

1. Quorum and Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President April Blum.
- b. The following were present, constituting a quorum: April Blum (President), Richard Aigen (Treasurer), Noel-Marie Taylor (Secretary), Janie Meneely (Membership), Marty Summerour (Program), Mary Cliff (Past President), Steve Burnett (Dance), and Molly Graham Hickman (At Large).
- c. The following Board members were absent: Charlie Baum (VP), Roxanne Watts (Publications), Liz Milner (Publicity), Tim Livengood (At Large) and Steve Winick (At Large).
- d. The following non-Board member was present: Jackie Hoglund (President, Friday Night Dancers).

2. Minutes

The Minutes for the March and April meetings were submitted for review and accepted with minor revisions.

3. Action Item Reports

- a. Independent Audit Committee: No updates.
- b. Election: The election is currently taking place. As Ryan Holman (Project Manager) was unable to attend, discussion of issues relating to online balloting was held until she can be present.

4. GEPPAC Gala

The annual GEPPAC Gala is Saturday, May 17, with a theme of “Capture the Moment”. FSGW has a table for ten. An email will be sent to the Board asking who would like to attend.

5. Washington Folk Festival

- a. April worked with Dwain Winters to edit the fundraising letter. It will be sent to all FSGW members.
- b. Suggestion for next year: investigate the possibility of more corporate sponsors.
- c. FSGW would like our organization’s name to be more present in the Folk Festival publicity and other paperwork.

6. Changes in Duties for Board Members, Changes to By-laws

- a. Discussion of changes that would help the Society to function more effectively were discussed. This will be an ongoing conversation.
- b. April will find out whether our incorporation paperwork requires us to have an election in years when we have no contested positions. The board also wants to consider other polling options, including voice vote at membership meetings or electronic-only ballots.

7. Insurance

The RFB states that three additional insurees must be listed on our policy: GEPPAC, Montgomery County, and the US Government. Richard will follow up with CDSS to confirm that our policy lists all three.

8. Concerts

Discussion was held on the formation of a Concert Committee, to handle the many details involved in concerts and events.

9. Greenbelt Contra Dance

Karen Haseley sent an email indicating that the city of Greenbelt is interested in starting a contra dance series, to be held at the Greenbelt Community Center. They would like to know if FSGW would be interested in co-sponsoring the program. The consensus of the board was that this is worth pursuing, but there are not yet enough details available – for example, we do not know when they would like to hold the dances, or whether they need help with sound equipment. Noël-Marie has volunteered to act as a liason between FSGW and the Greenbelt planners, and will report back with any further developments. April will forward Karen’s email to her.

10. Takoma Park Folk Festival

a. The Takoma Park Folk Festival was a very successful outreach event for FSGW last year. Discussion of having a table again this year took place.

b. **Resolved: That \$100 be allocated to procure a table at the 2014 Takoma Park Folk Festival.**

Janie Meneely moved that FSGW allocate an amount not to exceed \$100 to participate in the 2014 Takoma Park Folk Festival by getting a table in the Community Table area. Richard Aigen seconded. By voice vote, the Motion was unanimously passed.

c. We will specifically request a table that is placed closer to the center of activities.

11. River Fest

a. River Fest is a new festival to raise awareness of and funds for the Rhode/West Riverkeeper. It will be held on Saturday, June 14. There will be lots of music, including bluegrass, gospel, and traditional songs of the Chesapeake Bay area.

b. Since FSGW has some presence in that area of the state already, Janie encourages us to act as a sponsor for this event. As a stage sponsor, we will be allowed to post one of our banners at the stage.

c. **Resolved: That \$250 be allocated to sponsor a stage at the River Festival.**

Molly Graham Hickman moved that FSGW allocate \$250 to sponsor a stage at the June 14 River Festival. Noël-Marie Taylor seconded. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Problem Dancer, and Making The Dance Community a Safer Place

a. On May 4, an incident occurred at the Sunday evening contra, when a new dancer was nearly dropped during an aerial move executed by a regular dancer.

b. Further discussion indicated that this is not the only issue that has occurred involving this regular dancer (hereafter referred to as PD3 (Problem Dancer 3)). His behavior has caused concern at other local dances, and he has been banned from several dances in other states due to both unsafe and inappropriate actions.

c. Steve Burnett and the dance committee expressed concern about how this could affect the dance in the future.

d. Discussion with the board resulted in a proposed procedure for dealing with this and future concerns:

1. Verbal warning

2. Written warning (which the person must sign to acknowledge receipt)

3. Written final warning (also must be signed to acknowledge receipt)

4. Banning of individual (length of time dependent on severity of issue), with notification given to GEPPAC and to other local dance organizations.

e. Depending on the incidents and severity, these steps may be skipped/speeded up at the discretion of the Dance Chair and the Board.

f. In the case of PD3, a letter will be written and made ready to present to him at the next opportunity. This may be the co-sponsored Silver Spring dance, or Sunday’s contra. If he is not present at either, a

letter will be mailed to him, certified, with notation that he must sign and return a copy before attending another FSGW or FSGW co-sponsored dance event.

- g. Further general discussion covered ways to make it easier for dancers to address their concerns about actions on the dance floor which make them uncomfortable or that they feel are unsafe. Especially with new dancers, we need to make clear that they SHOULD speak up, and that the Dance Committee will do its best to rectify the situation. Among the suggestions offered:
 - 1. Buttons to make Dance Committee members more noticeable.
 - 2. Have hall manager introduce him/herself during the lesson, and encourage people to bring any concerns to him/her.
 - 3. Have the instructor emphasize that it is ok to say NO to any move/partner, and that it is also OK to walk off the dance floor in the middle of a dance if you feel uncomfortable or in danger.

13. Next Meeting Date & Motion to Adjourn

- a. The regular June Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 10, 2014.
- b. ***Resolved: That the May 2014 meeting be adjourned.***

Marty Summerour moved to adjourn, Molly Graham Hickman seconded. By voice vote, the Motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.