

Georgia Boxer Club
December 2, 2017

Attendance:

Members - Sherry Johnson, Sherry Buchla, Todd Buchla, Bridget Brown, Sara Mathews, Jennifer Graham, Jen McPhee

Guests – John David Todd, Barry Griffin

Welcome: Sherry Johnson called the meeting to order, welcoming attendees and thanking the hosts, Todd and Sherry Buchla

Minutes: Bridget Brown made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Jen McPhee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Board of Directors: N/A

Treasurer: Bridget Brown reported a balance of \$7,767.47, stating that there were a few checks to be deposited. Upcoming expenditures include dues to the American Boxer Club, the annual corporation fee, and the ABCF Dues. Sherry Johnson asked how much of the balance is designated for rescue and Bridget agreed to have that figure by the January member's only meeting.

Secretary: Sherry Buchla read the application of Monica Lynch (1st reading). Sherry Johnson said she would contact Monica and ask for the application fee. Sherry Buchla read a letter received from Donna Purichia asking the Georgia Boxer Club to again consider supporting the American Boxer Hospitality gathering at the American Boxer Club National in May 2018. Sara Mathews made a motion that the GBC donate \$100. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Graham. Motion passed.

Delegate's Report:

Prestige: Sherry Johnson stated the club received a check for \$273.64 for the 2017 Fall Show and efforts would begin to prepare for the 2018 Fall Show.

Combined: Sherry Johnson reported that the only thing left to do for the Spring 2018 show for Combined was to proof the Premium List and make corrections.

ABC: Bridget Brown reported that the ABC Regional was held in Salisbury, MD from November 8-12, 2017, with entries of over 100. Bridget reported that with such a large entry, the show was very profitable for the local clubs.

Show Chair Persons' Reports:

Spring 2018 – Show Chair – Sara Mathews – April 15, 2018. Specialty Judge – Ms. Vicki Seller-Cushman, Sweeps Judge – Ms. Jill Hootman.

Fall 2018 – Show Chair – Mandy Justice – Jonesboro, GA – Sherry Johnson reported that three nominations were received and that she was waiting to get an update from Mandy Justice regarding the status of responses from the potential judges. Sherry mentioned that there is a deadline with AKC and Prestige that must be met in order to avoid a fine from the AKC. Sherry stated that she would follow up with Mandy in order to move the process along.

Committee Reports:

Holter: Sherry Johnson reported that the Holter is available.

Web Page: Peggy Otto updates after each meeting, after minutes are distributed.

Boxer Rescue: Jennifer Graham reported that the Atlanta Boxer Rescue's Casino Night was a success.

Nominating Committee: Sara Mathews reported that all of the current officers agreed to serve another year in their respective offices and presented the slate of:

President – Sherry Johnson
Vice President – Jennifer Graham
Secretary – Sherry Buchla
Treasurer – Bridget Brown

Sherry Buchla reported that no additional nominations were received. Sherry Johnson opened the floor for additional nominations – none were presented. Jen McPhee moved to accept the slate as presented and the motion was seconded by Bridget Brown. As Secretary of the Georgia Boxer Club, Sherry Buchla cast a vote for the slate and the slate was approved.

President's Report:

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Bridget Brown suggested that the club consider becoming a part of a new 5 day circuit in December at Perry, GA, in lieu of the October shows in Jonesboro. Bridget pointed out that the new circuit in Perry drew majors in bitches each day, with entries from many states, including Florida, North Carolina, and Alabama, as opposed to the low entries at the Jonesboro show in recent years. Bridget also stated that the superintendent of the Perry show was Foy Trent and that she was pleased with the improved entry process. Discussion on the topic continued with Sherry Johnson suggesting that perhaps the club could have a designated specialty on Saturday and a supported entry on Sunday. Sherry agreed to research the issue with ABC/AKC to see if it was possible to consider this option for 2018.

Sherry Johnson stated that she needed to update the membership on a topic concerning a member of the Georgia Boxer Club but there would be no discussion at this time on the matter. Sherry then read an email from Sandy Orr, Secretary of the American Boxer Club, which stated that Bridget Brown had been suspended from the American Boxer Club for 6 months. The email read:

November 24, 2017

This is to notify your club that one of your club members, Bridget Brown, has been suspended from ABC for a period of six months which ends on May 10, 2018.

Thank you.

