

# Board meeting notes 1/8/25

Rev 0.2 1/9/25

Present: John Kuhlenschmidt, Steve Edwards, Carl Ott, Paul Bouchier, Doug Paradis

## Agenda:

- Discuss board member roles as specified by the bylaws and board composition, coverage for whitespace, whether any bylaws need updating. Review spreadsheet at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VytCS0Ggt5n9Uq3rb8A08Xo3l70wqbegNDCTWypkWI/edit?usp=sharing>
- Prep for annual member meeting Sat Jan 25
- Authorize annual subscription to Google Workspace under current plan
- Discuss Robie who sits on the shelf at DMS and is unusable - deferred

## Notes

- Doug thinks the Turtlebot may have been loaned & not returned. Paul remembers it. TBD but it's a don't care
- Paul has a club laptop, Mark has a robot we got from DMS
- There's a differential robot, different from the Turtlebot,, which we don't know where it is
- Paul raised the concern that the Librarian board member role does not have much work or importance to it in the current environment, where the club has very little that it lends to members. Paul asserted that the role of Librarian is an anachronism, and a throwback to the 1980's, when the club held and loaned items of significant value to members. He argued that in today's environment the club has a lot of IT systems, and that responsibility for these systems and their maintenance is now an important aspect of club operations, and is much more deserving of a board member role dedicated to it.
- The board inspected a spreadsheet Paul had created, and updated it, the outcome of which was that there are a lot of tasks that somebody does that are not called out in the board member roles in the bylaws. The club also has a lot of online systems that do various things (email list, website, facebook page, github account, Discord server, meetup account, and more)
- Carl observed that in the 80's and 90's a big value the club brought to members was its library of tools, software, media etc, and the Librarian needed to maintain that value. In the 2020's a big value the club brings to members is its online systems which enable communication, and provide access to content. This value does not currently have a board member responsible for it.
- Doug: while there is not much to the librarian role at present, but there's still a job that needs to be done.

- The board discussed a number of other tasks that get done (organizing contests and outreach, etc) and ultimately agreed that having a board member responsible for online systems made sense in terms of where the value is that the club provides to members, and that the Librarian duties could be put in the bucket of “other things that get done” that aren’t specified as a board member role.
- The board discussed the idea of having a list of owners of the “other things that get done”, with owner names, that is not part of the bylaws. No decision was made on this proposal.
- Carl: Possible board member role: IT officer, responsible for
  - Implement policies & procedures for online systems per board direction
  - May not have owner role of all systems but shall manage ownership & access by designated owners of all online systems.
  - Make sure there is a primary doer & backup for each one.
  - Make sure that subscriptions are paid, we have a backup & subscription plan.
  - To list/enumerate the online systems that need to be managed.
- The board discussed and agreed on the list of responsibilities in the bullets above.
- The board’s agreement on the role of an IT Officer became the basis of a discussion of how to reflect removal of the Librarian role and addition of IT Officer role. Paul was assigned to craft a replacement for the Librarian role in the current bylaws, and to run it by the board for buy-in, then to include it on the agenda for the January annual members meeting.
- Board approved changing Google workspace subscription to annual plan. Paul/Steve to implement
- Doug raised a possible issue with implementing proposal to change bylaws - need 30 days notice to members to change anything. Upon reading the bylaws it was discovered that only 14 days notice is required, and there are still 17 days before the meeting, so we have time to make a proposal and get it before the members.
- Carl proposal: 1) proceed with slate of candidates per current bylaws, 2) have a discussion with some level of formality at January meeting to change bylaws. 3) Depending on discussion with Jan meeting, approve bylaw change, or set an action path to get an action plan to make a change to the bylaws, 4) If approved by a special election, proceed with a candidate search and a special election to fill the role
- AI: Paul to send out slate of officers & that Ron will be election proxy. Also include proposed change to bylaws by Friday 1/10
- AI: Paul to run proposed change to bylaws by the board