

Board Meeting Minutes

American Go Association

Meeting Date and Time: May 17, 2020, 8:00 pm EDT

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Overview

Summary

In the regularly scheduled May 2020 meeting of the AGA Board of Directors, the board discussed the continued impact of COVID-19 on the go community, including forthcoming recommendations to continue to minimize or adjust in person go play given COVID-19 related health concerns and re-evaluation of the possibility of rating certain online games. They also approved the 2021FY budget, discussed virtual activities that could be offered as a “mini-congress,” and reviewed a proposal for a go map application.

In Attendance

Board Members

Lisa Scott (Chair, Central Region)
Devin Frazee (Central Region)
Chris Kirschner (Western Region)
Chris Saenz (Western Region)
Gurujeet Khalsa (Eastern Region)
Dan Ritter (Eastern Region)
Paul Celmer (At-Large)

Officers

Andy Okun (President)
Samantha Fede (Secretary)

Notable Motions and Decisions

1. The board approved a budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2020.
2. The board moved to put forward a recommendation to clubs on in-person play; the recommendation would be determined in detail via email.
3. The board decided to create a running list of ideas to make in-person play safe, or to find alternative methods of play. The board will solicit input from the membership.
4. The board moved to instruct the AGA President to prepare a thorough annual report and deliver it to the board, chapters, and membership in advance of the August meetings.
5. The board asked the president to propose to the board a general schedule for the AGA’s business meetings, usually held at the US Go Congress.
6. The board moved to notify the chapters that the General Assembly in 2020 will consider changes to the existing membership types and fee structure (including possibly increasing membership fees).
 - a. The board instructed the president to prepare one or more proposals.

Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. 8:07 EDT

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. February minutes were approved by email on March 6
- b. Devin moves to approve, Dan seconds, **April Special Meeting minutes approved.**
- c. February and April minutes will be available here:
<https://www.usgo.org/board-minutes>

3. President's Report

- a. Financials- we have approximately \$600,000, which is plenty. Coronavirus and not having a treasurer are concerns, but not deal breakers. Our rate of spending is steady at the moment, though it's possible our new and returning membership will go down. We are onboarding a new financial services company, Jitasa.
- b. Investment Report- Investments were not finalized before the market downturn, so that is good financially. Monitoring for some stabilization to resume conservative investments.
- c. Budget- things are somewhat tentative with the switch to a financial services company, but our budgets are typically flexible. Tried to adjust expectations of member revenue, for example there won't be a congress in the next fiscal year, and there are some additional things that we're guessing will be impacted by coronavirus. Of note is that the cost of financial services for bookkeeping was added to the budget. [Tentative budget was sent to board via email.]
 - i. Devin has generally positive response.
 - ii. Lisa points out the need for additional funds for storage of congress equipment and for replacing broadcast equipment. Andy replied that broadcast equipment is under the communication line (\$4000), willing to allocate more if requested. Board agrees to allocate flexibility along that budget scale and willingness to review approvals if more is needed.
 - iii. **Chris K moves to approve budget, Devin seconds, unanimously approved.**

[Chris Saenz joins]

- d. International Affairs- current year events have largely been canceled or postponed. Online events are increasing as one offs. Communication with international pros is ongoing, but limited work for them to do with us at this point.

4. Ongoing Business

a. Update on Congresses (Andy)

- i. Have been looking for volunteers to help with online and alternative Go activities. Starting to talk about the possibility of having a “virtual” congress during the original CO congress week. Early stages of planning. Meant to be fun, low-key, and educational. Not a “replacement” for Congress because it won’t be the same. Rated games and meaningful prizes won’t be possible right now. We expect to run it as a single-stream conference (only one event at any given time).
 1. Chris K: Will this be paid or free?
 2. Andy: There could possibly be a cost to cover teaching if there are educational events with paid instructors, but we might also have more of a “pay as much as you want” approach.
 3. Chris K: If it’s paid, maybe some sort of congress memorabilia? T-shirts?
 4. Lisa: Estes Park people have been discussing a “No Congress” t-shirt. Maybe we could make all of the normal Congress swag available.
 5. Chris K: We should be prepared for technical difficulties, but I think it’s good to think about how we can fit into the “new normal.”

b. AGA funding of World Go Map (Devin)

- i. Purpose is to make people aware of in person play in certain locations, such as clubs, tournaments, meet-ups. [Devin demonstrated website and mobile version]. Club functionality includes check-ins and ability to record games, etc. The goal is to help connect new go players and clubs.
 1. Dan: Are you working on this yourself or with a team?
 2. Devin: Originally with a team, but I’m currently working with a drag and drop website creator [Bubly] that anyone can use.
- ii. Wants to make it a staple of the community and believes it’s valuable to expand. Would need funding. Requests \$1400/month from the AGA for the duration of the development of the project. AGA wouldn’t own this, it would be the AGA’s gift to the community.
 1. Lisa: This is the first we’re hearing of specifics. Discussion of funding might be best in an executive session at the end of the meeting.
 2. Dan: I like this as an investment for the future, so I certainly like the direction.
 3. Gurujeet: We don’t have nearly enough details right now. Personally, I’d prefer to see someone develop OpenGotha.
 4. Devin: The advantage of this approach is that it is more accessible to individuals without a lot of coding experience. I can replicate all the functionality of OpenGotha here.