Sandy

*Sandy Orr, Secretary
American Boxer Club Inc
402-659-8484
402-502-6742 – FAX
abcsecretary@cox.net*

Sherry reported that she had additional emails back and forth with Sandy Orr and with Linda Abel, the President of the American Boxer Club. Sherry then requested that Sherry Buchla read the following documents from the member's only section of the ABC website to inform the membership of the accusations against Bridget Brown:

***American Boxer Club
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, October 17th, 2017
Teleconference***

President, Linda Abel, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Secretary, Sandy Orr, called the roll. Those present were Linda Abel, Lynn Cooch, Marylou Hatfield, Jeannie Hoffman, Vicky East, Beth Downey, Pat Healy, Sharon Steckler, Ginny Shames, Bridget Brown, Tami Mishler, Salli Moore-Kottas, Sue Tafur, Bobbi Compton, and Sandy Orr. Jacqueline Fabrizzio was absent with cause.

The President, Linda Abel, then stated the purpose of this special teleconference Board of Directors Meeting. It was to determine if the Board of Directors of the American Boxer Club would entertain grievances filed by members of the American Boxer Club against Mr. Tom Davis and Ms. Bridget Brown. There would be no discussion on the grievances.

Sharon Steckler made the motion to combine the two grievances against into one grievance against Mr. Davis and one for Ms. Brown. Ginny Shames seconded the motion. The President then asked the Secretary to poll the Board. The following persons voted yes: Linda Abel, Salli Moore-Kottas, Vickie East, Pat Healy, Tami Mishler, Virginia Shames, Bobbi Compton, Sharon Steckler, Jeannie Hoffman, Lynn Cooch, Sue Trafur. The following persons voted no: Bridget Brown, Beth Downey and Marylou Hatfield. Jacqueline Fabrizzio abstained. The motion was passed.

The President stated that Linda Abel and Debi Bedford each filed a grievance against Mr. Tom Davis for violating the contract that he signed with the American Boxer Club as the Regional Show Chairman.

Beth Downey made a motion to exclude the charges filed in Debi Bedford's grievance on the basis that this is a new letter. Marylou Hatfield seconded the motion. There was discussion on this motion. Sharon Steckler asked to move the question. The President asked the Secretary to poll the Board. The results of the vote. To vote no was to include Ms. Bedford's grievance and the yes vote was to not include them. The following persons voted no: Linda Abel, Salli Moore-Kottas, Vickie East, Pat Healy, Tami Mishler, Virginia

Shames, Bobbi Compton, Sharon Steckler, Jeannie Hoffman, Lynn Cooch, Sue Trafur. The following persons voted yes: Bridget Brown, Beth Downey, and Marylou Hatfield. Jacqueline Fabrizzio abstained. The motion did not pass; therefore, Debi's grievance will be included.

With regard to the grievance against Mr. Tom Davis, Sharon Steckler made the motion the American Boxer Club Board of Directors entertain the grievance. Virginia Shames seconded the motion. The President again asked the Secretary to poll the Board. Those voting yes were as follows: Linda Abel, Salli Moore-Kottas, Vickie East, Pat Healy, Tami Mishler, Virginia Shames, Bobbi Compton, Sharon Steckler, Jeannie Hoffman, Lynn Cooch, Sue Trafur. Those voting no were as follows: Bridget Brown, Beth Downey and Marylou Hatfield. Jacqueline Fabrizzio abstained. The motion passed that the Board voted to entertain the charges.

The President stated that Virginia Shames and Jeannie Hoffman filed a grievance against Bridget Brown for violating ABC guidelines and conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club.

The President again asked the Secretary to poll the Board. Those voting yes were as follows: Linda Abel, Salli Moore-Kottas, Vickie East, Pat Healy, Tami Mishler, Virginia Shames, Bobbi Compton, Sharon Steckler, Jeannie Hoffman, Lynn Cooch, Sue Trafur. Those voting no were as follows: Bridget Brown, Beth Downey, and Marylou Hatfield. Jacqueline Fabrizzio abstained. The motion approved to entertain the charges against Ms. Brown.

