

Minutes

Club Cruceros Board Meeting November 9, 2022

1. Call to Order - Commodore, Steve Brenner 4:03 pm
2. Attendance – Steve Brenner, Bob Walker, Mary Jo Hood, Kimberley Lafferty-Stonier, Linda Keigher, Terri Hagan, Tom Murray, Sue Bell - we have quorum
3. Additions to Agenda - pancake breakfast
4. Recognitions and Opening Remarks – Commodore, Steve Brenner

Apologies were extended for a scheduling conflict with Ladies' Cards Day that inadvertently occurred when the original meeting date of Tuesday was changed to Wednesday in order to avoid a conflict with Movie Night, which was being held on Tuesdays. Steve was not aware that Wednesdays are a designated cards game evening and so future meetings will be scheduled for Thursdays from now on.

5. Minutes – Secretary - minutes from the May 25 meeting have been posted in the club house since may. No one had any suggestions for changes or revisions, so the minutes stand as posted. No adjustments needed
6. Reports & Comments - Board
 - a. Vice Commodore - none
 - b. Rear Commodore - Bob wanted to give a thank you to all of the locals who were in La Paz over the summer and made things go so smoothly. He particularly acknowledged those volunteers who stepped up when needed to help out with coffee times - he said he felt that it created a great sense of community and belonging over the summer.
 - c. Past Commodore - no report
 - d. Treasurer - Year to date, May31 - Oct 31 2022. We are currently showing a loss of just less than 10,000 pesos (see attached treasurer's report). This is a slow time of year and so the finances look less positive as they always do at this time of year. With so few people in town there have been fewer events and smaller groups for coffee, so less income. The greatest expenses over the summer have been the website and cleaning which go on regardless of how many people are in town.

The final upshot is that we do have a little bit of money in reserves and with the return of the snowbirds, our sources of income and event contributions will increase again to cover the deficits.

- e. Secretary - none
 - f. Memberships - Steve - Ray Hassenstein sent a summary of the memberships report which Steve shared. It shows that as of Oct 31, the club has 401 paid members. He noted that 80 renewal reminders were sent out in over the summer up until October 31 and the in October there were 9 new memberships and 6 renewals. Kimberley did mention that there is some lack of clarity about the contributions for new and renewed memberships as the numbers on the financial report for October don't seem to match with the new and renewed memberships reported. Kimberley suggested that some of the new memberships from September might have been included in the report for October. Steve said he would check with Ray about what might have happened.
 - g. Directors at Large - Tom Murray - It was noted that both Cindy and MJ were great for stepping up and keeping everything moving smoothly and supporting our collective work throughout the summer. MJ noted that many other people also stepped up when asked and that it is the role of our board members to encourage others to participate in this way. Steve noted that it is one of his greatest worries that we burn out our regular volunteers from the committee chairs and the board and that it is important that we continue to encourage broad participation from the general membership as much as possible and to maintain the role of organizing and managing volunteers for the board members.
7. Old Business
- a. Nov 3. BBQ - Steve - the event went really well and was very successful. It was noted that, as promised by the Commodore when he ran for the leadership, the quality of the hotdogs would be improved if he was elected and as promised the hotdogs for this event were exceptional. Any left over buns, condiments, and other extras that had been left over were donated to Mama Bonitas as they go bad before the next event. We made 8800 pesos and there were no expenses. Rich Boren covered all of the expenses, thank you for your generosity Rich!
 - b. Thanksgiving Dinner - Steve - Not happy as happy as he could be about the cost of the dinners provided by La Costa. At 400 pesos per person (tip not included) it is a bit high priced and there is no fund raising element to the ticket sales. All moneys collected go to pay for the actual meal. It was discussed and most members felt that this price might be a bit high as there are some members in our community for whom paying 400 pesos per person for a meal would be a

hardship. Steve suggested that, while it is too late to make a change for this year, he is hoping we might be able to do something differently next year.

Kimberley offered to go around the tables at the event to collect tips in order to ensure that the staff who serve the meal and look after us are well looked after in return. She asked for a helper to go around the tables and Bob Walker offered to assist.

There was some suggestion that, in future, we could add a tip to the cost of the ticket and that the club could hold back any money beyond the cost we are charged for the meal and distribute that money to the servers.

There was some discussion of going back to a potluck format, but after hearing some concerns about responsibility for food quality and handling, food temperature management, work load for volunteers, and other hospitality management standards concerns, as well as the amount of work that club members have to put in in order to manage the meal and service it was agreed that having someone provide the meal and serve it makes more sense. That said, it was also agreed that we probably need to renegotiate the pricing to make it more manageable (while keeping food costs and inflation).

There was some concern expressed that while we collect money for tickets sold for the Thanksgiving dinner, we are making no money on the event, so it was suggested that we do a 50/50 draw during the dinner in order to kick off the fundraising efforts for our charities. There was general agreement that this was a good idea and it was agreed that tickets will be purchased and we will do a draw at the event.

We have printed 200 tickets for the event and have sold about 35 so far. It is time to start promoting them!

8. New Business

- a. Tables/chairs at Clubhouse - Kimberley - the tables and chairs are becoming very tired and worn looking. It is difficult to even get some of them clean at this point. It was suggested we have our cleaners do a really deep clean on them and then look at them carefully to decide whether or not we need to replace some of them with new ones and how many. Steve pointed out that we will need to pay the cleaners extra to do that extra work. Kimberley pointed out that we will need to get approval for the extra pay and the cost of purchasing new ones at the next general meeting.

- b. Coffee Hour price/costs - by the end of the year, October 31, we were down 1800 pesos on coffee fees compared to costs - extra expenditures appear to be coming from a number of issues: putting out more cookies than are needed, people taking extras on the cookies, people feeding cookies to their dogs instead of taking the dog biscuits that are provided, etc. Something needs to be done to help correct the situation if we don't want to end up having to raise the coffee fee.

