

FSGW Board Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2016

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum.** The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by President April Blum. Board members present: Charlie Baum, Vice President; Jerry Stein, Treasurer; Kim Gandy, Secretary; Ingrid Gorman, Publicity Chair; Heather Livingston, Publications Chair; Mike Livingston, Program Chair; Tim Livengood and Steve Kaufman, At Large. Judy Oppenheim, Membership Chair, participated via Skype. A quorum was present. Absent was Steve Winick, At-Large, and Penelope Weinberger, Dance Chair.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - a. Draft July Minutes were distributed electronically.
 - b. With minor changes, the minutes were approved without objection.
3. **Action Item Reports:**
 - a. **Web Migration progress** (April)
 - i. Will Strang believes we need a Project Manager, and suggests that we agree to pay this person an agreed-upon hourly rate. April will follow up with Will about where to seek such a person, an estimate of weekly hours required, and what an appropriate hourly rate would be.
 - ii. April is going to reinstate at least bi-weekly meetings, as we seem to lose traction when we do not meet face to face.
 - iii. Per April, Will cautions that the migration is in danger of failing if more and faster progress is not made. Board members were urged to think of potential project managers.
 - b. **Pat McGee archival materials retrieval.** April is reviewing the websites of other potential probate attorneys through Martindale Hubbell.
 - c. **CDSS Scholarship.** April finally got a CDSS response, but too late to do anything this year.
 - d. **Photo Archive** – Mini-Fest photos?
 - e. **Problem Dancer #5.** April reported that his shoulder is recovering – he is dancing ECD, but not contra yet. April plans to set up a meeting with Rick DuPuy, President of the Friday Night Dancers and PD 5.
 - f. **Busboys and Poets/Grapevine.** Noa Baum has raised \$725, which will be used to feed the performers. He is also looking into a student "open mike" night. Tim will be working on publicity for coming performances.
 - g. **Proposed Scholarship.** April wrote to Coco Glass with follow up questions, and Ms. Glass indicated she would talk to friends and counsel and get back to us.
 - h. **Chesapeake Dance Weekend.** April got a follow up email from Sargon asking how FootFall Dance Weekend handles travel expenses, and she has responded. She still needs to write up a critique, have Penelope review it, and then send it to Sargon.
 - i. **Washington Folk Festival Manual.** Charlie reported on progress interviewing Dean, Carly, and others. He is continuing to pursue these interviews.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Re-branding of FSGW – Membership Benefits**

See New Business. We will discuss re-defining and limited Membership types as well as several possible new benefits.
 - b. **Budget Meeting Reminder.** August 28, Sunday, at 11 am, at April's house.
 - c. **Logo.** Ingrid presented a proposal from a local artist, Debbie Witt. Ingrid will obtain more samples of her work. She is willing to do a design for the reduced amount of \$600. Ingrid will also try to discuss with Penelope.
 - d. **Takoma Park Folk Festival Cancellation**
 - i. Many people have been working to organize a "substitute" Takoma Park Folk Festival.

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- ii. David Eisner is organizing a 10 am to 5 pm concert at the Takoma Park Gazebo on Sunday, September 11. Carroll Avenue will be closed in front of the Gazebo, and a tent will be set up to shade the audience. There will be a few children's activities and food vendors, but no community tables.
- iii. FSGW, through its Programs Chair, is offering to provide programming and technical support staff at the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium for an additional evening 4-hour (5 to 9 pm) program.
 - (1) Seven hour rental fee (load in at 3 pm, out by 10 pm.)
 - (2) \$250 for sound tech and \$350 for the hall? We need a resolution allocating these funds.
 - (3) Mike Livingston moved that the Folklore Society of Greater Washington allocate an amount not to exceed Fifteen Hundred Dollars to provide a sound engineer and venue rental for a four-hour evening program on Sunday, September 11, as part of the folk community's efforts to provide a substitute for the canceled Takoma Park Folk Festival. Seconded by Charlie Baum. The motion passed without objection.

