

FSGW Board Meeting, March 9, 2016

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum.** President April Blum called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm. Present were Charlie Baum, Vice President; Jerry Stein, Treasurer; Richard Aigen, Past Treasurer; Kim Gandy, Secretary; Ingrid Gorman, Publicity Chair; Janie Meneely, Programs Chair; Judy Oppenheim, Membership Chair; and Steve Burnett, Dance Chair. Absent were Jeanne Kaplan, Newsletter Editor; Steve Winick, At Large; Tim Livengood, At Large; and Steve Kaufman, At Large.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - a) Draft February Minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided.
 - b) With minor changes, the minutes were approved without objection.
3. **Action Item Reports:**
 - a) **Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign (Jerry)** Jerry has identified a member who has agreed to allow her phone number and address to be used for our application, which is required by the CFC.
 - b) **Web Migration progress (April)**
 - i. April Blum and Jackie Hogleund provided a list of names for a trial migration.
 - ii. April needs to work on the landing pages for annual events.
 - iii. Lynn Baumeister and Will Strang are working on import/export logistics.
 - iv. Lynn has requested funds to hire (hourly) a graphic design specialist.
 - c) **Pat McGee archival materials** retrieval. Charlie doesn't have any new information, and April will ask Liz Milner, the FSGW Archivist, to get involved.
 - d) **Affiliate Criteria** for new website. Written agreement between organizations? Charlie and April will talk about this off-line.
 - e) **Publicity Committee.** No new updates from Ingrid; publicity efforts continue apace.
 - f) **Missing FSGW Button Machine (Charlie).** Robert Cox has borrowed Dwain's extra machine and button parts to make CDW buttons, but if the machine that was taken to Getaway is lost, we should replace it, and that does seem to be the case, since the camp has not located it. April will look at button machines and we will decide on a replacement machine at next month's meeting.
 - g) **Glen Echo Maintenance of Ballroom Floor.** (Steve B.) The Dance Chair should request that the Dance Committee maintain a count of black-taped spots in the floor (those pending repair), for comparison purposes, and several people know of dancers who could assist with this project.
4. **Old Business**
 - a) **CDSS Scholarship**
 - i. Camp registration is open. Does FSGW plan to advertise the existence of scholarship money?
 - ii. Does FSGW want to provide "matching" funds? Decided that we do, and the recipients must be FSGW members. April will get more information about how much CDSS gives out for a scholarship, so we can ascertain whether we want to do a 1 to 1 match or a lesser match.
 - b) **Elections**
 - i. There are two membership meetings this month (one concert, one dance). Jim Cole will be at the concert and will chair that meeting. Jerry will handle check-ins at the March 20th Dance since Steve B. is unavailable.
 - ii. Positions that currently have no volunteers are Newsletter (Publications) and Dance Chair. April is following up with one potential Newsletter editor, Heather Livingston; and Steve Burnett and the Dance Committee will have a suggestion for Dance Chair.

FSGW Board Meeting, March 9, 2016

- iii. There is interest from Mike Livingston in being Program Chair, which would permit Vice President Charlie Baum to continue as VP. Otherwise, Charlie will take over as Program Chair, and we need a new Vice President.

c) **Mini-Fest**

- i. Marie Genovese (whose Rochambeau International School students sold French pastries and coffee) at Mini-Fest told April that the school's contribution would be \$294, but that they would like to present the check officially, at a school function, possibly when they present other checks to other organizations. They would like someone to appear, accept the check, and make a brief presentation about FSGW.
- ii. Marie also asked about having her students assist with WFF. How likely would this be given Dwain's request for adult volunteers? Is there anything that they could do?

d) **Chesapeake Dance Weekend**

- i. Steve Burnett passed along the Board's recommendations and thoughts to Sargon.
- ii. April has asked Sargon for an update, but has not yet received one. She will follow up to ask about current registration level.

- e) **Newsletter Mailing and Distribution.** Ingrid and Charlie reported on changes to the Newsletter distribution system. They have a new system that is working well, but need to figure out how to fill in any gaps and identify an alternate/substitute for when Ingrid is unavailable. The board expressed thanks for everyone who is taking a piece of the distribution chain!

- f) **Proposed New Co-sponsored English Country Dance in Reston.** Steve Burnett is going to contact the Hardings to see exactly what they need in order to move forward. They had requested that such a dance be listed as a "co-sponsored" FSGW dance in order to take advantage of reduced rental rates. Tabled until next meeting.

2. **New Business:**

a) **GEPPAC Annual Gala**

- i. Gala date is May 14, the same night as the FSGW Washington Spring Ball (English Dance). Their theme is "Carousel Memories: Gala in the Park." Reception will be at 6 pm in the Bumper Car Pavilion, with dinner and dancing in the Spanish Ballroom.
- ii. Response is due by April 1.
- iii. FSGW has sponsored a table for 10 and the amount is already in the budget. First come, first served on seating.
- iv. B&W ad 5" wide by 3.875" high, due in pdf or jpg by May 1 to go into program. Liz Milner has last year's format (InDesign) and is happy to send it along. Ingrid will take responsibility for this, and will work with Charlie who has a copy of InDesign.
- v. *Janie Meneely moved that FSGW allocate Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) in order to sponsor a 10-person table at the annual Glen Echo Park Gala, scheduled for May 14, 2016. The motion was seconded by several members and passed without objection. There was a discussion of inviting individuals who had contributed significant volunteer time to FSGW and that was agreed.*