Some thoughts offered included: asking people to help us to manage our expenses by not taking more than 2 cookies for their coffee fee, or putting extra in the jar if they take extra cookies; asking people to pay separately for the coffee and cookies and making the cookies a fee of 5 pesos for 2 cookies; asking people not to feed their dogs cookies; putting up a poster about the costs and risk of having to raise the cost of coffee fees if we can't keep the cookie costs down.

It was decided that we should put it on the topics for the general meeting in two weeks to look for more input on how to resolve the issue, but in the meantime, Steve will make a poster asking people to only take two cookies with their coffee. It will note that if they want more to please put a contribution in the pot to cover the extra costs. It will also clearly ask that people please only feed dog biscuits to the dogs.

- c. Club Bodega - Kimberley - the bodega is getting very dirty and disorganized, we need to do something about getting it back in order. Doug is responsible for the bodega and he will be arriving before Thanksgiving. It will be brought to his attention that there is an urgent need to organize a cleaning party to remove the mess (including dead critters), and shore up the filing cabinet, etc.

Linda asked that we make a regular announcement that if people ever need to borrow equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, walking cane, etc., they should contact Steve, who has the keys to the bodega, to sign them out. It was also noted that we do need to do a better job of tracking where the items that we lend are, who has them, and when they will be coming back. Another topic for Doug to work on.

La Paz Yachts paid for the purchase of a new wheelchair for the bodega. It is a bigger, stronger, better wheelchair than we had in the past. That new wheelchair was used for the first time today.

Mary Jo mentioned that mail carriers need to have easier access to the mailbox

to pick up mail if they are going to transport it north. It was noted that the coffee hosts have access to the lock combination and are willing and able during coffee hours to get the mail for anyone who is going north, however, if someone wishes to collect the mail outside of office hours, special arrangements need to be made. Steve will try to clarify that for the upcoming meeting.

- d. Merchandise Stock - We have 50,000 pesos in the merchandise account and it might be time to get a committee together to decide what needs to be done with that money. What merchandise would be useful to members? Right now we have lots of T-shirts, but few of us wear T-shirts. What might be better to have in stock? Can we get a committee together to discuss this? This could be brought up at the upcoming general meeting and volunteers solicited to form the committee.

We do know that want to be sure we have enough stock of flags, that is one item that we ALWAYS need. It can take 2-3 weeks to get the courtesy flags after ordering them.

On the topic of flags, Bob Walker has been put in charge of getting rid of old flags. It used to be we can burn them, but now that they are polyester, we are not sure how to safely dispose of them. Jimmy, our liaison with the Navy, will check with the Navy to see what they do with them and will report back.

- e. Club VHF Radio - Steve - the radio has been fixed. It was buzzing because it operates off of a car battery and charger, but when there is a power failure the timer gets thrown off. Then the timer has to be reset to avoid buzzing when it comes on while it is being operated.
- f. Donations of "Stuff" to the club, Refrigerator - Mary has offered to donate a small refrigerator to the club, but we don't use the one that is already in the bodega so we really don't need another one. In fact we probably need to get rid of the one we have. Teri says there is a segunda that will pick up appliances and other used items if you call them. It was suggested that we announce on the NET that people are welcome to bring down things that they want to get rid of (a specific date will be identified as we do not want to be collecting, organizing and storing these items) and the segunda can come and pick it all up at once. Teri will get in touch with the segunda and will provide information about when, etc. We will talk about it more at the general meeting.
- g. Pancake breakfast - Linda proposes that we have our next pancake breakfast on December 4. Kimberley will advance her the money for the bacon and then she will get the needed supplies. We will promote this at the general meeting as well and solicit volunteers.

- h. Approval for payment of expenditure - Kimberley needs approval from the board to cover the funds needed for the printing costs of club brochures, anchorage maps etc. Tom Murray made the motion to approve payment of 8071.20 pesos to cover the printing costs. Bob Walker seconded it. The motion received unanimous approval and was carried.
- i. Bayfest - Steve - We have traditionally held a multi-day fundraiser in April, just before Easter called Bayfest. (Depending on when Easter falls, many people leave before Easter, which is a problem). This year we are not sure we have the number of volunteers available to manage such a big event, so what should we do?

Options: Try to organize the same kind of Bayfest event we have had in the past with limited volunteers. Offer an event called Dayfest (a scaled-back, single-day version of the traditional Bayfest, but all in one day), other options? The option of having a charity beach party in January is also a possibility whether in addition to Bayfest or in replacement of Bayfest is another conversation we need to have. We will talk about this more at the general meeting to see if there is support for either of these options or if there are other ideas.

Some complicating factors: the marina is full, but there are fewer people here than usual because the boats are just being stored here and there are not people onboard. Many people have also moved ashore. It is harder to communicate events to those people as they are not on the NET. There will still be some transient cruisers who will be here for a short period, but who will be looking for activities to keep them engaged while here.

The Baja Haha will be arriving soon, and since there will be fewer of them staying around because of the lack of slips for longterm rental. We need to consider how to communicate with them to find out what their needs and interests are so that we can try to attract them to stay longer and get involved.

- j. Communicating important messages - Steve expressed some concern that people will get tired of hearing just his voice talking about the various events and issues on the NET, so he proposed someone help him with announcements. Tom Murray volunteered to help out, so Steve and Tom Murray will split responsibility for making announcements about Thanksgiving tickets and Membership drives on the NET in the coming weeks.

9. Upcoming Meetings:

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 8 at 4:00 pm, Vista Room

Next General Meeting: Thursday, November 17 at 4:00 pm, Vista Room

10. Adjournment - 5:01 Steve Adjourned the meeting.