



ACA Budget Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2016

Black Knight Inn, Red Deer

Meeting called to order at 11:28 AM by the ACA President Vlad Rekhson (VR). In attendance: Treasurer Ali Razzaq, Secretary Giridhar Koneru, Executive Director Vladimir Pechenkin (VP), Past President David Miller, General Directors Terry Seehagen, Jim Daniluk, Robert Brazeau, Dustin Koperski, Dale Haessel and Leah Hughey. Jina Burn attends the meeting over Skype. Vice-President Micah Hughey attends over the phone.

Robert moves to approve Strategic Planning meeting minutes, Terry seconds. Unanimous.

VR gives President's address to the Board. In general, things proceed normally. Canadian Open in Calgary in 2017 is no longer an option as it was awarded by the CFC to a different city. At the provincial level the most interesting development has been the Alberta Chess Challenge. It is no longer organized by Bruce Thomas so the ACA can organize it instead if the Board decides so.

ACA Committee Reports

VR then presents recommendations by the Technical Committee concerning Alberta Junior Championship qualification requirements as well as a policy towards players withdrawing from ACA tournaments. The Board has no objections so the recommendations are accepted.

Cristian Ivanescu from Edmonton has joined the ACA Junior Chess Committee.

Audit Committee received 2015 ACA ledger and began working on the 2015 financial statement.

Robert presents a report from the Bylaws Amendment Committee. To comply with the provincial government requirements, a Conflict of Interest Policy must be drafted within a couple of months. The policy will consist of two parts: 1) disclosure report and 2) framework document. Robert then explains the essence of each part.

Junior Chess Program – Alberta Chess Challenge. VR reviews the recent history of junior chess in the province. The ACA financially supported the Chess Challenge until 2012; after that the funds were redirected towards different provincial junior programs. The Board discusses whether the ACA shall resume funding the Chess Challenge in principle and if so, to what extent. Jina points out that the winners of the Alberta Chess Challenge have an opportunity to go to a higher level of competition at the national level, which is attractive for juniors. Several Board members also emphasize the social aspect of this system of tournaments. On the other hand, it may be more appropriate to use the funds internally instead of sending a large team of players to the Canadian Chess Challenge.

Jim makes a motion that *the ACA takes on administration of running the Chess Challenge in Alberta*, Jina seconds. Robert points out that the cost should be included in the motion. Thus, another motion concerning the cost of administering the program will be made shortly afterwards. An argument is made that if the ACA decides not to run the Chess Challenge, somebody else will, and that someone will be competing with the ACA. The votes are cast, and the motion passes with 9 in favor, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Dale moves that *the ACA administers Chess Challenge as a self-sustaining tournament covering venue rental costs and TD fees if necessary*, Jim seconds. 9 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. The meeting is then adjourned for lunch at 12:56 pm.

Edmonton Junior Chess Club program proposal by David Miller. The meeting is called back to order at 1:28 pm. David presents his proposal and answers questions from the other Board members. David then leaves the room, and the Board discusses his proposal at length. Dale makes a motion *to reject the proposal as is*, Leah seconds. 5 in favor, 2 against with 3 abstentions so the motion passes, and the proposal is defeated. David returns to the room.

Leah moves to reject **Richard Pua's proposal**, Dale seconds. 9 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstention.

Proposals by Guoliang Wu (Calgary Junior Chess Club)

1. CJCC would like to continue getting ACA support on hiring two junior coaches for CJCC monthly school for 10 months. Total \$900. (Ok if not getting the full amount of support.)
2. CJCC would like to get 10 chess sets for its Chess in Library program.
3. CJCC would like to get 10 chess sets for its tournaments.
4. Proposal that the ACA returns \$3-\$4/player to the organizers of AYCC, AB Schools, AB Jr.

Leah makes a motion to *accept the first 3 CJCC proposals and to reject the fourth*. 5 in favor, 1 against with 5 abstentions. Motion passes.

Dustin makes a motion that *the ACA allocates \$1,500 for the Edmonton Chess Club to kick-start Edmonton Junior Chess program, pending a detailed budget plan to be submitted to the Board*. Jina seconds. 8 in favor with 3 abstentions.

2016 ACA Tournaments. The Board goes through the list of scheduled tournaments adjusting proposed amounts where necessary. The most important decisions are as follows.

- a) No tea or coffee for the tournaments in Red Deer (AB Active, Red Deer Open, Battle of AB).
- b) \$500 matching grant is approved for the 33rd edition of the Trumpeter Classic.
- c) Each of the 4 provincial junior tournaments in 2016 will have 3 paid Tournament Directors.

Terry makes a motion that *the ACA gives \$4,000 to each of the 2016 Calgary International Tournament and the 2016 Edmonton International Tournament*. 8 in favor with 3 abstentions.

Micah leaves the meeting at 4:25 pm. Leah leaves the meeting at 4:30 pm.

VR presents a proposal to increase the prize fund (along with the entry fees) of the Alberta Open in order to attract more participants. After some discussion the Board agrees to guarantee a \$3,000 prize fund based on 30 paid entries. The entry fees will remain unchanged, however.

Equipment. Terry moves that *the ACA spends \$2,000 on chess instructional DVDs*. The motion passes with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions. The Planning Committee will discuss the details. The Board then agrees to purchase 100 scholastic chess sets for resale.

2 **TD Workshops** are budgeted for in 2016 (\$75 each).

Proposals by Chris White. The Board decides to budget \$400 to support La Crete Chess Club (6 in favor with 3 abstentions). Furthermore, the ACA will give a \$20 discount to 10 players from La Crete purchasing an annual CFC membership for the first time (passes unanimously).

Terry's "Wall of Fame" proposal is withdrawn and will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Motion to budget \$1,000 for presentations in schools across the province – passes unanimously. Presenters are paid \$50/school, must receive prior authorization from the Coaching Committee.

Road Warrior program – the Board decides to change it. In 2016, a randomly selected eligible out of town player will be awarded \$50 at every Road Warrior event. The only eligibility requirement is to travel at least 75 km (one way) to participate in the tournament. The winner must also solve a chess related puzzle to claim the prize.

Motion to approve the 2016 ACA Budget – unanimous.

Manulife account – the Board agrees to close it and to deposit the funds back to the TD Canada Trust Operating account.

The next ACA Board meeting is tentatively scheduled on April 17. The meeting will be held at the Red Deer Lodge after the last round of the 2016 Red Deer Open.

Motion to adjourn the meeting – unanimous.