

AGA Minutes 2/16/2014

Attending:

- Gurujeet Khalsa (Director, Eastern Region, Chair)
- Chris Kirschner (Director, Western Region)
- Martin Lebl (Director, Central Region)
- Bob Gilman (Director, Central Region)
- Paul Celmer (Director, Eastern Region)
- Steve Burrall (Director, Western Region)
- Edward Zhang (Director at Large)
- Daniel Smith (Secretary)
- Andrew Okun (President)
- Ted Terpstra (Executive Vice President)

1. Meeting called to order at 5:21 PM PST.
2. Approval of minutes
 - a. **Minutes approved without objection.**
3. President's report
 - a. Some of president Okun's action items have had to be postponed due to pressing family matters.
 - b. May need to create an additional corporation to handle the professional system; a lawyer is looking into it.
 - c. To Andy's knowledge, the building (NY Go center) has not been sold.
 - i. Some folks have been asking how to get a go center in their center. This would require us to do an RFP (Request For Proposal). We'd like to form a committee get some requests for statements of interest from people: Why is your group big and stable enough? Why is your city important enough? We should say something now.
 1. Kirschner: We should include someone from the seattle go center on that committee.
 2. Khalsa: I cannot serve on that committee, as I'd probably be one of the petitioners.
 3. Gilman: What time will the committee be active?
 - a. Okun: It will probably be subsumed once INAF (Iwamoto North America Foundation) is formed.
 - ii. No board action required at this time.
 - d. Congress.
 - i. We finally have a facilities contract from hotel pennsylvania. Tuesday, we should be signed and be able to announce the numbers for everyone.
 - ii. It's going to be an expensive congress; NY state dashed our hopes for the non-profit exemption. Need to be a 501(c)(3), which is unfortunate given that we fit their description. All they look at is the organization type.

- iii. Khalsa: Can the board do anything to aid this process?
 - 1. Okun: I don't think so. You guys can't make the hotel or the state of NY answer faster. We're trying to do the registration site in parallel, etc.
 - iv. Gilman: No meal plan, right? What will meals cost in the area?
 - 1. Correct. We will include a per diem for food for comped attendees. We don't have an estimate for meal cost at the moment.
 - v. Zhang: Can you clarify why the tax-exempt application was declined? When I organize the NA Go Convention in 2013, I heard some local club has the tax exempt status when paying hotels. It will be a huge saving for go players if we can get the tax exemption.?
 - 1. Okun: We applied and were denied. Their language tracks the federal definition for 501(c)(3), but instead of looking at the description they just ask if you're a 501(c)(3), and we're not, we're a 501(c)(4).
 - vi. Khalsa: did we have to commit to a number of rooms?
 - 1. Okun: Yes, but we can change it up until a month before the congress.
 - e. Summer camp: Amanda and Fernando have a place in PA. They're going to do it the week before congress.
- 4. AGA rules question
 - a. Burrall: currently, the rule is that a move is over when the player's hand leaves the stone. Would like to change to having a move be over when the stone comes to rest. Basically, defining a move as touching the board instead of releasing the stone. Would like to send this to rules committee to have official language drafted.
 - i. Okun: We have a committee, but haven't referred them anything in many years. I may have to reform it.
 - ii. Kirschner: I think you're talking about tournament regulations, not rules. I think it's appropriate to have two or three people look at updating our tournament regulations. For example, they don't say anything about recording games with electronic devices.
 - iii. Burrall: I agree with all that. But I want a change in the rules themselves.
 - iv. Okun: let me hasten this: Is it the sense of the board that we should have a rules committee, and should we refer this to them.
 - v. (Discussion)
 - vi. Khalsa: so in terms of procedure, the way it would work is a committee recommends a change, and this board approves it?
 - 1. (agreement)
 - vii. Okun: I will look into assembling a committee of rules and conduct.
- 5. Distance learning.
 - a. Kirschner: The Nihon Ki-In was approached by the Seattle go center to have a pro teacher in Japan teach remotely via videoconference. They're willing to put some funds into a system to do that. This could be good for schools that don't have a

- dan rated players within 100 miles.
- b. Gilman: how would this differ from a lecture on KGS?
 - i. Kirshner: Two way communication. Teach can see class, students can ask questions.
 - c. Kirschner: Not asking for anything specific, just informational at the moment.
- 6. Using AGA, not congress, funds to enlarge the prizes for the U.S. Open
 - a. Khalsa: I'd like to see this tournament be more prestigious and internationally known.
 - b. Khalsa: I'd also like to consider giving first and second time congress attendees rebates.
 - c. Kirschner: Where's the money going to come from:
 - i. Khalsa: I'm suggesting it come from the AGA reserves.
 - d. Okun: I don't like the idea of using money from the reserves. But we could certainly put it in the budget.
 - e. Khalsa: I've looked into it; the way we're currently set up, congress directors are disincentivized for setting up large prizes.
 - f. Okun: There's a small chance of a corporate sponsor. Let be try to get an answer from them very quickly.
 - g. Kirschner: Prize pool was \$2,000, but we dropped it to \$1,000. At the same time that the Master's dropped. It may not be seen favorably if the U.S. Open is larger than the Master's. We shouldn't do things with reserves that are going to commit us for future years.
 - h. Khalsa: We identified over a year ago that we've been hoarding too much in reserves.
 - i. Zhang: Summer camps should be a major AGA service during the summer in addition to Go Congress. I have spoken to a few professionals and they are very interested in hosting local players in Go camps, as majority of players can not make it to the Congress. So as step one, AGA should at least consider providing Go camps in major US cities. Serving players locally is much easier than trying to gather everyone from the country to just one location.
 - j. Burrall: If we raised the prize fund, a lot of visiting pros might want to play. We should consider the implications on teaching.
 - k. (Conclusion: Will hash out a more concrete proposal over email.)
- 7. Date and time of next meeting.
 - a. The next meeting will be on 3/9/2014 at 8 PM EST.
- 8. Adjournment
 - a. **Celmer moves to adjourn, Kirshner seconds. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM, PST.**