Minutes for Hampton Roads Chess Association, Inc.

**Call to Order**

The Hampton Roads Chess Association, Inc. (HRCA) Annual Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, 19 December 2017 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. The meeting began at 6:00pm and was presided over by Christina Schweiss.

**Attendees**

24 Voting Members were in attendance

21 Voting Members were not in attendance

**Agenda Items**

1. Minutes from last year’s meeting

* First meeting was held 18 October 2016
* Covered the mission of HRCA as a new non-profit
* Plans for the future
* Initial board of elections were held

1. President Report
   * Presented by Christina Schweiss, President

* Competitive Chess Club, Youth
  + HRSCC expanded from 80-120 active members, with a waitlist
  + Kids raised ratings collectively thousands of points since 2014
    - 30 kids rated over 700
    - 14 kids rated over 1000
  + HRSCC Kids on school chess teams winning trophies
  + Many kids played at the US Open and Supernationals
  + Many kids receiving private coaching
  + Gaining ground in the state
* Competitive Chess Club, Adult/All Ages
  + HRCC welcomed new members and regained strength after loss of the Norfolk Synagogue site
  + Peninsula Chess Club (PCC) thriving
  + Provides venue for advanced kids
  + Lower rated adults able to be involved
  + Around 40 local players participated in the US Open
* Competitive Chess, Staff
  + Increased coaches from 4 to 22 with 19 more awaiting approval
    - Twenty-two USCF certified Level I (Local) chess coaches
    - Five more Level I applications processed/awaiting testing
    - Thirteen Level II (District) applications being processed
    - One Level III (Advanced) application being processed
  + Increased certified Tournament Directors from 3 to 10 (since 2013)
    - Four Club Level TD’s
    - Four Local Level TD’s
    - One Senior Level TD
    - One National Level TD
* School Chess
  + Up and running
    - Grace Academy Homeschool Cooperative (5 years)
    - Old Donation School (VBCPS)
    - Trantwood Elementary (VBCPS)
    - Sherwood Forest Elementary (NPS)
    - Spratley Gifted Center (HCPS)
  + A few more schools in discussion for January start
* Other Chess Programs
  + Goddard School Chess Presentation
  + Portsmouth summer camp chess program
  + Multiple individual Boy Scout Chess Merit Badges awarded
* Chess Tournaments
  + End of summer bash
  + December dual
  + ARCC partnership
  + National chess day (4th annual)
* Areas Lacking Progress:
  + Chess for Veterans
  + Chess for Seniors
  + Chess for Handicapped
  + Chess for Girls
* 2017-2018 Plans
  + Sustain HRSCC; grow HRCC, PCC, and support new clubs
  + Start homeschool club (non co-op affiliated)
  + Expand school chess programs gradually
  + Pilot some programs for seniors, veterans, and handicapped
  + All-girls chess nights and tournaments (seeking venues)
  + Hampton Roads-Albermarle Regional Chess Championships Spring 2018
  + National Chess Day 2018 – dealing with city budget cuts
  + Move forward with chess center plans
    - Business plan
    - Fundraising
    - Corporate sponsorships
    - Benefactors
    - Public-private partnership

1. Financial Report
   * The Financial Report was presented by Cheryl Havens, Treasurer
     + Starting Balance (9/1/16) - $1,247.98
     + Ending Balance (8/31/17) - $8,219.52
     + Incoming Fees - $35,243
     + Expenses - $28,271.25
     + Joan H Schlich Scholarships available
     + Slowly growing funds to realize future plans

1. Secretary’s Report

* Presented by Samantha Brittain, Secretary
* Current Membership
  + 245 members (HRSCC, HRCC, School Chess)
  + 45 voting members
* Number of Voting Members Present at annual meeting
  + 24 voting members in attendance
* Quorum Reached for Voting (5% required, >50% present)
* See Attached List of Voting Members Present

