

**Minutes of Board Meeting
Word Game Players' Organization
(Wednesday, June 24, 2026)**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Eastern. Board members present:

Laurie Cohen, President
Bennett Jacobstein, Vice President
Jan Cardia, Treasurer
Tina Yates, Secretary
Josh Greenway
Peter Schwartzman
Shan Abbasi

Board members absent: (none). A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 2026 Board Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Board and Community Discussion

The Board briefly discussed recent commentary regarding divisions within the competitive Scrabble community and the work involved in organizing and supporting tournament play. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of Board members and other volunteers.

Meeting Schedule and Planning

The Board discussed scheduling conflicts surrounding the regular July meeting and the upcoming Word Cup. Because Board members will be meeting frequently in connection with Word Cup preparations, the Board agreed not to hold its usual July meeting.

The Board also agreed to hold a dedicated planning and goals meeting on August 19 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern. The possibility of incorporating similar planning sessions into the organization's annual meeting cycle was also discussed.

Referendum Procedures

The Board briefly reviewed procedures for placing referendum questions before the membership, including the Board's role in approving whether a proposed referendum is placed on the ballot.

Pellinen Award

The Board discussed nominations for the Pellinen Award and selected Helen Flores as the 2026 recipient in recognition of her many years of service to WGPO, including work in several leadership and volunteer roles.

The Board discussed presentation arrangements for the award, including the possibility of presenting it during the Word Cup. Additional coordination regarding the presentation will take place before the event.

Awards and Hall of Fame

The Board discussed future work relating to annual awards and a possible Hall of Fame. Further discussion will continue following the Word Cup.

2026 Word Cup Planning

The Board received updates on preparations for the 2026 Word Cup, including social activities, transportation, scheduling, and other event logistics. Planning was reported to be generally progressing well.

The Board also discussed attendance and hotel room bookings. The Board discussed communication with the hotel, available budget flexibility, and possible efforts to increase attendance and room reservations. Additional discussions with the hotel will take place regarding the room block and applicable contract provisions.

The Board also discussed opportunities to improve promotion and communication regarding the Word Cup, including more direct outreach to nearby clubs and players.

2027 Word Cup

The Board reviewed a proposal for the 2027 Word Cup, including potential dates, hotel terms, room rates, meeting-space costs, transportation considerations, and other logistical factors.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to move forward with the proposed host venue for the 2027 Word Cup. The motion passed unanimously. Additional details will be confirmed before the event is publicly announced.

The Board also discussed broader planning considerations for the 2027 Word Cup, including event structure, organizational responsibilities, and possible oversight mechanisms. Some matters remained unresolved and will be addressed in further discussion.

Word Cup Organizational Structure

The Board discussed possible approaches to organizing and directing future Word Cups, including the roles of existing partners and WGPO personnel. Because additional discussion and participation from absent Board members were needed, no final decision was made. The Board agreed to reconvene in a continuation meeting to consider the matter further.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on September 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern (via Zoom).

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. Eastern.