5. Paul: I agree with Gurujeet that I'd like to see a written proposal.
 6. Chris S: I do think finding clubs more easily is important.
 7. Lisa: I think we would also need to discuss the ownership aspect in our more detailed conversation.
 8. Devin: I'm looking for funding in the same way that the AGA might fund a commercial for go, or a big tournament, etc.
- c. Update on Teaching
- i. Andy: AGF is willing to fund a program for teaching in schools but is asking the AGA to define and run such a program.
 - ii. Dan: I like this, I've been working on go education. We had a lot of programs in schools, but COVID-19 put that on hold. We are having some success with online teaching, and that might be good to incorporate.
- d. AGA recommendations for in-person play going forward
- i. Lisa: Should we go ahead and publish something about not playing in person through the summer at least?
 - ii. Gurujeet: We've been brainstorming the idea of having tournaments where each pair has two boards, one for each person who mirrors the other person's moves.
 - iii. Chris K: These sort of ideas are great to have.
 - iv. Lisa: Though I agree, I think we need to make specific recommendations.
 - v. Chris S: You also have to consider planning. For example, the Cotsen, if it happens at all, will be online, although smaller events might be okay.
 - vi. Devin: We also don't know if small groups have ideas on how to distance safely.
 - vii. Chris S: You could work with major organizers of annual events to determine whether tournaments are feasible in the fall/winter.
 - viii. **Devin moves to put forward a recommendation on in-person play to clubs to be determined in detail via email, Chris K seconds, unanimous approval.**
 - ix. **Chris K: We need to brainstorm ideas to make in-person play safe. ACTION ITEM: Lisa will make a Google Doc for these ideas.**
 1. Chris S: Can we also ask Chris Garlock to publish a request for ideas?

ACTION ITEM: Lisa will arrange this.

5. Preparation for August 2020 Meetings

- a. Reports from Board, VPs, Committees, and some Coordinators – Preparation needs to start soon.
- b. **Chris S motions to instruct the AGA President to prepare a thorough annual report, Paul seconds, unanimous approval.**
- c. Scheduling date and time of meetings held at Congress (August Board Meeting, General Assembly Meeting, and other meetings usually held at Congress)

- i. Chris S: I would encourage it to be spread out so that people can attend more meetings if they want without fatigue.
- ii. Chris K: There are some technical difficulties we should be aware of, but I think 4 weekends is too much.
- iii. Other sort of “fun” events, like the lifetime members lunch, current volunteer meeting, “social” meetings.
- iv. Andy Okun will propose a general schedule to the board via email.

6. New Business

a. Online Ratings (Submitted to Board by Ted Terpstra, April 21, 2020)

- i. Ted’s email is available here:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yFYHGajY9GShk4nI8ZOO7_okdX_WYqJP
 - 1. This was close to being accomplished in 2016, but AI in 2016 put this on hold.
 - 2. Andy: Not sure what value we can add, but it’s something to discuss vis a vis the pandemic. The problem of AI enabling cheating is still an issue. We can’t rate those games, unless the board wants to change those rules.
 - 3. Devin: We could create an online AGA rank, separate from the in-person one. But, there are likely major feasibility issues.
 - 4. Chris K: Could we implement software to analyze a game with AI to identify whether patterns are consistent with cheating?
 - 5. Devin: That’s feasible. We need more time to discuss this seriously.
- ii. Update on Ratings (brief)
 - 1. Gurujeet: Do we have a ratings coordinator right now? Ratings from February tournaments have not been updated.
 - 2. Andy: Yes, he and we are behind. No specific timeline for updates.
- iii. Update on Rank Certificates (brief) – there are concrete plans to be discussed in more detail later.

b. Proposed reworking of Membership Categories

- i. The 2019 General Assembly expressed interest in reworking the membership categories, and it was placed on the board agenda for May 2020 (ahead of the expected 2020 US Go Congress).
- ii. Summary of issues like day passes and gift memberships
- iii. Chris S: What about changing it from a 1 day to a 1 month pass?
- iv. Lisa: Suggestions include changes from 1 to 3 day passes, etc.
- v. **Devin moves to notify the chapters that the general assembly in 2020 will decide on changes to the membership types and dues structure (increase the fees). Chris S seconds. Instruct the president to prepare a proposal. Approved unanimously.**

1. Andy: What about getting rid of the 1 day/ tournament specific passes?
2. Gurujeet: I wouldn't support that.
3. Lisa: How about Andy prepare ideas and discuss with the board via email?

