

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02pm by President April Blum. Board members present: Charlie Baum, Vice President; Kim Gandy, Secretary; Steve Burnett, Dance Chair; Richard Aigen, Past Treasurer; Ingrid Gorman, Publicity Chair; Tim Livengood and Steve Kaufman, At Large. Judy Oppenheim, Membership Chair, participated via Skype. Nine members were present, constituting a quorum. Absent were Jerry Stein, Treasurer, Janie Meneely, Program Chair, and Steve Winick, At-Large. Guests present were Heather and Mike Livingston.

2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Draft March Minutes were distributed electronically, and copies were also provided. There were no changes or corrections, and the minutes were adopted without objection.

3. **Introduction of Likely Incoming Board Members**

Heather Livingston (unopposed for Publications Chair) and Mike Livingston (unopposed for Program Chair) introduced themselves, describing their backgrounds in working with FSGW issues, and said they were eager to join the board and contribute to our work.

4. **Action Item Reports:**

- a. **Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign** (Jerry Stein) No report this month.
- b. **Web Migration progress** (April Blum)
 - i. Thanks to database clean up by Jackie Hogle and input from Charlie Baum, we finally appear to have a list of members which does not include more than two adults at each address, as this has been an interesting migration issue (e.g. two sisters plus spouses and children, all within a single family membership)
 - ii. Lynn Baumeister and Will Strang expect to attempt a trial migration soon.
 - iii. It is possible that memberships in the new system will all be "individual" (which will actually simplify matters in the case of divorce, death of one partner, etc.). The Board will need to discuss how to structure a discount for two adults at the same address (current "Family" category) and the Bylaws will need to be revised to reflect the actual membership criteria, with "Family" being an individual member with children under 18.
- c. **Pat McGee archival materials** retrieval (April Blum) If we don't hear something soon, April will reach out to the probate authorities in that county.
- d. **Missing FSGW Button Machine**. Dean Clamons has ordered a replacement machine, the cost of which (approximately \$600) he is donating to FSGW. He will also make sure that a circle cutter is included. Once received, this machine will be at Jennifer Woods' home, and Dwain's machine (currently being used by Chesapeake Dance Weekend) can be returned to him.
- e. **Glen Echo Maintenance of Ballroom Floor**. (Steve B). They are working on repairs to the floor, but in the meanwhile we will continue to count the areas that are taped.
- f. **CDSS Scholarship**. April will follow up with CDSS regarding how many DC area attendees receive scholarships over the entire course of the summer, and therefore what FSGW's total exposure would be if FSGW were to agree to match CDSS scholarship money.
- g. **Reston ECD Co-Sponsored Dance**. Steve B. has reached out to the potential organizers, but has not yet received a response.
- h. **Hope and a Home** – Submitted by Tim Livengood. Storyteller Kristin Pedemonti performed a half-hour storytelling program in our outreach program at Hope and a Home on March 28, 2016. There were 10 children attending, ranging in age from two (it was his birthday party today!) to about 13. There were 4 adults (in addition to Tim), and 6 college-student volunteers. Kristin told a program of stories from Chile, the US (a personal story), and the Hopi Nation, framed by a chant from Kenya before and after. A very nice program.

5. **Old Business**

a. **Elections**.

- i. As was the case last year, the only contested seats this year are At Large – there are four candidates (Tim Livengood, Steve Winick, Steve Kaufman, and Ken Mayer) for three positions.
- ii. Heather Livingston has agreed to run for the Publications Chair, and Mike Livingston has agreed to run for Program Chair. There were no candidates/nominations for either position.