The President then asked for a motion as to whether allow all parties to have counsel present at the hearing. Sharon Steckler made the motion to not allow counsel for all parties to be at the hearing. Tami Mishler seconded the motion. Again, the President asked the Secretary to poll the Board. The following voted yes to the motion: Linda Abel, Salli Moore-Kottas, Vickie East, Pat Healy, Tami Mishler, Virginia Shames, Bobbi Compton, Marylou Hatfield, Sharon Steckler, Jeannie Hoffman, Lynn Cooch, Sue Trafur. Those voting no were as follows: Bridget Brown and Beth Downey. Jacqueline Fabrizzio abstained. The motion carried.

The President then asked the Secretary to explain the process for the hearing in accordance with the American Boxer Club Constitution and By Laws. The hearing needs to be set not earlier than three weeks nor later than twelve weeks. The defense can bring witnesses but not counsel.

Sharon Steckler made a motion to hold the two hearings in conjunction with the Regional Board of Directors Meeting in Salisbury, Maryland. Bobbie Compton seconded the motion. Sharon Steckler amended her motion to have the two separate hearings prior to the Board of Directors meeting at 12 PM. After a short discussion, the President then asked the Secretary to poll the Board. The vote passed unanimously.

With this special meeting having been completed, the President asked for a motion to adjourn the special teleconference meeting. Salli Moore-Kottas made the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jeannie Hoffman
Recording Secretary*

November 28, 2017

To the Membership of the American Boxer Club:

The Board of Directors of the American Boxer Club, Inc. (ABC) met on November 9, 2017, in executive session, in two separate hearings, to consider charges preferred against Tom Davis and Bridget Brown under the provisions of Article VIII, Section 2 of the ABC By-Laws for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of ABC. Mr. Davis and Ms. Brown had been furnished the details of the charges, along with the notice of the hearings as required by the ABC By-Laws.

After hearing the testimony and considering the evidence in each case, the Board of Directors by majority sustained the charges, and proceeded to consider discipline. In accordance with ABC By-Laws, Article VIII, Sections 3 and 4, the Board of Directors assessed Mr. Davis' punishment for violating the ABC Regional Contract at 6 months' suspension from the privileges of ABC beginning November 10, 2017. A majority of the Board of Directors found that punishment to be insufficient given the severity of the conduct, and approved a recommendation for expulsion of Mr. Davis from ABC membership to be considered and voted on by the ABC membership at the 2018 annual membership meeting. Mr. Davis is allowed to speak on his own behalf at that meeting in accordance with ABC By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 4. In accordance with ABC By-Laws, Article VIII, Sections 3 and 4, the Board of Directors with a majority vote assessed Ms. Brown's punishment for violating ABC judging guidelines at 6 months' suspension from the privileges of ABC beginning November 10, 2017.

These matters are both serious and unfortunate, and the Board of Directors discharged its responsibilities to the ABC membership with heavy hearts. I know that many ABC members will have questions, and I will endeavor to give as much information as permissible under the requirements of meetings held in executive session to enable the membership of ABC to make its decision of whether to follow the recommendation of the Board of Directors for expulsion of Mr. Davis.

Linda Abel
American Boxer Club, President
strykbox@aol.com

Sherry Johnson stated that Bridget Brown had not broken any rules or By-Laws of the Georgia Boxer Club and that while the GBC By-Laws would require the club to also suspend a member if they were suspended by the American Kennel Club (AKC), the By-Laws did not require any action for a member suspended by the American Boxer Club (ABC).

Brag:

Todd Buchla reported that Minnie had earned several new titles, including Companion Dog (obedience), Novice Jumpers (agility). She is now CH 4M's Shame On Me CD, RN, BN, NJ, NF, CGC

Sara Mathews reported that her horse, HCC Shtar Iluly, was the Feathered Horse Gypsy Vanner Dressage Hi-Point Winner in October.

Sherry Johnson announced that she and Ken would be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 23.

Bridget Brown announced that when judging the recent Boxer Regional in Salisbury, MD, she drew 105 entries and was given an "Excellent" rating by the AKC representative.

Future Meetings:

January Members-Only Meeting – Host – Todd & Sherry Buchla – January 13, 2018 at 2:00pm

February 2018 – Jonesboro Show Site – Host – Victoria McDuell - February 3, 2018 – time TBA

April 2018 – Perry Show Site – Host – Jen McPhee – April 14, 2018 at 6:30pm

August 2018 – Jonesboro Show Site – Host – Jennifer Graham – August 25, 2018 – time TBA

October 2018 – Jonesboro Show Site – Host – Sherry Johnson – time and date TBA

Jennifer Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting – the motion was seconded by Bridget Brown.