7. Additional meeting

- a. Lisa proposes a special meeting for catch up on some of these issues that were on the agenda but we did not have time to address. Meeting details be decided via email. Topics:
 - i. Ratings and rank certificates
 - ii. Devin's proposal
 - iii. Long-term goals & priorities
 - iv. Online ratings

8. Adjourn

- a. Devin moves to adjourn the meeting, Gurujeet seconds. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 10:09 EDT.

Addendum

Board Meeting Schedule for 2019-2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Written Reports</u>	<u>This Year Supplemental Issues</u>
Sept. 8, 2019	Fall Meeting	Phone	Tournaments, Games, Rules, Ranks and Ratings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Tournament Calendar 2. Report on Games and Tournaments Played 3. Report on Pro Play 4. Minutes of Prior Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pair Go Rules 2. Pro System Restart 3. Proposal on Major Tournaments and Rewards 4. Proposal regarding New Jersey Open
Nov. 17, 2019	Strategy "Retreat"	Phone	Long view of the organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategy Memo 2. Minutes of Prior Meeting 	
Feb. 23, 2020	Winter Meeting	Phone	Admin, Communications, Congress, Staff, Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roster of Positions and Staff 2. Reappointments List 3. Minutes of Prior Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher Program
May 17, 2020	Spring Meeting	Phone	Budget, Investments, International Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preliminary financials 2. Investment report 3. Budget 4. Report of the VP of IR 5. Minutes of Prior Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed reworking of membership categories, as noticed in 2019 Chapter Assembly Meeting

TBD	Congress Meeting	YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO	Financial Position, Membership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Financial Report 2. Annual Report of the organization 3. Report on Membership 4. Minutes of Prior Meeting 	
TBD	Chapter Assembly Meeting	YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO	Congress, Chapter Relations, General Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Financial Report 2. Annual Report of the organization 3. Chapter Membership and Rewards 4. Prior Year's Chapter Assembly Minutes 	

Income

Special Events

Tournaments

Pandanet

Sponsorship	18,000	18,000	18,000	not confirmed
Expense	(16,200)	(18,000)	(16,200)	
Net	1,800	0	1,800	

International Tournaments

Prizes	10,000	20,000	20,000	
Prizes Payments	(10,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	
Subsidies			2,000	
Net	0	0	2,000	

Other Events

AGF Congress Support	0	3,500	3,500	Zero due to Covid 19 expense of cancelled congress to Covid 19
Go Congress Net***	(2,000)	10,000	5,000	

Total Special Events	(200)	13,500	12,300	
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Regular Income

Membership Income

Individual Dues*	40,000	48,000	50,000	reduced due to lack of face to face tournaments driving member renewals
Chapter Dues	2,000	3,400	3,700	
Non-member tournament fees	500	2,000	2,000	reduced due to Covid 19
Total revenue from dues	42,500	53,400	55,700	
Investment Income**	7,000	9,000	8,500	
Revenue from sales, ads, broadcast	0	700	600	

Total Regular Income	49,500	63,100	64,800	
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Other Income

<u>Total Income</u>	<u>49,300</u>	<u>76,600</u>	<u>77,100</u>	
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Expenses

Administrative Expenses

General	500	500	500	
Treasurer	10,800	4,000	1,000	Increase for prof. fees
President	1,500	2,000	2,000	

Insurance	2,800	2,800	2,500	
IGF Membership	500	500	500	
Bank and Paypal Fees	2,000	2,500	2,300	
Total Administrative Expenses	18,100	12,300	8,800	
Communications Expenses				
E-Journal	12,000	15,000	15,000	subject to modest change based on needs for replacement equipment
Broadcast and Equipment	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Website	1,000	2,000	2,000	
New online contents for covid period	5,000			
Congress App Maintainance and Development	0	500	700	
Total Communications Expenses	22,000	21,500	21,700	
Program Expenses				
Tournaments				
US Open, Masters and NA Masters Support	0	12,000	13,500	
AGHS Support	500	500	500	
NA Kyu Championship	1,000	1,000	300	
Pair Go Events	0	500	500	
Total Tournaments	1,500	14,000	14,800	
Chapter Rewards	10,000	10,000	6,000	
International Travel				
WAGC Travel	0	2,000	1,000	
Pair Go Travel	0	2,500	1,000	
Total International Travel	0	4,500	2,000	
Equipment and Storage	3,000	3,000	3,500	
College Matching	300	300	500	
50 State Championship	1,000	2,000	2,000	2nd Half
New Programs	2,500			
Tournament Support program	5,000			
Total Program Expenses	23,300	33,800	28,800	
Professional Program Expenses				
Transatlantic Tournament	0	11,500		new event; not clear if 2nd NA championship, early 2021
Other Professional Tournaments	30,000	30,000	30,000	
Drawdown of Dedicated Reserves	(20,000)	(26,500)	(15,000)	Google funds individual support for NA championship resume soon
Additional Donations and Sponsorships	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	
Professional Qualification Tournament	0	12,500	12,500	
Professional Travel	0	3,000	3,000	
Total Professional Program Expenses	0	9,000	20,500	
Total Expenses	63,400	76,600	79,800	
Net Income	(14,100)	0	(2,700)	