Alberta Chess Association
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Minutes

The Budget Meeting took place on December 7th, 2025, via Zoom. Starting time 2:00 p.m.

(1) Attendance – Present were Alex Nguyen (President), Michael Ludwig (Secretary), Avery Michalchuk (Treasurer), Sam Hoekman (Vice President), David Ludwig, Gordon Campbell, Garth Dunn, Dale Haessel, Michael Anderson, Zeeshan Munir, Selena Yang.

(2) Planning Meeting Minutes – It was moved by Avery, seconded by Sam, that the Planning Meeting minutes be accepted. Passed unanimously.

(3) President's Address – Alex emphasized the desire to hold high-quality tournaments, and said he is excited to see what the ACA can do.

(4) Tournament Proposals

The ACA has approximately $135,000 in its Casino account.

The Board went through the calendar and proposals for tournaments.

A lengthy discussion was had on what flexibility host clubs should have on scheduling a tournament. Ultimately, Gordon moved, seconded by Sam, that hosting clubs may choose to host ACA tournaments over two or three days, depending on projected attendance, with board approval and 3-weeks prior notice given to the ACA to be required if there would be resulting changes in funding, made retroactive to October 1 of 2025, and thus formalizing an implicit policy. Motion passed 7 in favour, 3 abstentions.

Some flexibility is also allowed for Calgary junior regional tournaments, should they choose to run over three days to be more accommodating to participants. Edmonton’s tournaments will remain as rapid events to be most accessible to newer players, as it does not have consistent rapid tournaments outside of the ACA’s.

Further discussion was had on the viability of the BC vs. AB match, with its lack of attendance by Alberta players. Alex said it is valuable in order to build a relationship with BC chess.

Costs are a clear obstacle, and it was asked whether it could be turned into a championship event to become eligible for Casino funding. Alex will inquire with the AGLC.

Sam put forward the request for the Edmonton International: regular venue rental ($950 for five days), $1000 for a qualified tournament director, and $4000 additional funding. Dates are set for July 22-26. A qualifying tournament may be held in the Spring.

Zeeshan proposed that the Battle of Alberta trophy be upgraded, as it has run out of space for engraving. $500 was allowed as an estimate for improvements, or a replacement.

Alex is exploring options for holding the Banff Open. It is tentatively left on the calendar with a venue cost of $5000.

The Calgary International had its costs set the same as the Edmonton International, for December 26-30.

(5) Other Budget Items

On the issue of membership fees due to the ACA, and rating fees to the CFC, it was agreed that Alex will send a proposal to the CFC that both parties start fresh for January 2026.

The request for the Canadian Juniors & Senior's Championship bid in Calgary is $4000, and was approved.

Selena has been investigating the possibility of a scholarship offered either through the University of Alberta, or by the ACA directly, to encourage female players to continue playing chess beyond a junior age. It is thought it could be expanded to include, or paired with, one offered more openly. The Board tentatively supports the idea in principle, but more information is needed. Selena will continue to research, and the Junior Committee will revisit it in the future, to potentially write out details for it to be included in the 2027 Budget.

(6) Budget Approval

The Budget tentatively sits at $75,000, with about $63,000 in Casino expenditures. Even with an excess to be spent, that was not felt to be reasonable, under an estimate of receiving $80,000 in Casino funding every two years. Consideration was given to removing the Calgary International and returning to alternating between Edmonton and Calgary, as previously planned, which would reduce Casino costs to under $60,000 for 2026.

The Board did not feel it had enough information to set a final Budget total, specifically with questions on large items like the Internationals and Banff Open. Avery and David will run a five-year projection, and a short follow-up meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15th to finalize the budget.

(7) Adjournment – It was moved by David, seconded by Avery, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.

At 4:59 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.