

1. **Call to Order and Quorum.** The meeting was called to order at 8:01 pm by the president, April Blum, and a quorum was established with the following members present: April Blum, Charlie Baum, Kim Gandy, Richard Aigen, Janie Meneely, Liz Milner, Steve Burnett, Tim Livengood, Steve Winick, Susan Stempfle, Jadzia Sawa, and Mary Cliff, past president, representing Marty Summerour
  2. **Minutes of the June meeting.** June minutes were electronically circulated in advance, and paper copies were also made available. Richard Aigen moved to adopt the minutes with correction of a typo in the name of an incoming board member, and a change in item 3b from "language acceptable to both of them" to "language acceptable to all" and "Once a consensus wording has been agreed upon" Jadzia Sawa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  3. **Action Item Reports:**
    - a. Legacy/Bequest language. April Blum is still waiting to hear from FSGW's attorney
    - b. Greenbelt Dance outreach. Steve Burnett continues to work with them.
    - c. "Bricks and mortar" storage area. Discussed the need for space, since the options at Glen Echo are limited for storage of items long-term. We could use something 8 x 10' with shelves and filing cabinets
    - d. Independent audit. Richard Aigen reported that an audit was postponed until next fiscal year.
    - e. Ability to send outgoing email as your Board position: The ability to send as "president" or "secretary," for example, is still not available but is being worked on.
1. **Old Business**
    - a. **Concerts**
      - i. Forming a Concert Committee, like the Dance Committee. Mary Cliff is working on setting up a meeting.
      - ii. Thoughts about a "big" concert? We used to work with a concert promoter called Stanley Williams (named for the two lawyers) who put on concerts at Lisner Auditorium and gave FSGW a cut of the admission. It benefited them because they got the non-profit rate at Lisner by partnering with FSGW. Discussed possibilities for future concerts.
    - b. **Elections**
      - i. *Ballots*: Should paper ballots be "opt in" by request for each election in the future? April Blum has asked our attorney whether, under the 2012 DC Nonprofit Corporation Code changes, FSGW can make electronic ballots the default, requiring people to request paper ballots by a certain date if they want one – and whether that would require a bylaws change. Discussed various problems with using paper ballots. It appears that we are legally obligated to have an election even if all positions are uncontested.
      - ii. *Database*: There a lot of non-standard entries in the database that made the balloting difficult for family memberships, and there is a need to "scrub" the database to make it consistent and to clean up non-conforming entries.

c. **Dance Committee**

- i. *Report on current status of Problem Dancer 3:* At the Silver Spring dance, the Dance Chair (Burnett) presented PD3 with a letter barring him from FSGW dance events. PD3 refused the letter, refused to discuss, and left the dance, later threatening to "destroy" FSGW. Dance Chair discussed the issue with Jackie Hoagland, chair of Friday Night Dance.
- ii. Discussed buttons for "New Dancers" and for Dance Committee members.
- iii. Announcements before the dance begins and at the start of the second half?

d. **Change in Board positions and duties**

- i. What changes might be appropriate? Should we make changes, if needed, all at once in the bylaws?
- ii. Membership tasks currently listed in the Bylaws are now handled by a paid administrator. Should there still be a "Membership" chair? Or a different position?
  - (1) Could this position (or a replacement position) be responsible for FSGW activities other than the usual dances and concerts, such as representing gospel sing, doo-wop, storytelling, Getaway, WFF, Mini-Fest, and all of the smaller activities that aren't represented on the board.
  - (2) Could this position be changed to a logistical position – responsible for keeping track of signs, banners, etc. and delivering them to FSGW events?
  - (3) What about an IT Liaison position?
  - (4) What about a permanent part-time staffer? See Milner's report, originally from last month's meeting.

e. **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** The board received the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary report, to be attached to these minutes. It was noted that now we can use the Bumper Car Pavilion.

f. **Logging of archive tapes:** Pat McGee has been archiving tapes and needs more assistance. These have been donated to the Library of Congress, which has no ability to digitize and copy these, but many of the older (60's) singers are no longer remembered and we can't identify the singers or the songs. We can give access to the files for logging, but we can't make available broadly to FSGW members because it is copyrighted. We will try to reach out through the newsletter for longtime members who might remember these concerts and help identify the performers.

