

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum:** President April Blum called the meeting to order at 8:05pm. Present: Vice President Charlie Baum; Jerry Stein, Treasurer; Richard Aigen, Past Treasurer; Kim Gandy, Secretary; Ingrid Gorman, Publicity; Judy Oppenheim, Membership; Steve Burnett, Dance, Steve Winick, At-Large; Janie Meneely, Programs, and Steve Kaufman, At-Large. Absent were Tim Livengood, At-Large; and Jeanne Kaplan, Publications.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - a. Draft October Minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided.
 - b. Approval without correction or objection
3. **Action Item Reports:**
 - a. Still Pending, no report
 - i. Legacies language (holding pending new website)
 - ii. New Dancer/Committee buttons (need FSGW button machine)
 - iii. November 2013 minutes
 - iv. By-laws revision – pending new website
 - v. Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign. Jerry reported that he is looking into the paperwork for the CFC application.
 - vi. WFF – Expenses about \$1000 less than budgeted; income about \$9000 less than budgeted. Net loss is slightly over \$7000, but supposedly there is an additional \$5000 in grant money.
 - vii. Publicity calendar – Ingrid reported on plans to create this internal calendar so that we can track what is happening and at what level we want to promote them.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Web Migration**
 - i. The Web Migration committee has not met for a few weeks, as several key members have been unavailable.
 - ii. April has spent a lot of time trying to get responses from people who don't have an email address or have double addresses. We may just need to assign a fake email address in order to accomplish the migration.
 - iii. April reported that Lynn Baumeister recommends that we have a simpler, black and white logo for the new website – could initiate request for designs from members.
 - b. **FSGW Archival Materials/Pat McGee**
 - i. Lots of messages have been left for D'Arcy, but to no avail so far. Charlie will follow up.
 - c. **Programs/Free Admission**
 - i. FSGW bylaws mandate monthly programs, but do not require that they be concerts, nor that they be free, although that has been the case for some years. So we have started charging members a reduced fee for concerts (instead of free), as we have always charged for dances.
 - ii. Janie submitted a written report, which is attached. Janie haven't noticed any "blow-back" to regarding the admission charges at the October monthly program, Low Lily, except one person who commented that it was misleading to have told people that they would get X number of free programs and then charge for some of them. Charlie noted that there were objections he had heard from others who didn't attend the concert.
 - iii. Discussed publicity for concerts and how we can accomplish that more effectively. Janie also wondered whether a venue with food/beer (Jerry suggested Busboys, which is near Metros) might be more effective. Discussed ways to attract more young people, including having younger performers open, and a Take Back the Music event organized by young women who are writing music/songs that don't negatively stereotype women. Can also consider whether available performers might do a "teaser" for their concert at the Sunday night dance, along with a discount if they buy tickets that night. Steve W. suggested having a jam after the concert, where people could bring their instruments and play with the performers (if the performers are

- willing).
- iv. Steve B. – Reaction was positive to the free Sunday night dance, though some people were happily surprised and hadn't come for that reason. It worked well to have it in connection with an earlier paid dance (Challenging Contras).
- d. **Affiliate Criteria**
 - i. We need Affiliate language for the new website. What are the expectations of affiliates? This will be an item of discussion at a future meeting.
5. **New Business**
- a. **Rise Again**
 - i. FSGW received a request to be involved in a "Rise Again" concert ["Rise Again" is a follow-up songbook to "Rise Up Singing"] over St. Patrick's Day weekend, 2016.
 - ii. They will let us know what they need from us, and we are happy to support their efforts, but we aren't in a position to set it up and run it ourselves
 - b. **Getting Young Folks to Concerts**
 - i. Brainstormed ideas for how to reach younger audiences.
 - ii. What are the issues? Day of the week? Cost? Talent? Location? Transportation?
 - c. **CDSS / David Shewmaker**
 - i. David came on behalf of CDSS (Country Dance and Song Society), of which FSGW is an affiliate, to provide more information about what they do. FSGW gets our liability insurance through them (as does Friday Night Dance), and they run various camps and provide matches for scholarships. He presented information regarding CDSS and its programs, including ones which FSGW might sponsor.
 - ii. CDSS would like to formalize a scholarship relationship with FSGW. CDSS will also prioritize at least two admissions to each camp for people who are potential leadership in traditional music/dance. Pinewoods Camp has a "New Generations Initiative" to give huge discounts via user groups (like FSGW) to 2-3 people per session, for people under 30 to attend camp for the first time. David can send a link to the site, and said this would be great from a community-building and leadership-building perspective.
 - d. **Funding Request – Youth Traditional Song 2016**
 - i. Again this year, a group of FSGW folks, led by Mike Livingston, want a little help in renting a van to travel to the Youth Traditional Songs weekend in January.
 - ii. FSGW provided \$300 last year and in 2013, slightly under half of the travel cost. The individuals contribute the rest of the cost.
 - iii. Charlie proposed the following Resolution, which was seconded by Janie: I move that FSGW authorize the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) as a grant to assist Washington area folksingers to travel to the Youth Traditional Song Weekend in January, 2016. Motion carried without objection.
 - e. **Reducing Dance Prices**
 - i. Steve Kaufman raised the question: Should FSGW reduce the price of its Sunday contra dance, particularly for non-members for the purpose of increasing attendance, perhaps making it the same cost as the Friday Night Dance for all non-member participants). Discussion generated more questions than answers:
 - ii. Do we want to try this for a quarter? In January-March, when attendance is low anyway? Wait until Spring?
 - iii. What are the current attendance numbers? How will we judge whether this is a success?
 - iv. What would be the impact on the current approved budget?
 - f. **Co-Sponsor TradMad Week**
 - i. CDSS has shortened its Pinewoods Camp season from 7 weeks to 6 weeks, leaving the week before Labor Day available. The New York Folk Music Society organized

