

Attendees: President Mary Cliff, Membership, Program & Events Chair, Marty Summerour, Membership Chair Stephanie Kaufman, Newsletter Chair Roxanne Watts, Treasurer Jerry Stein, Publicity Chair Katie Blaisdell, Secretary Cat Tucker, At-Large Sue McIver, At-Large Member Hannah Platt, Guests: Ellen Duke and Will Strang

Absent: Vice-President David Shewmaker, Dance Chair Penelope Weinberger, At-Large Steve Roth

Mary officially called the meeting to order at 8:29 pm when we were all gathered.

Minutes for February were presented. Motion was made by Marty and 2nd by Sue to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- We are in good shape financially and are actually ahead of budget.
- Fundraising letter brought back \$8,000.....cost us \$2,000 to send it out. One donation came in for \$5,000 specifically for the WFF and not included in the \$8,000 amount.
- We can afford professional update and maintenance of the website. Should consider this as an option in upcoming budget process.
- 12 new members at the last dance. Jerry suggested that we consider having a free dances every six months rather than back-to-back free dances. The next free dance is back-to-back from the other one and probably won't get any new members at the next one. If we separated them we'd get more new members at the 2nd free dance.
- Jerry suggested taking credit cards for fees at various events, including the WFF. Need to find a bank that focuses on non-profits. It was also suggested that we could have electronic "atm" machines that could be used for entry into events.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Gather costs of the different options for using credit card to be able to enter events.**
- Leslie Barkley is doing our books
- Board Liability Insurance – need for van policy
 - Marty spoke with agent, Chad. On our van we have \$1 million liability coverage. We also have comprehensive. We could make insurance agent's life easier if we could select some drivers and have their names added to the policy. We need to see how the by-laws indicate what would happen if we had a non-listed driver have an accident. Our insurance could potentially be canceled if there was an accident with an undisclosed. We also have a general liability policy that covers FSGW for just about anything at any location. Covers people falling and tripping, etc. House concerts are a trickier matter.....any accident at a house concert would be settled between the insurance company and the homeowner. We also have a commercial liability umbrella.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Consult with an attorney to ensure that our coverages are sufficient for a society the size of ours.**
 - Personally, each board member could be sued if an accident victim would choose to do so – our agent cannot write a personal liability policy that covers each of us. We each need a personal liability policy of our own.

Membership Report:

- Do renewals look like renewals (do we have FSGW envelopes?)
 - Yes, however Alice has run out of envelopes. She has ordered some new ones.
- As of March 1st: 1102 family, 764 individuals.....looking at it historically March 2010 to March 2011 down 15 individuals and 26 families.
- Is it possible to make the "last issue" of a subscription look different than the regular monthly edition?
- Members only currently receive one renewal letter.
- **ACTION ITEM: Get together with Alice to go over processes.**

Dance Report:

- Columbia Heights Square Dance – CDSS (action needed)
 - Motion made by Sue, Marty 2nd to make a \$500 donation to CDSS in support of the program that funds new dances. Approved.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Make a \$500 donation to CDSS in support of the program that funds new dances.**
- There are 4 dates remaining un-booked in 2011, June 5th, July 17th, and August 21st and 28th.
- The Square Dance was a success. (over 100 dancers)
 - Janine's dance report is included as Addendum 1 at end of these minutes.
- ContraStock has sold 11 tickets in advance sales, FND has asked how they can support ContraStock, I would like to ask them to help with door shifts and manning a merchandise table, also I would like to institute a minimum Guarantee of \$200 per musician/caller, I have \$1000 in the budget for this event, but if, after door and expenses it is not enough, for

some reason, perhaps FND can supplement. I would also like to ask them to make up the park's cut of sales, as they do for Fridays.

- Contra Sonic continues to attract about 100 each time, however Nils Fredland is calling the first one in March, so that might be bigger.
- No contract yet from Artisphere, but we're on their calendar.

Newsletter Report:

- List of donors will be published (no amounts) – Jerry will provide information
- Will advertise contra stock advance sales
- April is Volunteer month – need to recognize our volunteers.
- Need to bring newsletters to ALL FSGW events – how to handle?
- Newsletter printer and continuity

Publicity Report:

- Tickle from the Kojo Namdi show – it fell through. Is another musician that day that will be featured?
- We've gotten good traction from Facebook ads.
- Fox brought out people to our midwinter festival. We have access to the video – looking into getting it to post on our site.

