

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum.** Only 7 Board members were present. Not a quorum. April Blum (President) called the meeting to order. Also present: Charlie Baum (VP), Ingrid Gorman (Publicity), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Judy Oppenheim (Membership), Heather Livingston (Publications), and Steve Kauffman (At-Large).
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes.**
 - a. Draft December Minutes were distributed by email and print copies were also provided at the meeting.
 - b. There were a few minor changes. Minutes were approved, but will be resubmitted at the February meeting (if a quorum is present).
3. **Action Item Reports:**
 - a. **Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign** (Jerry) Will be starting shortly, then can join the Combined Federal Campaign.
 - b. **Web Migration progress** (April) Actively searching for a Project Manager. April has been asked to find a standard form contract for services.
 - c. **Pat McGee archival materials retrieval.** (April) No responses so far.
 - d. **Photo Archive** – April has all Mini-Fest photos ready to give Ingrid. FINAL
 - e. **Problem Dancer #5.** (April) No change this month. Still trying to get all three people together.
 - f. **Hope and a Home and Grapevine.** (Tim). Not present, no report
 - g. **Proposed Scholarship.** (April) No change this month.
 - h. **Washington Folk Festival Manual.** (Charlie) No change this month
 - i. **Musical Theater adaptation** (Mike) No change this month
 - j. **Concerns about Maintenance at the Spanish Ballroom** (April). April chatted by email with Reuven regarding the restrooms in the Spanish Ballroom. Apparently, a particular valve in the fixtures is beginning to fail. Replacement parts have been ordered. At one point, three of seven stalls in the ladies' room were out of order. This appears to have been fixed, and the tile floor is no longer wet. The slick spot on the Ballroom floor appears to have disappeared. No further complaints or falls. FINAL
 - k. **Distribution of Donated 78s and Books.** (April). Need to make the list and check with LoC. Steve Winick has someone in mind; April will send to Steve.
 - l. **Roger McGuinn Concert.** (Mike). There were a number of issues in the proposed contract with Roger McGuinn which would have given the concert a very different feel from FSGW-branded events: no opening act, no introduction, no FSGW banners or announcements from the stage, and no opportunity for audience members to meet the artist. These are all important elements of FSGW concerts, and although FSGW might be willing to concede one or two, these appeared to be non-negotiable.. Mike has decided that although FSGW could afford the fees, and might even have made a small surplus, it was out of proportion to what we have paid other solo artists of historical significance, and in the end the negatives outweighed the positives.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Mini-Fest 2017**
 - i. Need to get final schedule up on the website. Conflicts need to be resolved. April waiting on schedule to coordinate with ceili, etc. April will look at schedule tomorrow morning while working on article.
 - ii. April has updated and uploaded photos to the website. April following up on handbell choir. Molly dance workshop currently last in the gym.
 - iii. Molly Hickman has agreed to "host" the workshops track, which doesn't have a

chair. General discussion of workshop ideas, as well as ideas for the Jams room.

- iv. 300 additional newsletters for Minifest.
- v. Board at Minifest should talk up FSGW.

b. Logo

- i. Need more than one distinctive design to choose from?
- ii. Must include reference to music (look at Middle C, local music school)
- iii. Additional input from other graphics artists? Ask Debbie for additional scaleable designs?
- iv. Leslie Barkley (FSGW Bookkeeper) has sent April a couple names of graphic designers. Need at least three scaleable logos to choose from. Music reference in logo critical. Ingrid said a treble clef would imply classical music.

c. CDSS year-end donation

- i. The Board resolved electronically to make a year-end donation of \$500 to CDSS. Pursuant to the by-laws, we need to reaffirm that resolution at a face-to-face meeting.
- ii. Mike Livingston made the following motion: I move that FSGW make a year-end donation in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the Country Dance and Song Society (CDSS), a 501(c)(3) organization that has supported traditional music, dance, crafts and more in the United States for one hundred years.
- iii. Heather Livingston seconded. Passed unanimously.

d. Year-End Donation letter.