5. **New Business:**

a. **Sponsorship of the Abbott Stage at Takoma Park Folk Festival:**

- i. The TPF has offered FSGW "full stage sponsorship" of the Abbott Stage for a total of \$1000. The Abbott Stage features traditional folk music, and this year will feature Andy Wallace's tribute to Pete Seeger. It is an indoor stage, primarily acoustic, with deep involvement by FSGW members already. Some of this amount has traditionally been provided "in-kind," in that FSGW provides a significant amount of sound reinforcement equipment and publicity. TPF hopes for a \$500 cash donation with the rest "in-kind."
- ii. Sponsorship includes the banner onstage all day, the FSGW logo displayed on TPF promotional material, and some onsite parking.

**Resolution:** Tim Livengood moved that FSGW sponsor the Abbott Stage at the 2014 Takoma Park Folk Festival, and that the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) be allocated

for such sponsorship, with any remaining sponsorship fees to be "in kind" donation of services and use of equipment. Seconded by Liz Milner and passed without objection.

#### b. Newsletter

i. How many extra copies do we really need? How many extra are currently printed? Two full boxes? One and a half? April Blum has recently found nearly full boxes of old newsletters in the Ballroom mezzanine. English Country Dance needs 10 max; Contra Dance needs 30 max; concerts need 10 or so. Perhaps 100 extra copies at most.

ii. Discussed new procedures to ensure that all event chairs have an opportunity to promote important upcoming events prior to publication:

(1) There were several instances last year of important events (particularly dance events) being omitted, or their traditional placement being changed without notice to the appropriate Chair.

(2) Possible new procedure: At each Board meeting, each Chair who has upcoming events will provide the Newsletter Editor with a list of such events including which such events should receive priority placement in the Newsletter.

(3) Since the "proof" provided by Layout is electronic, it could easily be forwarded to the entire Board for quick review. This review must not delay publication in any way. Is a one-day review window sufficient to ensure that important surplus-generating events receive appropriate coverage? The concern about this process is that, at the point where the newsletter is already laid out, adding additional space for more items will be very difficult.

iii. **Extra charge for paper copy.** If we decide to do this, we will need to determine when charging should begin, how much to charge, and how much lead time we will need to implement this. Should it be applied to current multiple-year memberships, including lifetime members? Charlie Baum suggested two levels of membership, one with newsletter delivery and one with electronic delivery alone. Richard Aigen says it costs about \$20 per year to print and mail the newsletter to one member.

iv. **Timing issues:** There is an opportunity lost for advertising some events that are early in the month. Can we include the first week of the following month, or at least through the first Sunday dance of the next month? This would resolve some of the problems.

v. Problems with paper copies to a single family member in zip 20878, they keep arriving late. Suspect that the letter carrier thinks it is bulk mail and isn't delivering it as first class mail.

#### c. Budget for 2014-15

i. The fiscal year ends on August 31 and a new budget must be compiled and approved. There will be a budget meeting at Blum's home on 8/17 at 10:00am.

ii. Where does the Silver Spring contra dance fit into the budget; is this going to be an FSGW dance going forward? Burnett will talk with Busy Graham about it. Also need to ensure a clear upper limit on the budget for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events scheduled for Sunday, October 12, 5 to 8 pm.

iii. The budget should be approved by the full Board at the August meeting, which will immediately follow the budget meeting on the 17th.

**d. Facebook Page(s)**

- i. Facebook allows "Group" pages as well as "Business" pages, so we have one of each. Currently a Facebook search of "FSGW" gets to Eugene Cole's page, and search of "Folklore Society of Greater Washington" gets to the page that Milner manages.
- ii. Need to discuss our options at a future meeting: Can/should FSGW take over both pages? Start a new page? See if Milner's page can be renamed? Add a headline on the website to clarify?

**6. Next Meeting.** The next regular Board meeting will be at the same time as the budget meeting, on Sunday, August 17, 2014 at 10:30am. One hour board meeting followed by the budget meeting.

**7. Adjournment.** Kim Gandy moved to adjourn. Susan Stempfle seconded. Adjourned without objection at 10:01 pm.