

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM.** The meeting was called to order by April Blum (President) and a quorum was declared. The following additional board members were present: Charlie Baum (Vice President), Richard Aigen (Treasurer), Kim Gandy (Secretary), Steve Burnett (Dance), Liz Milner (Publicity), Judy Oppenheim (Program), and Janie Meneely (Membership).
2. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. Draft February minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided.
 - b. Judy Oppenheim offered suggested corrections via email. Revised minutes were adopted without objection
3. **ACTION ITEM REPORTS:**
 - a. Pending, no report
 - i. Legacies language (holding pending new website)
 - ii. Required election if no contested positions
 - iii. New Dancer/Committee buttons (need FSGW button machine)
 - iv. November 2013 minutes
 - b. Independent audit (Richard)
 - c. Replacement of Newsletter Editor (April)
 - d. Hope and a Home – February (Tim) Outreach continues; Geraldine Buckley was at the last one, the next session will be in March
 - e. Web migration (April) The team will be meeting again at April's house on Monday; Will has found CitiSoft as a potential alternative to Wild Apricot; the most urgent task is scrubbing the current database so that we can migrate to whatever system we adopt.
 - f. Process for email alert notifying members who receive the newsletter electronically that the new month's Newsletter is online. (April) This is now working. Discussed whether this should go to all members, not just those who have elected to receive the newsletter electronically. See discussion under Newsletter Issues below.
 - g. Outreach to nursing homes (Liz) Board approved the letter as proposed by Liz and amended by Kim and April
 - h. Membership Survey (Liz) is still working on it.
 - i. Mary Cliff tribute (April). April suggested that Mary would enjoy a nice concert in her honor, perhaps curated by Mary herself.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Newsletter Issues**
 - i. Fee for Paper Newsletters.
 - (1) Mandy reports that some members have sent in extra money for the Newsletter, even though their subscription has not expired, and/or they are Life Members.
 - (2) How should these be characterized and reported? The board decided to keep track of donations for newsletter costs, which will be credited toward the newsletter expense. Any "rounding up" beyond that will be treated as a donation.
 - ii. Email alert that the next month's Newsletter is available.
 - (1) Will Strang thinks that the alert email should go to ALL members for whom we have an email. The Board agrees, and April will tell Will to go ahead.
 - (2) We are required to provide an opt-out.
 - (3) Should we explain this as part of the transition, with a new system yet to be established?
 - iii. We need better feedback on Newsletters left at various locations, i.e. whether they were all taken, whether some were discarded, so that we can plan better.
 - (1) Newsletters are expensive; dropping off "a stack" without follow up is not good practice.
 - (2) Agreed that board members and others should follow up with the management of any location where Newsletters are left, to determine whether any of them are actually distributed, or if most or all of them are simply disposed of at the end of the month.

b. Washington Folk Festival

- i. Charlie will tell the WFF committees that the FSGW logo must appear on all of the materials for the WFF. In a list of sponsors, FSGW must be listed first and in larger type (e.g. "presented by") as we are the main sponsor. Publicity should go through our publicity chair, and Charlie will ask Ingrid to get in touch with Liz. "FSGW" is not an official part of the WFF name (not permitted under National Park regulations).
- ii. Board suggests that there should be a solicitation letter to request donations/ sponsorships for WFF, preferably by April 1.

c. Elections

- i. Jerry Stein has told Jim Cole that he (Jerry) is willing to run for Treasurer for one term.
- ii. We need one more FSGW Member to be on the Election Committee. Jadzia will not run again. That leaves one open At Large seat, along with PR and Newsletter. April may have found a Newsletter candidate.
- iii. April will see if the data scrub being worked on as part of data migration might make electronic voting a possibility this year.
- iv. The Nomination Meeting that was supposed to take place during the February concert did not take place. Is it necessary to create a "make-up" nomination meeting?
 - (1) The bylaws require four meetings, at least one in February and at least one in March. The February meeting was held at the dance, on February 22.
 - (2) There will be a nomination meeting at the Agranoff concert and one at a March dance. The fourth "meeting" can be held at a concert in May or June ("current" Board year).
 - (3) No requirement in the bylaws that the meeting specifically be election-focused.

d. Glen Echo Park Gala "Folk & Fiddle" on Saturday, May 16, from 6:00 pm to 11:30pm

