank Niro, Mike Morris and the Portland Chess Club. We are still awaiting follow-up and further actions. No progress to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. [motion Jeff/Duane; agreed by all].

Recorded and transcribed by Eric Holcomb.