- Both have been invited to attend the remaining 2015-16 Board meetings.
 - iii. Penelope Weinberger has tentatively agreed to run for Dance Chair for a single year (2016-17), during which time she intends to find and train a replacement.
 - iv. Running for re-election to their current offices on the 2016-17 Board: April Blum (President); Charlie Baum (Vice President); Kim Gandy (Secretary); Jerry Stein (Treasurer); Ingrid Gorman (Publicity); Judy Oppenheim (Membership). THANK YOU!
- b. **Publicity Committee**
- i. Ingrid has received one response, from Siobhan Quinn at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, in response to her efforts to identify potential interns or publicity committee members. She will post an "ad" on Facebook to reach a young person who is interested in helping us use social media. Discussed ways to get people to "join" our events on Facebook and share them with friends. The board gave kudos to Ingrid (accompanied by applause) for all that she has done to increase our publicity profile!
 - ii. Possible sources of help:
 - (1) Request on Facebook page?
 - (2) Email blast asking for interest?
 - (3) Something in the Newsletter?
 - iii. We want/need younger folkies with social media chops.
 - iv. Discussion and brainstorming. Whom do we ask? How do we reach them?
- c. **Re-branding of FSGW – Membership Benefits**
- i. We need new language to explain why supporting folklore and FSGW is important.
 - ii. We need to re-position memberships from "what you get" to "what you give." This will become important as we get closer to migration and the new website, which will give FSGW a chance to change its approach to membership. Mike Livingston noted that the board has given \$1000 in travel subsidies to help youth get to YouthTrad events. This is one way to show people where their dues are going.
 - iii. How do we eliminate the "quid pro quo" aspect? What are the benefits of membership?
 - (1) Support of a worthy organization.
 - (2) Continuation of long-time programs
 - (3) Training of next generation musicians and dancers
 - (4) Preservation of skills
 - (5) Other
 - iv. Ingrid suggested an idea from World Wildlife Fund's "Adopt an Animal" – we could Adopt a Banjo Player! There could be different levels of sponsorship, such as "Angel" which could, for example, support scholarships for Pinewoods. Story of a friend who had a gig, but couldn't pay to get her flute out of the repair shop. This could give people a feeling that they are doing something tangible.
 - v. Charlie: We are a society – people who share common interests, a community. Come and meet people who enjoy the same things you do. April: do we need a new "tag line?" FSGW – Come play with us. FSGW – Plays well with others. FSGW – Where people come to play.
- d. **GEPPAC Gala**
- i. Deadline for the ad is May 1.
 - ii. April has asked Lynn Baumeister if she and Ted would like to go, as well as Will Strang and Stephanie Smith – a partial thank you for the many hours they have spent on web and web migration. Unfortunately, neither couple is able to attend.
 - iii. Other Board members? Charlie, Steve K., and Judy will attend. We need to provide names (and menu selections) ASAP.
- e. **New Stage Lighting for FSGW Events**
- i. Dan Kahn has purchased two new LED stage lights, under the \$300 limit set at the last meeting. They can sit on the floor or be attached to stands with clamps. If these work as well as we think they will, we may buy two more units.
 - ii. April has asked Dan to follow up on getting the old units to a new home.
 - iii. April and Dan will try the lights at the back of the stage at the next Silver Spring contra.

6. New Business

a. Photo Archive

- i. FSGW has long needed a central location for storage of photographs electronically.
- ii. Ingrid has been in touch with David Diamond and Mark Laster, who have many archival photographs and are willing to upload them to an FSGW-provided platform.
- iii. There are many more photographs that should be accessible to FSGW. April has all of the Mini-Fest photographs on her home computer, simply for want of a better location.
- iv. FSGW does not have the storage space for these extremely large files.
Ingrid has located a service supplier. FSGW may eventually need a non-profit business account permitting access by multiple users. Resolution:
Ingrid moved that FSGW allocate an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars to establish an account for storage and retrieval of FSGW photographs, such an account to provide at least one TB of storage space for one year, beginning April 2016.
Steve seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

b. Distance Participation in Board Meetings

- i. Current FSGW Bylaws permit the following:
 - (1) Any or all Board members may participate in a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board by means of conference telephone or by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another, and such participation shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.
 - (2) As permitted by DC Nonprofit Corporations Act the Board may make a decision without holding a meeting, if the text of the decision is communicated to all the Board members and all the Board members express their agreement with the decision.
- ii. This would appear to permit use of a speaker phone and/or Skype or similar video plus audio display and permit the distance attendee to be counted as part of the quorum.
- iii. Kim Gandy reports that the latest DC Corporations Code for Nonprofit Boards states:
 - (1) The board of directors may hold regular or special meetings in or outside of the District.
 - (2) Unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws provide otherwise, the board of directors may permit any or all directors to participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all directors participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A director participating in a meeting by this means shall be considered to be present in person at the meeting.
- iv. So it appears that distance participation is acceptable, provided that everyone can hear each other. It would be appropriate to make it clear in the Bylaws that this is okay even when voting on resolutions.