**Special Orders**

* Proposed Amendments to Bylaws:
* Article V: Miscellaneous
  + As reads:  None
  + Proposed Amendment:   Section 11. Amendments: These ByLaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by any meeting of the members of the corporation by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of a quorum present and voting. All proposed amendments to these ByLaws must be submitted in writing.
  + Reason for Amendment: Mechanism for amendment was omitted from initial Bylaws. Proposed amendment follows common practice.
  + Motion by Christina Schweiss
  + Seconded by Hillary Kaufman
  + No discussion
  + 23 votes yes, 0 votes no, 1 votes abstain
* Article III: Membership
  + Section 5.  Quorum
  + As reads:At any meeting of the members of the corporation, the presence of five (5) percent of the members residing in Hampton Roads shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for all purposes except as otherwise provided by law, and the act of majority of the members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the same as the act of the full membership except as may be specifically provided by statute or by these Bylaws.
  + Proposed amendment:  At any meeting of the members of the corporation, the presence of five (5) percent of the eligible voting members residing in Hampton Roads shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for all purposes except as otherwise provided by law, and the act of majority of the members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the same as the act of the full membership except as may be specifically provided by statute or by these Bylaws.
  + Reason for Amendment: Almost 200 children are currently members of HRCA and growing. They are spread out across various clubs and schools in the region. As written, the Bylaws would rarely allow for a quorum to be present. Since the children are non-voting members, the correct calculation for a quorum should be based on the eligible voting members.
  + Motion by Christina Schweiss
  + Seconded by Cheryl Havens
  + 23 votes yes, 0 votes no, 1 abstain
* Section 3. Membership Meetings
  + As reads: The annual meeting of the members of the corporation shall be held in September or October each year in the Hampton Roads area for the purpose of electing officers and receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.
  + Proposed amendment:  The annual meeting of the members of the corporation shall be held between September and December each year in the Hampton Roads area for the purpose of electing officers and receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.
  + Reason for amendment: We need the flexibility to hold a meeting when our schedule allows, and as written, the dates are too restrictive and difficult to meet as we begin each new season. Expanding the window to December provides more flexibility (case in point: currently meeting in December).
  + Motion by Christina Schweiss
  + Seconded by Jeff Millan
  + 21 vote yes, 1 vote no, 2 abstain
* Article IV: Governance
  + Section 1. Elected Officers:
  + As reads:
  + A. The elected officers of the HRCA shall be a President whose term of office shall be one (1) year and five (5) Directors whose term of office shall be two (2) years. The Directors shall serve staggered terms. These six (6) elected officers shall comprise the Board of Directors (BOD) for the HRCA.
  + B. The Board of Directors is initially those listed on the Articles of Incorporation. At the first annual membership meeting after the incorporation, members shall elect all six members of the Board of Directors, with the President being specified in the vote, and the top three finishers in the vote receiving 2-year terms and the next two finishers receiving 1-year terms. In the event of a tie, the Board shall determine terms for individual members.
  + C. Two (2) or three (3) Directors and the President shall be elected at the regular meeting of members each year. The elected Directors’ and President’s terms shall begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting.
  + Proposed amendment:
  + Section 1. Elected Officers:
  + A. The elected officers of the HRCA shall be a President whose term of office shall be one (1) year and six (6) Directors whose term of office shall be two (2) years. The Directors shall serve staggered terms. These seven (7) elected officers shall comprise the Board of Directors (BOD) for the HRCA.
  + B.  No change.
  + C. Three (3) Directors and the President shall be elected at the regular meeting of members each year. The elected Directors’ and President’s terms shall begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting.
  + Reason for Amendment: Having an odd number of Directors rules out ties on votes held by the Board. Expanding by one Director will allow the Board to function more effectively.
  + Motion by Christina Schweiss
  + Seconded by Samantha Brittain
  + 20 votes yes, 0 votes no, 4 abstain
* Election of HRCA Board of Directors

* + **Election for president.**

Nominations.  The following were nominated for president.   
Christina Schweiss

Presidential election result  
Christina Schweiss, 21 votes  
 **Christina Schweiss** was elected as president for a term of one year commencing on 12/19/2017.

* + **Election for HRCA Board members.**

Nominations.  The following were nominated for the HRCA Board.   
Thomas Belke

Bryan Flores

Julie Wells

Board election results

Thomas Belke, 22 votes

Bryan Flores, 20 votes

Julie Wells, 22 votes

Write-in: Rey Herrera, 1 vote

The following were elected to serve for a term of two years commencing on 12/19/2017  
**Thomas Belke**

**Bryan Flores**

**Julie Wells**

Respectfully submitted by, *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Samantha Brittain, Secretary*

Approved by the Board in the meeting

of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

(Date of Meeting)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Presiding Officer)

HRCA Annual Meeting (12/19/17) Voting Attendance List

Christina Schweiss

Cheryl Havens

Samantha Brittain

Jeff Forbes

Ernie Schlich

Jeffrey Millan

Amy Haselbush

David Rourke

Robbie Jackson

Julie Wells

Dick Swager

Ryan Erickson

Christine Brady

Meenakshi Ralera

Amy Nichols

Dove Payman

Adam Kinnear

Nadejda Coonar

Suchitra Tadimalla

Babatunde Stokes

Rey Herrera

Hillary Kaufman

Christie Carrasco

Dan Nichols