b) **Conflicting FSGW First Friday Events**

FSGW Board Meeting, March 9, 2016

- i. The new FSGW First Friday series in Virginia conflicts with a long-time FSGW event, the FSGW Open Sing.
 - ii. Steve Woodbury sent April an email expressing his concern that "a new series, the FSGW First Friday series... is in direct conflict with the long-standing FSGW Open Sing on the first Friday evening of the month.
 - iii. He is very much in support of having a regular event in Virginia ("we Virginians spend a lot of time driving to Maryland for FSGW events") but hopes that this conflict can be resolved.
 - iv. Janie doesn't think there would be any problem in changing to "Fourth Friday" instead of "First Friday," at the same venue, and she will look into making that change with the coffeehouse.
- c) ***Replacing the Stage Lights for Mini-Fest.*** (10 minutes – 9:05).
- i. FSGW owns some very heavy and old-fashioned stage lights (currently living in heavy wooden boxes in April's storage area). They are difficult to transport and set up. FSGW has not used them for the past three years, in significant part due to their weight and complexity.
 - ii. Dan Kahn suggests that these lights be sold or donated, and that more portable lights be acquired. There are modern LED lights that provide much greater flexibility in a smaller package.
 - iii. Photos from the Cafetorium make it clear that some additional lighting would be helpful.
 - iv. Dan suggests that if FSGW had lights that were easier to use and transport, they could be used:
 - (1) At Mini-Fest in the Cafetorium
 - (2) At the Silver Spring dance at the back of the stage
 - (3) At the Bumper Car Pavilion, as "wall washers" to provide background light on the stage
 - v. Two lights plus stands would run approximately \$240 per Dan. Dan feels that we would use the lights more often if they were easier to transport and set up, and he recommends that FSGW purchase two low-end lights to test. And if we like them we can buy more.
 - vi. *Kim Gandy moved that FSGW allocate an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) to purchase two LED stage lights for use at various FSGW events, and that we donate our current lights if the new lights work out. Seconded by Janie. The motion carried without objection.*
 - vii. Dan believes that the Greenbelt Community Center would be able to use the current lights if FSGW is willing to donate them, and donation options were discussed.
- d) ***Janie Meneely's Sound System for Mini-Fest.***
- i. Per Dan Kahn, while there would be no regular use for it at this time, although it might come in handy on some occasions:
 - (1) In August, when the usual Silver Spring sound system has been borrowed by Joel for CDSS week at Timber Ridge; or
 - (2) If Jamie Platt were unable to provide his equipment at Mini-Fest.
 - ii. Janie's other alternative is to sell it. Agreed that we would accept the donation if April is able to store it in her basement.
- e) ***Allocation of Funds for Web Migration***
- i. FSGW is lucky to have two very talented IT volunteers, Lynn Baumeister and Will Strang, who have devoted an enormous amount of time to FSGW's data migration.

FSGW Board Meeting, March 9, 2016

- ii. April has received a request from Lynn Baumeister that FSGW pay for approximately 8 hours (at approximately \$100 per hour) for the services of a graphic design specialist with whose work she is familiar, who will select photos and placement for the new website.
- iii. April suggested to Lynn that while the Board could individually allocate amounts, it would be more efficient to allocate a larger amount, which Web Migration committee could spend as necessary, with Board approval only required for expenditures above that designated amount.
- iv. After discussion, *Janie Meneely moved that FSGW allocate Three Thousand Dollars to be used by the Web Migration Committee for services related to the migration of the FSGW data base from its current platform to a new platform and further moved that the Web Migration Committee may contract for services up to the amount of One Thousand Dollars without further notice to the Board, but any amount in excess of that amount will require Board review and approval. Seconded by Judy Oppenheim. Passed by a vote of 6 to 1, with one abstention.*

f) A Different Approach to Membership Benefits

- i. Brainstorming session. FSGW has promoted "free programs" (which have turned out to be, almost exclusively, concerts) for so many years that regular concert goers feel that they are entitled to have them continue to be free. This seems unfair to those who primarily attend FSGW dances or paid storytelling events.
- ii. For the new website, how can the emphasis be changed?
- iii. How do we eliminate the "quid pro quo" aspect of FSGW membership? What are the benefits of membership beyond free programs and tangible things?
 - (1) Support of a worthy organization.
 - (2) Continuation of long-time programs
 - (3) Training of next generation musicians and dancers
 - (4) Scholarships to young people
 - (5) Preservation of traditional arts -- music, dance, storytelling, etc.
 - (6) Washington Folk Festival

g) Issue of What and How Much is "Free to Members"

- i. This is related to the above, of course. How do we respond to the concert goers who complain that they have to pay for what they feel they are entitled to?
 - (1) FSGW is under no obligation to have ANY free events other than the 4 membership meetings (2 free programs/concerts plus 2 free dances – in February and March).
 - (2) Free events should be distributed more evenly among ALL of the groups who ordinarily charge an entry fee, and concert attendees are not entitled to even a majority of the free events, much less all.
- ii. A statement regarding the existence of free events and how they are allocated needs to go on the website, and probably be printed in the Newsletter at least one more time.
- iii. Ingrid is going to look at the Wolf Trap language. Charlie thinks we should consider different "support levels" while keeping the basic level.
- iv. Maybe consider members getting a couple of coupons each year for free admission to an event of their choice (except major events), and potentially priority for reserved tickets (non-members could buy at the door only)

3. Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.

- a) The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 6, 2016
- b) *Kim Gandy moved to adjourn. Charlie seconded, passed unanimously.*