- a "TradMAD" [Traditional Music and Dance] week at the Pinewoods Camp last year, featuring traditional music and dance, and will do the same this year.
 - ii. FSGW agreed to be a co-sponsor last year at no financial risk – FSGW publicized the event to members via a short article in the Newsletter, and FSGW members received the reduced rates. FSGW is not required to make any financial commitment.
 - iii. Resolution: Resolution from Steve W, seconded by Janie Meneely: I move that FSGW agree to provide publicity in the FSGW Newsletter for TradMAD week, to be held at Pinewoods Camp the week before Labor Day, 2016. Passed without objection.
- g. **Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.**
- i. The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, 2015, and the following meeting will be on January 6.
 - ii. Motion to adjourn by Charlie, seconded by Steve W., carried unanimously.

Programs Chair Report for November 2015

The October programs were enthusiastically received. There was a modest turn out at Seekers Church for the **Jeff Davis/ Brian Peters** return show, but we brought in enough ticket sales to break even and toss a few extra dollars above the guarantee to Jeff and Brian.

The **Low Lily** concert, not so much. Great show, but we lost around \$200.

We lost our shirts on the **Echoes of Erin** show--the one that was a no-fail. We're down \$1000 on that one... I did not get the final paperwork from Loralyn, but maybe Jerry did.

Trio Sephardi (Nov 1) went over very well. The JCC seemed happy. The venue is amazing--great sound tech (lights!). They handled ticket sales, the whole nine yards. All we did was sell CDs and cover the guarantee. Unfortunately, we did not break even though it was reasonably close. I'll ping Dan Kirsch, the JCC music director, to see if he's got the paperwork done yet. It will take a while for the JCC to process the check, but one should be forthcoming. We paid \$1000 guarantee.

Lisa Null's concert was a great success and a good time was had by all.

We gotta do something to draw in young folks.

Idea #1 work full-bore on the Take Back the Music event, which is getting a lot of nods from the younger set.

Idea #2 host our own Youth Trad weekend--only problem is where? needs to be metro accessible and offer beds.

Respectfully submitted,
Janie

Storytelling Report, submitted by Tim Livengood

Grapevine: 2015 October 14

Donations: \$489

Audience: About 48, apart from the organizers and performers (based on donations and counting heads).

Jason Nkwain and Laura Simms

Plenty of people. If we can get about 20 more per night, we will feel pretty satisfied with reaching sufficient audience. The room has enough remaining space that at that many (~70 people), the room will become crowded.

Distributing flyers during the dinner time prior to the performance, around a third of dinner guests were there specifically for the Grapevine performance.

Jason Nkwain is a very cheerful and powerful presence. I am trying to recruit him into storyswaps with FSGW and Voices. **Laura Simms** really knocked it out of the park.

Hope and a Home, 2015 October 26:

Shirleta Settles told stories for FSGW outreach to Hope and a Home, for an audience of 18 children. Payment for this performance is \$200. We got a nice note from our contact person, Grace Dickerson: "Please convey to Mama Shirleta (I think that is what she called herself) how much we appreciated her coming last night. The kids really enjoyed it. They will tell you they don't want to be scared, but they really do like it. They had a great time. Tim, you really do a nice job of getting story tellers for us to enjoy. Great fun! I will remember the game Shirleta introduced to us, as well. That is a keeper for another time. Thanks again, Tim, for "watching over us". "

Tim