

Attendees: President Mary Cliff, Membership, Chair Stephanie Kaufman, Program & Events Chair Marty Summerour, Newsletter Chair Roxanne Watts, Secretary Cat Tucker, At-Large Sue McIver, Dance Chair Penelope Weinberger, At-Large Steve Roth, At-Large Member Hannah Platt, Non-Board member Guest, Charlie Baum

Absent: Vice-President David Shewmaker, Publicity Chair Katie Blaisdell, Treasurer Jerry Stein,

Mary officially called the meeting to order at 8:20 pm when we were all gathered.

Minutes for August – Motion made by Marty to accept the minutes as amended, 2nd by Sue. Penelope abstained. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Conversion to Quickbooks is going well. Leslie has sent me samples of ideas how the monthly reports could look. I'll bring them with me to next month's meeting to discuss. She sends the following message:
- "Please let the Board know that I need their help to make the reports useful, both in layout and in information entered. They should feel they can email me directly with a copy to you if they need their information in some other format. The first purpose of a set of books to provide the decision makers with useful and timely information for making decisions."
- I'm beginning to see that we may have to one day contemplate devising a new membership database. I'll discuss with Leslie the idea of putting our membership database into Quickbooks. Cat informed me that there is a Quickbook program for non-profits which I would assume has a section for keeping track of members. I'm sure there must be other off-the-shelf membership database programs.
- Please keep up the good work of informing Leslie of all income received and money spent. It's easier for her to input items directly from an e-mail rather than off our on-line system.
- It is critical to get a response from Leslie that what Penelope and others are sending her is appropriate. Potentially some folks are sending information to the old treasurer.
- Board Liability Insurance – approximately \$800 annually
 - Use of the van is associated with use of the equipment in the van
 - Cat will check to see what the policy is on the website and what the process should be. Will communicate back the Board.
 - Marty going to meet with the Liability Insurance policy provider to ascertain what our coverage is.
 - Should have a form for the "borrower" to fill out with their drivers license info, etc.
 - Ensure coverage of liability
 - Don't have any way to ensure that the borrower is a responsible driver.
 - So far have never had a claim
 - We loan the van to members based on what is on the FSGW website.
 - Which member of the organization is the keeper of the van.
 - Dennis Cook has been in the past
 - It is stored at Bob Clayton and Jennifer Woods' house now

Dance Report:

- Dances are scheduled through June.
- Penelope has not received the awards for dates from GEPPAC yet, so the Sunday, May 22nd thing cannot be publicized yet. Friday Night Dance has volunteered to help with whatever needs to be helped, as soon as Penelope figures that out. (clearly there is already a strong underground rumor...)
- Family dance needs attention, specifically a volunteer to "take over."
- Penelope needs more clear instructions as to how we are handling door sheets, deposit info, etc. She sent some stuff to Leslie explicitly asking if the format was ok, or what she needs/wants and there's been no response. If Penelope is going to hound the dance organizers to send stuff to Leslie, she needs to specifically know what needs to be sent. Penelope is starting to talk to the English organizers about this and needs to know what to tell them.
- There is interest in the contra community in a techno or alternative format contra dance, Penelope thinks doing it on a Saturday in the ballroom annex might be a good idea. Feedback, please.
- We are working on English Country contract with G.E. Town Hall
- Family dance flyer did go to the Takoma Park Street Festival

Membership Report:

- Membership numbers: 1,050 individuals under Family; 462 addresses. 725 individual addresses that are 745 individual people. Slight decline
- Problems with the membership database.
 - Someone joined online and printed out the form to mail in with their check. Stephanie never saw it. Received e-mail from someone at the Takoma Park Folk festival who received the form in their mailbox because the form has their PO box on it. Need to figure out where the form resides on the website – the form with the wrong address – so we can update it.
- It was suggested that we include a "how to update" personal info on the website and include in the newsletter.
- When someone signs up or renews, there is nothing that says anything about receiving the newsletter online/hard copy/weekly e-mail.

- Newsletter membership forms don't have enough info on them, i.e. how do you want to receive your newsletter, etc. Current system is completely manual to get the e-mail addresses to Roxanne.
- Dancers who don't know they're members of FSGW
- Magical Montgomery --- 12 noon-6 pm, downtown Silver Spring

Newsletter Report:

- Deadlines, e-newsletter, columns, reviews/follow-up
- Important that we be able to bring newsletters to ALL FSGW events
- Who will take them to storytelling on 10/30?
- Complaints about the e-mail not coming out on time – info in the e-blasts isn't always accurate. Info IS on the website correctly, but need to draw the info together accurately. Jennifer sends the dance info out to people other than the dance people for editing.
- Lots of newsletters not making it to their destinations
 - Penelope still receiving hard copy even though she opted for soft copy
- Someone giving us an estimate as to what it will cost to redo our website – from UVA – does it on the side. Can't rely on volunteers.

Publicity Report:

- Is there a list of places publicity is going?
- Did get an ad done for the FSGW page for Facebook
- Are we cultivating contacts for placing stories?
- Mary Cliff took flyers to Getaway, DCBU Jam & IMT

Program/Events Report:

- Had 90 people at the September event
- Mary has managed to find someone to haul the Ebony Hillbillies to Richmond on Saturday morning. We have a van, a driver, a bass. Have fired their agent. Don't have rooms for them yet. They don't have a car.
- New addition
- Have discussed some co-sponsorships.
- Need to invite special people around town to Joe Hickerson's birthday event.
- Program season, concert/event "staff", non-concert ideas
- "special events" season in addition to program
- WES sound – much improved - \$1,100 investment. Al Taylor suggests we would improve sound by putting two speakers on the center beam (a concrete center post) Would like to get improved setup so the sound person can come in.....turn the system on and it's a "go".
- New Takoma Park Auditorium – 154 + standing room – thus too small for our events. We need to be able to serve 10% of our membership for the events.
- McGinty's/Arlington for Tom Lewis – maybe we can begin doing more things in VA.
- Checking out new Rosslyn space on Thursday

Old Business:

- Library of Congress acquisition of FSGW archives --- authorized Pat McGee to purchase hard drive or two for archiving; latest LoC press releases note that modern methods are unstable; Pat refers to it as constant archiving, needing to update regularly.
- Getaway – Charlie Baum's preliminary report is that we gained \$4000
 - Deposit to reserve the venue will need to be made in December or January for the 2012 Getaway
 - More than 150 people showed up from all over the world. Getting a good reputation so famous people are coming as attendees.
 - Took in over \$25,000
 - Expenses less than \$21,000
 - Profit of \$4,000
- Midwinter Fest - April has already sent out letters to people on the booking committee.
- Eisteddfod flyers are available. We receive membership rates.
- Board absences – is there anything in the bylaws. Charlie says "no". Tedious process to let someone go from the Board.
- Keeping an eye out for possible board members

New Business

- No new business

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at Glen Echo.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm (Motion to adjourn was made by Penelope, 2nd by Hannah, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Cat Tucker

Catherine A. Tucker