

ORLANDO METROPOLITAN BRIDGE CENTER

POSITION STATEMENT

March 17, 2015

The purpose of this statement is to provide the Board's perspective and position on a number of issues that have been under discussion by some of the bridge players at OMBC.

CENTER vs CLUB: Around 1985, a group of bridge players began talking about how nice it would be to have a central location where several of the clubs in the metropolitan area could host games under the same roof, becoming home to a real community of bridge players. A committee was formed, a piece of property was selected, building plans were drawn up, and an appointment was made with city officials. Everything was approved, except the money. Bonds were sold to bridge players to cover the \$400,000 project. Each club with its own club proprietor (owner) would be responsible for recruiting players, collecting fees for playing, paying ACBL fees and fees to OMBC, restoring playing area to cleanliness level as it was prior to play, and scoring and submitting scores to ACBL. This allows the Center to manage a relatively small amount of money each year for the improvement of the bridge experience (such as pre-dealt hands, bridge-mate scoring, computers and TV displays, posting of scores on the OMBC web site), facility maintenance and improvement (such as periodic new carpeting, tables and chairs, renovated kitchen and lavatory facilities, and routine maintenance), and repaying the outstanding bonds (from the original \$400,000 the debt is now under \$80,000). If, instead of operating as a support system for a number of clubs, OMBC would become one club it would be responsible for a significant budget with major costs for a club manager, food service coordinator, and other needed services. It would add a level of complexity and fiscal responsibility without significant increase in benefits. Some of the issues that have surfaced are not dependent upon the governance structure and can be addressed directly.

BY-LAWS – REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION: It has been pointed out that the original Articles of Incorporation refer to a member organization and that the by-laws refer only to two groups of people, namely, bond holders and club proprietors with the Board chosen from representatives of these two groups. One interpretation is that the bond holders and club proprietors are the original members of OMBC. Regardless, since the by-laws are ambiguous it might be timely to review and clarify our by-laws.

PLAYER RECRUITMENT: Since it is in club owners financial interest to recruit players, they use a variety of techniques to do so from calling players reminding them of games, to providing enticing snacks, creating a friendly atmosphere, establishing a zero tolerance policy for play, participating in the common game, scheduling special parties, providing special games for increased point awards. (We are seeing some of this in Georgette's efforts for her game and in the efforts of Darryl and Dan as they promote their new Sunday afternoon game.)

ENHANCED MASTER POINT OPPORTUNITIES: The OMBC Board is receptive to working on this issue. It will review with all owners to see the frequency of their scheduling such games as club championships, charity games, STaC games, and others. If there is not improvement in this area, it may be desirable to include such requirements in future leases. It has been suggested that separate games held at the same time in the two rooms could be scored together without diminishing the cohesiveness of each game. The Board will explore the possibility of doing this in the coming months.

PERSONNEL MATTERS: No matter what the organizational structure there is, the Board of Directors will have to deal with personnel matters. This is usually done privately by the Board. If the lease between the Board and a club owner is broken during the term of the lease it is usually due to some specific major concern. At the end of the lease the Board can decide not to renew a lease with any club owner for no specific reason or for an accumulation of smaller concerns. This has been done five times in recent history. In all personnel matters it is inappropriate for the Board to publicly discuss any details.

COMMUNICATION: The Board is aware that providing appropriate opportunities for communication is always a difficult challenge. To that end, the Board plans on posting on its web site minutes of all meetings and appropriate financial information. Also, the Board is willing to see how effective it would be to hold an open forum once or twice a year to solicit suggestions for improvement. Any issues that a player has may be put in writing for Board review at their next scheduled meeting. If necessary, a special meeting may be called if the issue is of a serious nature.

Respectfully Submitted

William J. Horvath