- i. This was not sent out at end of 2016. Note our fiscal year does not end in December and year-end letters have not historically brought in a large number of donations. Suggestions made to maybe send mid-fiscal year (March), possibly piggybacked with WFF letter. Donors could assign funds to WFF or general. Another idea: February 14 with bumper stickers "I heart FSGW"
- ii. Include information about estate planning – how to make a donation to FSGW?

e. CDSS Scholarship, Seeking Recipients, Publicizing

- i. The Board agreed that publicizing the availability of CDSS scholarships, rather than having Board members choose and seek out individuals, was more in keeping with the FSGW philosophy.
- ii. Probably needs to be in the March Newsletter.

5. New Business:

a. FSGW Washington Folk Festival

- i. Dwain Winters and Dean Clamons addressed the Board concerning the history and future of the FSGW Washington Folk Festival, as well as bringing certain aspects of this year's FSGW WFF to the Board's attention.
- ii. Dwain expressed ongoing specific concerns regarding three major areas:
 - (1) Festival staff is aging, and there are insufficient (or no) replacements in training;
 - (2) Conforming to the intrusive NPS regulations and coordination with GEPPAC and other local authorities is time-consuming and increasingly difficult; these regulations increase costs and decrease revenue; and
 - (3) The Festival has incurred very significant deficits for more than ten years. This year's deficit (without tent rental costs) is estimated at \$11,000.

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- iii. Dwain informed the Board that he does not wish to continue to serve as the FSGW WFF Coordinator beyond 2018. He is willing to continue in a support/consultant capacity.
- iv. Tents. National Park Service's escalating regulations regarding tents continue to be an issue. Stakes are not allowed; retrofitting the existing tents would be expensive and difficult, and one of the two large FSGW tents has is no longer useable, due to its age. The Board agreed that renting tents (which would include installing, maintaining, and taking them down) might be appropriate this year. Costs are substantial, but it might be possible to allocate the charges from the Eberhard Fund.
- v. The Board thanked Dean and Dwain for their presentation, and agreed that further discussion and a Board decision about the future of the FSGW WFF will be necessary.
- vi. The Board also agreed to decide whether or not to authorize renting tents for the 2017 FSGW WFF, will discuss this matter online, and will inform Dwain and Dean of the Board's decision.

b. Elections for Board 2017-18.

- i. Jim Cole and Jackie Hogleund have already agreed to be on the Elections Committee. April has asked Richard Aigen (past Treasurer and an active dancer and concert-goer) if he would be willing to serve. The by-laws require three people, none of whom are running for office.
- ii. Email from Jim includes the following:
 - (1) More than three on the Elections Committee is okay if we can find volunteers. Minimum is three.
 - (2) Need a short article in the February newsletter regarding which concerts and dances will be free to members as nominating opportunities. Penelope and Mike requested to pick both a February and a March dance and concert, respectively, as "free to members."
 - (3) April will email Will Strang, Webmaster, with email addresses of the Election Committee so that emails to the Committee are properly forwarded.
 - (4) Per the bylaws, Jim needs to know ASAP who is staying on (prior to the February meetings). Per the by-laws, the Election Committee is supposed to present a slate of candidates at nomination meetings, to properly inform the members who is running. Jim received a complaint regarding the late announcement of one candidate last year, and he would like to avoid that.

c. Women's March on Washington. Discussion of a member's suggestion emailed to April that FSGW help promote (e.g., via flyers at a dance) the January 21 Women's March on Washington. Board agreed not to do this.

d. Society.

- i. *Brainstorming session:* What can we do to make FSGW more of a Society? How can we get the dancers to sing and the singers to dance with each other? Some sort of free annual event for members only?
- ii. Postponed till next month.

6. Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.

- a. The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 1, 2017.
- b. Motion to adjourn. Judy Oppenheim moved to adjourn, Charlie Baum seconded. Adjourned at 9:58 pm.