5. **New Business:**

a. ***Implementing a New Procedure for "Free" admission***

- i. Mike has given the issue of "free" concerts (or dances) a considerable amount of thought, and would like to suggest using passes (which become a Membership perq), which will be mailed to each Member once a year.
- ii. This will require some additional postage and paperwork.
- iii. We will need to clearly define what is and is NOT covered by the "passes". April has the GEPPAC passes to use as an example. Passes would NOT include Chesapeake Dance Weekend, Washington Spring Ball, Mini-Fest, Getaway, or Contrastock. Others?
- iv. Issues:
 - (1) Discussed whether or not to date them so they expire, or make them last forever.
 - (2) Include "No Cash Value" statement. Include maximum value for specific types of event. Discussed \$10 to \$25 as maximum value.
 - (3) Agreed that we would not require that only the Member use them (so could use them to invite a friend to a dance or concert).
 - (4) This will require a current mailing address for all members, including Life Members.
 - (5) Kim suggested that 3 coupons could be laid out 4-up along with the membership card on ½ sheet of card stock, which could then be folded and inserted into the same envelope that the card would have been sent in anyway, thus no additional postage.
 - (6) Who will have to do the work? Mandy, as part of renewals?

b. ***Concert Committee Implementation Progress and Suggestions***

- i. Mike will provide either additional or special passes for all Concert volunteers.
- ii. Mike will arrange to set up a Google Docs signup sheet or duty roster. The number of volunteers needed for each event (and probably a brief description of duties) should be included for each event.

c. ***Membership Drive***

- i. Proposal for an annual "Membership Drive" event – coordination between Program and Membership Chairs, with assistance from Publicity Chair.
- ii. Mike suggests a "relatively big artist" – e.g., Dan Zanes or Rick Danko & Levon Helm, at Veterans Plaza for a free concert, but where we offer FSGW Memberships with some significant benefit if you sign up then and there. For example, 20% off, or (probably more practical economically) two extra event passes (see above).

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- (1) Only possible when there is not ice skating on the plaza. April suggested the month of May, as a lead-up to the Washington Folk Festival. Mike is talking to Dan Zanes about next Spring or Fall.
- (2) Other possible benefits or hand-outs?
- iii. Jerry Stein has just set up an account with Montgomery County so that April can apply for the Mini-Fest date online. This same account should be used whenever FSGW is renting Montgomery County buildings such as Veterans Plaza (this was first done for last year's Washington Spring Ball).

d. *Redefining Membership Criteria*

- i. The work done so far by the Web Migration committee with Wild Apricot has made it clear that the current multiple membership types create difficulties that need to be eliminated and not migrated.
- ii. April recommended that all future elections be electronic only. No two-person ballots in the future. Each Member would receive a single ballot (via email?), and will need an email address. All of this will require a bylaws change.
- iii. The Web Migration committee strongly suggests that starting when the data migration occurs, all adults will become individual Members. Each Member's dependent children (under 18) would be included in a separate "box" on the website, but their names would not be entered in the data base as Members, as is currently the case. This will eliminate the problem of having adult children still included on a parent's Membership.
- iv. Eliminate "Family" memberships.
 - (1) Making each adult a separate Member eliminates the problems divorce and remarriage have created in the data base. If a couple separates, no need to do anything more than change one person's address. If there are dependent children, they can remain listed as dependents of each parent for reduced price purposes.
 - (2) One person pointed out to April that it's not fair to penalize single people by giving still another financial advantage to married people (they already get tax breaks).
- v. Eliminate "Newsletter only" memberships
 - (1) There are only 11 of them, and now that the Newsletter is available online, this is an unnecessary complication.
- vi. Eliminate "Student" memberships.
 - (1) Offer extra passes with proof of student status (photo of student ID).
- vii. Offer a reduced rate membership for those on "limited income"? We could also offer opportunity for other members to contribute to these "scholarships."
- viii. How and when to implement the changes? This needs to occur with migration, so the change in the bylaws will probably have to be retroactive, given the time constraints. Also there will be a very challenging procedure of changing the bylaws.

6. Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.

- a. The next regular Board meeting will be Sunday, August 28, 2016, at 1pm at the home of April Blum, following the 11am budget meeting.
- b. Heather moved to adjourn, Ingrid seconded, Motion carried without objection.