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## Minutes

Budget Continuation Meeting, December 15th, 2025, via Zoom. Starting time 7:00 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, Selena Yang, Dale Haessel, Michael Anderson, Vitalii Andreev.
- (2) Budget Meeting Minutes – It was moved by Avery, seconded by Gordon, that the Budget Meeting minutes be accepted. Passed 7 in favour, 1 abstention.
- (3) Budget Discussion

Alex asked if some of the non-major tournaments on the calendar can be held by the Edmonton and Calgary Chess Clubs rather than the ACA, allowing the ACA to focus on major tournaments. A breakdown was done of a general tournament, explaining the different costs. It would save the ACA money to be responsible for fewer tournaments, but the clubs would lose venue fees and be responsible for TD expenses, which was not currently thought to be feasible. A committee will investigate the financial structure of ACA tournaments.

Sam asked about the effect of increasing dues or reducing discounts on entry fees, both of which would affect the total prize fund. Gordon commented that the CCC's available discounts are less than those for tournaments in Edmonton. Dale and Sam agreed that ACA entry fees are much lower than they are in other jurisdictions.

David provided a 5-year forecast, based on the Budget including all of the Banff Open and the Edmonton and Calgary Internationals in every year, versus one with only one International held per year, and with a Casino deposit of \$75,000 received in 2027 and 2029. The result, assuming otherwise-consistent finances, is effectively an empty Casino account in 2030 versus a \$20,000 buffer. Gordon noted that the Casino deposits can be variable, and that this was a justifiably, somewhat pessimistic estimate. With a current Casino balance of \$135,000, the expenses must average, roughly, at least \$45,000 per year to ensure all available money is spent, and one year at \$55,000 to \$60,000 was thought reasonable.

Sam said that he would prefer a consistent International tournament in Calgary rather than rotating between cities every year. Michael remarked that it will always come down to priorities, and that the Banff Open would be widely agreed to be more important than an International that is limited to a much smaller group of players.

Sam suggested that Banff Open entry fees could be raised to help offset the cost of the tournament, and that it would be fair for a top-class event that has regularly sold out. Alex said that the CJCC may be willing to subsidize the Banff Open.

It was agreed that the Edmonton International be removed from the calendar, and that a strong effort will be made to hold the Banff Open.

#### (4) Budget Approval

It was moved by David, seconded by Sam, to approve the 2026 Budget set at approximately \$68,000, with Casino costs around \$57,000. Motion passed unanimously.

#### (5) Next Meeting

The Board plans to schedule a meeting for late February or mid-March. Alex will arrange for committees to convene for the outstanding discussions.

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

At 8:21 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.