c. Problem Dancer #5

- i. April got a telephone call from a female dancer who wished to complain about the behavior of a regular male dancer. April urged her to write out her complaint, including details, and send it to April for follow up with standard FSGW protocol. The female dancer decided to send her complaint directly to GEPPAC.
- ii. April and Rick DuPuy (President of the Friday Night Dancers) have reviewed the letter, and will follow up with the complained-of dancer once that dancer has recovered from surgery. They will report to GEPPAC.
- iii. Standard FSGW protocol is
 - (1) Verbal warning with specific behavioral changes requested
 - (2) Written warning which must be countersigned
 - (3) Banning from FSGW dances

d. Programs and Concerts, and new Program Committee

- i. Having a Dance Committee has made running the weekly FSGW contra dance easier. There are specific tasks which can be assigned to different people:
 - (1) Booking bands
 - (2) Booking callers

- (3) Interface with GEPPAC
 - (4) Organizing the Door Committee
 - (5) Making announcements
 - (6) Arranging for hospitality for bands/callers
 - (7) Scheduling sound techs
 - (8) Maintaining and purchasing equipment
- ii. What are the tasks that a Program Committee might undertake?
- (1) Booking performers
 - (2) Finding and vetting locations
 - (3) Arranging for admission purchase
 - (4) Purchase of refreshments for break
 - (5) Scheduling sound techs
 - (6) Other

e. ***Storytelling at Busboys and Poets for the Grapevine***

- i. Tim Livengood will ask the National Storytelling Network to renew the grant from last year.
- ii. If, however, that grant was considered a "seed grant" and not a continuing grant, then an alternative source for an approximately One Thousand Dollars should be found.
- iii. Tim and Noa Baum are seeking corporate/business support.
- iv. Brief discussion re continuing FSGW support. Tim noted that if the grant is renewed, the funds would come to FSGW, so that it doesn't affect Tim's personal taxes.

f. ***Archives***

- i. Liz Milner has asked to resign as official Archivist – she simply does not have time to do the work. April has reluctantly accepted her resignation.
- ii. FSGW has tried repeatedly, with limited success, to retrieve archival material that is stored in basements, on closet shelves, etc. First we have to find it, then figure out what to do with it. The Library of Congress will want some originals (posters, notes, some photographs, some recordings, artifacts). Charlie noted that at Indian Neck, May 5-6, there will be a discussion about archives. Someone might want to go for FSGW and then stay for the festivities.
- iii. It would be good to have a temperature-controlled space where we might be able to store such archives. April has space in her basement that is climate-controlled, where an archivist could work and review things, but we have to figure out how to get the info from people. Charlie has six boxes of materials. We can ask people how much stuff they have, and the general areas of that info (e.g. Getaway from 2003-2006).
- iv. Mike Livingston suggested emailing everyone who registers for Getaway and urge them to bring their historic materials, as long as we have a van there to haul it back here. Heather Livingston has a real interest in working on the archives. Tim L. will check with a friend at the Smithsonian for information and ideas.
- v. Liz has stated that Mary Cliff has said that she (Mary) is storing FSGW memorabilia along with Mary's radio memorabilia.
- vi. Given the Pat McGee retrieval problem, is it time for FSGW to become more pro-active?

g. ***Budget for Next Year.***

We need to have the budget completed by September 1, and each committee chair needs to come up with a projected budget.

7. Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.

- a. The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2016
- b. Charlie Baum moved to adjourn, Richard Aigen seconded, and the motion carried. Adjourned 9:48pm.