Program/Events Report:

- We have not yet nailed down our last program of the year.
- Requests for special events – how do we handle? e.g. last minute house concerts.
 - We need to discuss this further

Old Business:

- Web Committee – Will here to make a report
 - Have talked to Dennis who is very cooperative. Have come to a meeting of the minds related to MyOrgNet. Dennis is now developing the system to allow for CSS code which can be manipulated to create a pretty face for the website. We are playing with it to find out what other kind of “hooks” are needed. Admin side needs to be redone. New interface needs to be added. Lynn has done some wireframes.....sketches of what needs to be on the screens, functionally. There is more work than Lynn can do on a volunteer basis. Solutions: 1) Could pay a pro. (Lynn is in favor of this so we have two pros looking at it.) 2) Sandy and Will have expertise in this area. Need to go through the whole administrative site to do a view of it what is understandable by those of us who are not “techies.” Committee's current goal is to make updates incrementally. Some of this is visible to members (e.g., looking for members, paying for something.) Need to set up a test pilot such that a select group of people spend some time looking at the site, playing with it and giving feedback.....Committee members will look over the test group's shoulders. The Web Committee is in consensus with the suggestion that MyOrgNet.com is the best software out there for our needs.
 - We need published FSGW policies for administrative access/control of the website. We need someone to create a written guide to document the administrative policy for the website usage. “When someone becomes staff, they get “x” rights.” “When someone becomes English Chair, they get “x” rights.” This has been done on an ad hoc basis so far. Lynn might be able to suggest a consultant to help us write this policy. Sandy is capable of writing these policies with input.
 - Motion made: 1) We will continue “using MyOrgNet; and evolve into Version 7 2) We will continue supporting time and effort in testing system; 3) We will work to come up with some process for figuring out the admin policies for using the website/maintaining the website. Motion made by Sue...seconded by Katie. Approved.
 - **ACTION ITEM: 1) We will evolve into using MyOrgNet Version 7; 2) We will continue supporting time and effort in testing the system; 3) We will work to come up with some process for figuring out the admin policies for using the website/maintaining the website. Main priorities: 1. Development of our information architecture, 2. design type work to make website attractive.**
- Logo – holding
- Midwinter Festival – “most successful event” Took in \$6,000. Most money we'd ever taken in for a Midwinter Festival.
 - Don't have the bottom line, yet.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Jerry to ask April for details.**
- Nominating Committee: Have at least one potential nominee for three positions
- WFF no news
- Getaway no news.

New Business:

- How to Follow up on action items between meetings
- Can we ask for minutes one week after meeting

- Yes, they will be provided on this schedule. Had originally done so but always had requests to resend the day before the next meeting, so it appeared that no one was reading them.
- Can we set a date one week after that to send around reminder of action needed
 - Yes, Cat will send around a list of the Action Items from the previous meeting one week before monthly meeting.
- Glen Echo Gala, Saturday, May 14th; Table for 10 \$2,000 by 3/30. Motion made by Marty 2nd Sue. Approved. Passed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at Glen Echo.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm (Motion to adjourn was made by Jerry, 2nd by Sue., motion passed.)
Respectfully submitted by Cat Tucker



Addendum 1 – Report from Janine Smith on 1st Great American Square Dance Revival:

Hello To All,

I thought I'd report on FSGW's DC Square Dance Collective's very first event, held last Saturday at St Stephen and The Incarnation Church in Columbia Heights, DC.

In a nutshell...it was simply a-MAY-zing! The Church website here tells some of the story, some of these photos were taken before more dancers showed up. We counted 18-20 squares of dancers on the floor at any one time, with LOTS of folks sitting out and socializing. We estimate around 210 attendees. Loads of folks in their 20s-30s, also loads of loyal contra dancers, even some Modern Western Square Dance folks. It was a wonderful blend of advanced dancers and complete neophytes.

The energy in that room was electrifying. And they are already asking, emailing, texting, twittering, FBing...WHEN is the NEXT dance???. We had people coming in from right off the street, heard the music and decided to try it...heck it's only \$5, so why not!

<http://www.saintstephensdc.org/SquareDance.html>

The photos were taken by one of the ministers from St Stephen's. Quote from the Church Administrator on Monday: "One of our parishioners heard about the dance and came; she was one of your 200 people. She was radiant yesterday, describing it. And Linda, the priest who took the photos, showed them yesterday to everyone she could. So we are on good terms with the Church, this is exactly the kind of event they want to have there, according to the Administrator.

From Paul Brown, admittedly, he is biased, being one of the musicians and one of the Collective members: "This was a fabulous event, a real demonstration that if we create the right conditions to let it happen, the community will make it happen. I got home in a joyous daze, thinking of one moment after another at a dance that had the sound and feel of some amazing square dances of my childhood, only even BETTER! Wow. For me personally, this was a dream come true. I'd been wondering if I'd ever be at a dance that good again, and there it was. People had such a good time, it crackled!"

Of course we did have some issues, we found out on Thursday about the double booking so we all spent LOTS of time on email weighing the options, cancel?, move?, just try it in the Sanctuary....and the sound....oi-vay....it's a VEEEEERRRRYYYYYYY live room, to say the least.

Soooo, Traditional Appalachian Square Dancing is VERY alive and well in DC! We're meeting next week to debrief, plan for the future, etc....I will have a Door Sheet to Penelope as soon as the dust settles. The Church had to pay the custodial staff extra \$\$ to have the pews moved....and we stayed there longer than expected cleaning up.....and any event at the Church must pay a Security Guard.

I will also send a preliminary budget for the first 5 dances. We figured that way the CDSS Grant would average out to \$100 per dance.

I made sure to have loads of March FSGW Newsletters available, and Gabe and I both announced that we were sponsored by FSGW with additional support from CDSS.

Thanks a million,
Janine