

**ACBL Board of Directors  
Online Meeting via Zoom  
August 15, 2022  
Special Meeting**

The Board of Directors and Advisory Council Committee Chair convened into executive session from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET on August 15, 2022.

Present: Jonathan Steinberg R1, Mark Aquino R2, Margot Hennings R4, Dennis Carman R5, Barbara Heller R6, Paul Cuneo R9, David Lodge R11, Tim White R13, Carlos Muñoz D3, Joann Glasson D4, Georgia Heth D8, Jeff Overby D9, Larry Sealy D10, AJ Stephani D11, Deana Liddy D14, Cindy Shoemaker D17, Laurie Rowe D20, Stu Goodgold D21, David Moss D24

Absent: Flo Belford D2

Also Present: Doug Couchman, Advisory Council Chair

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The open session of the meeting was called to order by President Joann Glasson at 3:07 p.m. ET.

Present: Same as the executive session.

Also Present: Joseph Jones, Executive Director, Peyton Dodson, Director of Finance, Greg Coles, Director of Bridge Services, Mary Stratton, Director of Marketing, Susie Cordell, Director of Information Technology, Stephanie Threlkeld, Marketing Manager, Sara Beth Raab, Meeting Services Manager, Sabrina Goley, Administrative Coordinator, and Tom Schwinden, Vice President of Global Accounts for Conference Direct.

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**Approval of future NABC site**

Sara Beth Raab gave a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the NABC Site Selection Committee to recommend Dallas as the site for the Summer 2026 North American Bridge Championship (NABC). Sara Beth explained that as a result of many postponed conventions during the past two years, the industry is experiencing compression, which will require a quicker turn-around to secure desirable space. The presentation focused on the recommendation of Dallas and included a comparison to Minneapolis. She gave an overview of the site selection process, the benefits of the Dallas location and the financial estimate. She remarked that there is a financial benefit to going with the non-downtown resort-style location in Dallas versus the convention space in Minneapolis, as convention centers have extra costs that the space at the Dallas Hilton will not have. Several board members voiced their concerns about Dallas as a site,

including walkability, availability of inside dining options, the summer temperatures, and bridge players' overall experience. Additionally, there was discussion about whether the space requirements should be reconsidered to align with the current trend of a decreased attendance at NABCs.

Sara Beth, Mary and Tom remarked about the struggle to find suitable locations based on the criteria required in the Codification and the compression in the market. Mary explained that there is another group interested in the space in Dallas and the opportunity to secure the location will no longer be an option after the end of August if the board decides to reject the location. Further, the site would not be available to slot for 2027. She stated that the decision to move forward with Minneapolis would result in a financial loss or at best, barely break even.

There was group discussion about the criteria outlined in the Codification. It was requested that the board provide clarity to the Site Selection Committee about the priority of the criteria for future site selection.

Following discussion, the board voted to reject the Dallas location for Summer 2026 NABC

Failed                      Yay: D8 Heth, D10 Sealy, D9 Overby, D24 Moss, R9 Cuneo, R11 Lodge

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The Board adjourned sine die at 4:42 p.m. ET.