**Italian Open Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 13, 2021**

**Orlando’s Event Center Maryland Heights**

In Attendance: Carmen Castellano, Mike Bono, Chris Pagano, Eddie Coyle, Matt Iovaldi, Nick Civello, Mike DiRaimondo, Eddie Tumminia, Joe Ambrose, Vito Granata, Mike Maglione, Randy Valli, Jamie Frisella, Mike Orlando, Sam Orlando, Nick Licavoli, John Intagliata, Dan LaRocca, Phil Catanzaro, Rick Tinucci, Ande Pietoso, Joe Pisciotta, Mike Cucchi, Phil Torrisi, Bill Frisella, Jeff Saunchegraw, Vince Garozzo, Shannon Duffin and Patty Noonan.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Carmen Castellano, who announced the Executive Committee had re-appointed him President of the Board sue to the recent resignation of Andrew Tangaro.

President Castellano went on to review the structure of our Board, reviewing the by-laws and amendments that have been added over the years. There was then discussion as to how the Executive Committee arrived at the difficult decision to cancel this year’s dinner auction and move forward with a golf only event for 2021. Some asked the by-laws be made available to the Board members either on line or in some other fashion. We will get this done.

It announced that in addition to the resignation of Andre Tangaro, Mimi Ravarino has also resigned from the IO Board for personal commitment reasons. She has pledged her continued support of our endeavors.

An update was provided on the health of our Board colleague Rich LoRusso. Rick Tinucci visited with him today and urged everyone to call, text or visit. Medical bills are piling up so anything we can do would be appreciated.

The next order of business was to elect a replacement for Andrew Tangaro to the Executive Committee. To make room for Andrew in 2019 Mike DiRaimondo stepped down. The EC was recommending Mike be reinstated. Jamie Frisella also expressed interest in running for the position. A vote ensued and Mike was reappointed by a 17-10 vote.

Mike DiRaimondo then gave the Treasurer’s report. He reported that in 2020 the IO was able to raise approximately $32,000 from on-line donations. This year’s Board dues are $200 per person and due NOW.

Eddie Tumminia led a discussion on this year’s honorees, Blues broadcaster Joey Vitale and Bishop Mark Rivituso. It was decided to move forward with recognizing them this year with an announcement and signage at our golf tournament but make a formal presentation at our 2022 dinner auction.

President Castellano mentioned that he spoke to Tom Tangaro earlier in the day and he would be in favor of presenting a Joe Tangaro Scholarship if we have a worthy candidate. The very impressive CV of Ella Gambaro was presented and her information will be forwarded to Tom for consideration

Bill Frisella will check on the availability of the Italian band for the day of golf.

Mike DiRaimondo will contact Ravetta Photography for day of golf photos.

Mike and Sam Orlando reported that they will have the food again under control for August 2. Seating will likely be inside and outside. The food will be similar to what they’ve done in the past.

Matt and Jamie will be working on food for the course, hole activities, etc. They will look into procuring soda and water and Dan LaRocca will check with AB regarding beer donation.

Golfer Gifts: In absence of Committee Chair Chris Ambrose, there was discussion on making GC’s to our Board member restaurants the main gift this year. This will allow us to provide great value to our golfers and some hopeful relief for our restauranteurs. This information will be passed on to Chris so he may refine a proposal.

Auction Discussion: There was much discussion as to how to handle an auction this year, if at all. We will look at ways of doing the auction early and virtually and have a few items available to bid on at the tournament.

Golden Ticket: Ande Pietoso led the discussion on whether or not to do a Golden Ticket Raffle this year. The consensus was to do so and some thought will be put together as to how.

There was a discussion regarding adding to our event this year with a bocce tournament but, for a number of reasons, the idea was scrapped.

John Intagliata presented the proofs of our 2021 invitations. A discussion on fees and sponsorships ensued. The decision was to make all prices the same as in the past, including sponsorships. There will be a few minor tweaks to make it appropo to a golf only event..

President Castellano announced that the Legends Country Club will be undergoing significant renovations and all 27 holes may not be available to us in August of 2022.

There was discussion regarding updating our Facebook page. Jamie Frisella has access.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Pisciotta