

Minutes

AGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, January 4, 2012 – 7:09 PM EST

Meeting called to order by: Andrew Okun at 7:09 PM EDT

Type of meeting: Regular Monthly Conference Call

Attendees:

Jie Li (At Large)

Chuck Robbins (Eastern Region)

Lisa Scott (Central Region)

Daniel Smith (Central Region)

Andrew Okun (Western Region, Chairman)

Gordon Castanza (Western Region)

Allan Abramson (President)

Absent: Paul Celmer (Eastern Region)

1. Approval of minutes

Gordon Castanza moves, Daniel Smith seconds approval of 11/27/11 minutes. Approved 5-0.

2. New business.
 - a. Scheduling special meeting
 - b. Discussion of Feng Yun issue.
3. President's report.
 - a. Discussion of Canadian league and City League
 - b. Discussion of Ing Cup and Chunlan Cup
 - c. Information Item: Symposium

Allan Abramson informed the board of the AGA's hosting its first International Go Symposium in conjunction with the 2012 US Go Congress in North Carolina. Put together by Peter Shotwell, Paul Celmer, Thomas Hsiang, Peter Freedman and others, it will feature a keynote address by Atari founder and videogame pioneer Nolan Bushnell.

d. Discussion of TAP proposal.

Allan informed the board that few comments had come in yet. The comment period still had time to run and he believed it would be time to discuss the comments at the next board meeting.

It was noted that the chapters mailing list remained down. Allan said efforts were underway to get it working again.

4. Report on China, Seoul trip.

a. Andy Okun reported back on his trip to Beijing and Seoul. The trip to Beijing was as part of the US team at the SportAccord World Mind Games.

i. The team did well, coming 5th out of six teams in the team event.

ii. The games were a good demonstration of the potential of the "mind sports" concept for economically organizing events and seeking sponsors.

iii. Okun and AGA VP IR Thomas Hsiang met with many go community officials and some media figures. Among other things, we received an invitation to send a US college team to an Ing college competition in China.

Okun said the trip to Seoul was also productive.

At a meeting with Tygem, an MOU was signed for sponsorship of the US pro certification tournament.

At a meeting with KBA, an MOU was signed for cooperation between AGA and KBA on creation of the US pro system.

There was significant media coverage of both events.

5. Update on pro system

Brief discussion of developments of the professional system. Among other things, Allan noted the work of forming a pro system committee had progressed and that the committee so far included himself, Thomas Hsiang, Andy, Myung-wan Kim, I-hanLui, Steve Burrall and Keith Arnold.

Jie Li queried whether it was planned to include a resident pro on the pro system committee. Okun and Abramson said yes, but one had not been found.

6. Discussion of president search.

No significant progress reported.

7. Form 990

Okun noted that the board had been provided with a draft Form 990, the organization's return to be filed with the IRS, by Treasurer Roy Schmidt. There was a brief discussion.

8. Special Meeting Schedule.

In December, board members Jie Li and Gordon Castanza had called for a special meeting to discuss the TAP proposal previously approved by the board, but the meeting

was postponed to the new year. Board members agreed to hold the meeting on January 21, 2012, 8 PM EST.

9. Feng Yun letter

Andy noted a letter received by board members from Feng Yun relating her discussions with go community figures and officials during her participation as an US contestant at the SAWMG, in which she among other things criticized the board's TAP policy. The letter suggested that Jie Li had also participated in the discussions and criticized the board's decision. Andy said that, like Jie, he had in the past while serving on the board criticized board decisions with which he had a sincere disagreement, but had received some criticism for doing so on the basis that, the board having decided something, board members were obliged to support the board's decision. He had since refrained from doing so. He asked for the board's thoughts on whether such a stricture applied or should be applied to board member statements.

Jie responded that he believed his participation on the board did not dispense with his First Amendment rights to state his opinion, that his opinion had already been stated before the board and represented what he believed was correct. He did not believe there was or should be any such restriction.

Gordon said he believed the by-laws were clear that a board member was only empowered to act during properly called board meetings and that, outside the meetings, they returned to their ordinary human capacity in which they were free to state their opinion.

Allan expressed the opinion that, if the board was minded to make a decision about a question of that kind, his feeling was that such things should always be decided in favor of free expression and debate.

At approximately 9:15 EDT, Gordon moved and Lisa Scott seconded a motion to adjourn, which was approved unanimously.