

FSGW Board meeting Approved Minutes, May 6, 2015

1. **Call to Order and Quorum.** The meeting was called to order by April Blum, president. Board members in attendance were Charlie Baum, Vice President; Richard Aigen, Treasurer; Kim Gandy, Secretary; Liz Milner, Publicity; Judy Oppenheim, Program; Steve Burnett, Dance; Tim Livengood, At-Large; Janie Meneely, Membership; Steve Winick, At-Large. Guest: Russell Ham
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - a. Draft April minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided.
 - b. The minutes were proposed by the Secretary and approved by voice vote with minor amendments (Changes: Spelling of Dwain Winters' name; Proposed FSGW-logo giveaways other than flatpicks. Incoming publicity chair can address this issue further).
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
 - v. Mary Cliff tribute (Program committee)
 - b. Independent audit still needed in order to apply for grants and locating an affordable auditor is in progress, and will likely be taken up by the new Treasurer.
 - c. Web migration. April reported that working on election together has been generally a good experience for the team, and particularly it has exposed Jackie to the frailties of the MON system. A decision on the new membership system/website is imminent, and appreciation was expressed to those working on this project.
 - d. Survey (Liz) is still in process, and may be used at the WFF as a trial.
 - e. WFF Donation letter (Richard) The letter went out to all of the members of FSGW, requesting donations, and we received some Paypal donations and some by mail.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Newsletter Editor**
 - i. April Blum, who acted as Guest Editor for several months, would like the Board to note that the incoming Newsletter Editor, Jeanne Kaplan, did an excellent job on her first issue, with very little extra assistance. Jennifer Woods noted that the transition to Jeanne has been perhaps the easiest ever for a brand new editor.
 - ii. FSGW does a two-month July/August combined issue. The double issue means that there is little room for anything except listings. Committee members are requested to get their information in to the Newsletter Editor ASAP. Agreed to put a notice in the June issue about this.
 - iii. Start of the new publication year (Volume 52) means that all ongoing listings should be checked.
 - b. **Washington Folk Festival**
 - i. Extra newsletters. Per the December minutes, FSGW should print approximately 500 extra Newsletters to give away. Agreed that there should be a larger number, perhaps 1000, and that it should be the June issue, not May. May extras are a "stand by" stash.
 - (1) April will determine who contacts the printing house with a count
 - (2) The extra boxes MUST be delivered in advance of May 30. Judy may be able to pick them up from Jennifer Woods' house and get them to the Park.

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- ii. FSGW membership booth - staffing and giveaways. Richard, Liz, Judy, and Kim volunteered to take shifts at the membership booth.
- c. Elections**
- i. Paper ballots continue to be expensive.
 - (1) Printing \$338, mailing \$1146. This for 544 ballots, most of which will never be returned. So each ballot cost FSGW \$2.72 (!).
 - (2) Should paper ballots be eliminated except for people who do not have email? Agreed that this issue could be part of the Bylaws revision, but the sense of Board would be that we do. We are waiting to see if they receive any reports of problems with the voting process.
 - ii. Jim Cole reported that the initiative to encourage electronic voting has been successful, and that there have already been more votes cast electronically than the final total number of e-ballots last year. Balloting will be continue until May 14
 - iii. The electronic balloting process resulted in multiple test emails being sent to current and former FSGW members.
 - (1) April has put an explanation in a Headline on the website. With Jackie Hognlund's and Will Strang's assistance, a follow-up email was sent to everyone.
 - (2) Response has been very supportive and calm. At least a dozen response emails that started, "No problem." Many variations of "it said 'test' so I just deleted them'."
 - (3) One silver lining: a large number of changes and corrections were sent to Membership.
 - (4) April will write a Newsletter article, including some of the more amusing responses.
 - iv. 14 paper ballots had been received by Jim Cole as of Monday; Jackie reports 79 electronic votes so far.
- d. Co-sponsored Event with Library of Congress**
- i. At a previous meeting, Steve Winick mentioned the possibility of an FSGW/AFC (American Folklife Center) concert on July 13, 7-9pm, related to Cecil Sharp, featuring Brian Peters and Jeff Davis. He is hoping to have a sound engineer from FSGW (one of their two volunteers may fall through), and one or two volunteers to sell the CDs. The board agreed to co-sponsor (and noted that recognition of FSGW would be nice) and that the program chair is authorized to allocate up to \$200 from the special events line item for a sound engineer, if needed. Steve said we could bring flyers and sell memberships along with the CDs.
- e. By-laws Revision Committee.**
- i. Must be done with advice from the Web Migration Committee, so that we are setting up a system that will not be such a nightmare (e.g. only two kinds of ballots, print and electronic, one member one vote, etc.)
 - ii. April is willing to get the process started and requested volunteers for a committee to work on the bylaws.
 - iii. According to the current Bylaws, any member may propose an amendment at any meeting.
 - iv. The process requires appointing a SECOND committee to review the proposed bylaws and seek input from the membership, once they have been read aloud at a board meeting.
 - v. It is likely that a revision of the membership structure will be necessary, so that "one member, one vote" can be implemented with the migration to a new CMS.
 - vi. This needs to be started ASAP, so there's at least a chance to get it passed BEFORE the next round of elections.