- i. Can we have an ad ready for submission by April 1?
- ii. How many Board members want to come this year? What is the deadline to sign up?

e. Problem Dancer 3. Board discussed an inquiry from another dance organization.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Email Blasts to All Members

- i. Chesapeake Dance Weekend (CDW) has low sign ups so far, and would like FSGW, as its sponsoring organization, to do "a wide ranging email" blast to help bolster their numbers.
- ii. PR's email blast addressee list is not the same as the FSGW membership list.
- iii. Same question as above with regard to monthly email blast re availability of new month's newsletter – is there a reason NOT to do so? In the past, we have NOT sent email blasts to the membership (only exception being the Seeger Family Concert).

b. Donna Barker Just Retired from GEPPAC

- i. Announcement made by email recently; she and her team made it possible for us to keep dancing during the government shutdown.
- ii. Agreed that in recognition of her many years of service, she should receive a Gift Lifetime Membership in FSGW.

c. Changes to Website, Including Links

- i. Judy Oppenheim suggested that email blasts should include links to venues, websites, etc.
 - (1) Should this wait until the migration to a new member management system is complete?
- ii. Fund raising using Amazon.com, suggested by Judy Oppenheim
 - (1) Many 501(c)(3)s use an Amazon link as a fundraiser – members who purchase through Amazon earn a small percentage which is paid to the organization.
 - (2) Information at smile.amazon.com. The FSGW Treasurer will set it up.
 - (3) How do we publicize it? Newsletter and email blasts.

- iii. Donation "button" installed now? Again, probably something that should wait for the new website, along with information on how to make a bequest. This would require some work by the Webmaster, and he is already very busy with the data scrub and CMS evaluation tasks.

d. Financial Questions/Decisions

- i. Payment level for cancelled dances and other cancelled events.
 - (1) Dance payments made for the most recent dance was \$80 for the caller and \$300 for the band. This is the minimum. Also \$110 minimum for sound tech.
 - (a) Should this be adjusted for number of band members? Minimum \$100 per musician or \$300, whichever is greater?
 - (b) Should we calculate the average payment made to caller and band members, using last year's numbers, and offer a percentage when a dance is cancelled?
 - (c) The Board agreed that the Dance Chair should talk with his committee and make a recommendation to the board.
 - (2) What happens at canceled concerts?
 - (a) Is there a minimum?
 - (b) Does the hall rental "roll over?"

e. Pat McGee attendance at Folk Archives Conference.

- i. Pat has done a tremendous amount of work on the FSGW archives. He has been invited to attend the Indian Neck Folk Archives Conference, held May 7-8. Fee is \$150.
- ii. Motion:
 - (1) Janie Meneely moved that FSGW allocate One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) to enable Pat McGee to attend the Indian Neck Folk Archives Conference
 - (2) Liz seconded and the motion passed without additional discussion.

f. Maritime Festival

- i. Does FSGW want to sponsor this event again?
- ii. *Discussed briefly and tabled.*

g. RiverFest

- i. Does FSGW want to sponsor this event again in Anne Arundel County?
- ii. Motion:
 - (1) Liz moved that FSGW allocate Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to sponsor a stage at RiverFest, 2015, to be held on June 6.
 - (2) Richard seconded. After discussion, the motion passed.

h. Concert Series based on Havre de Grace Performers

- i. Janie suggests a possible Thursday night weekly series, perhaps using different venues. Would they be better as house concerts (all proceeds to the performer?). This will be revisited at a future meeting.

i. Guitar Picks for FSGW 50th Anniversary? Agreed that Liz and others will look into what kinds of tchotchkes we might want to use as giveaways at festivals, etc.

j. ASCAP Issues

- i. GEPPAC let their ASCAP contract lapse, so ASCAP started asking questions about the Washington Folk Festival. GEPPAC has now asked us to retroactively pay \$8 per dance in 2014, which is \$536. We will pay this, but want an invoice and assurance that ASCAP has been paid and that it covers all activities at this venue.
- ii. Steve described prior arrangements, in which we had been paying a fee to Glen Echo in addition to our percentage for using the Ballroom/Bumper Car Pavilion.

6. NEXT MEETING AND MOTION TO ADJOURN

- a. The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 8, 2015.
- b. Motion to adjourn by Janie, seconded by Charlie. Motion passed.