f. Storytelling – Hope and a Home; Grapevine

- i. Hope and a Home - update from Tim. Had an unexpectedly large group of children at the last performance, but their attention span was about 30 minutes. Tim's contact agreed that they would set aside the storytelling for the summer, since they will be going to the park, etc. in the nice weather.
- ii. Grapevine performances will be moving to Busboys and Poets (Takoma Park) location at a cost of \$100 per night. Tim has requested a \$1000 grant from a national storytelling organization to cover the cost for 10 months. It will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month, starting Sept. 16th. In the future, Tim may be requesting funding for doing publicity for these events. There will be two featured storytellers followed by an open mike component.

g. Maritime Festival

- i. Previously tabled. Saturday, October 24, has been proposed for a maritime concert extravaganza, perhaps including a couple of seminars if the venue is appropriate.
- ii. Janie Meneely is looking for a venue to accommodate 100-150 people. The sense of the board was that Janie should continue to explore doing this.

h. Outreach to Nursing Homes

- i. Liz Milner would like the Board to discuss the following two possibilities:
 - (1) Co-sponsored performances. We find the performers and help with publicity. In return, our logo goes on all publicity along with the words "Co-sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington" and our members get discounts on tickets. We'd also like permission to leave our newsletters in the facility lobby.
 - (2) The facility lets us use their space for free, in return for which we program 1-2 concerts per year and facility gets a percentage of the door
- ii. Janie has talked with the Jewish Community Center in northern Virginia, and they are interested particularly in performances related to Jewish culture. Janie has two performers in mind (Trio Sefardi and Charles Williams). Janie and JCC talked about possibly doing three performances where FSGW pays the performers, JCC provides the venue, and we split the take at the door. She will continue to pursue other responses, including Tall Oaks Assisted Living in Reston and the Charles E. Smith Communities. Tim Livengood suggested looking into Riderwood.

5. New Business:

a. Dances

- i. The Chair of the Chesapeake Dance Weekend committee seeks to bring new members on, needs to ask former members to resign. The board clarified that the chair of the committee has the authority to do this.
- ii. Family Dance – this should be much more popular than it is. How do we get the word out? Contact school districts? The board had a discussion of different ways to promote the dance. Steve is hoping that someone will take on this dance as a project and "run with it."

b. Financial Update

- i. Certificates of Insurance have been received; we have 20 venues and 3 additional insureds (GEPPAC, Montgomery County, and National Park Service).
- ii. Concert losses are within the budgeted amount.
- iii. Dance revenue continues to be the "cash cow."

- iv. See attached Treasurer's Report.
 - c. **DC Labor Chorus program booklet**
 - i. This \$250 advertising expenditure was authorized electronically. 8 votes were Charlie, Kim, Jeanne, Tim, Janie, Liz, Judy, and Richard. This vote was affirmed unanimously.
 - d. **FSGW Concerts at Washington Ethical Society free to WES Members?**
 - i. The following message was sent to WES members by Jackie Fralley: "For those of you who are new to WES, the Ethical Society has a long relationship with FSGW, invested in sound equipment together, and has long hosted many of their concerts, including the roughly monthly FSGW Member Concerts which they graciously offer free to WES members."
 - ii. Is it actually the case that WES members who are not FSGW members are given a discounted rate, but not free admission? Decided that it is such a small number of people who are WES members but not FSGW members, that it's a non-issue.
6. **Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.**
- a. The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 3, 2015.
 - b. Steve Winick moved to adjourn. Meneely seconded. The motion carried unanimously.