

1. **Call to Order and Existence of Quorum:** April Blum (President) called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Board members present: Ingrid Gorman (Publicity), Molly Hickman (VP), Ken Mayer (At Large), Tim Livengood (At Large, Mike Livingston (Programs), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Jen Furlong (Membership), Steve Kaufman (At Large), and Kim Gandy (Secretary). Steve Roth (Dance) arrived at 2pm. Heather Livingston (Publications) was absent.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Draft July Minutes were distributed by email and print copies were provided. Kim thanked Molly for taking minutes at that meeting. With a minor correction, the minutes were approved without objection.
3. **Action Item Reports:**
  - a. **Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign** (Jerry) Auditor has asked for and received copies of recent Minutes. (Kim has suggested incorporating written Chair reports with Minutes, particularly financial, including a more elaborate quarterly reports.) Jerry will look into what is involved in changing our fiscal year.
  - b. **Pat McGee archival materials retrieval.** (April) No change this month.
  - c. **Hope and a Home.** (Tim). First one of this year will be in September; hiatus in August, as last year. Planning to schedule performers farther in advance, and seeking more diversity in storytellers.
  - d. **Washington Folk Festival Manual.** (Charlie Baum)
  - e. **Musical Theater adaptation** April has not followed up this month.
  - f. **Distribution of Donated 78s and Books.** (April). Betsy Platt is still working on this.
  - g. **WFFL.** See Old Business for discussion
  - h. **Recruitment of additional Concert Committee members.** Mike has reached out to a few people, but really needs volunteers who can run the event, not just help with them. Ken will help with the embassies.
  - i. **WFF Financials.** Preliminary report from Dwain finally sent to April, and she distributed a 10 year history of WFF deficits. \$24,300 loss this year, and everyone agrees that this is unacceptable and must be changed.
  - j. **Sound Equipment.** Dan Kahn has sent a list. Final.
  - k. **Training Sound Techs.** No updates.
  - l. **Problem Attendee.** (Steve and/or Mike). Nothing to report this month.
  - m. **Newsletter Format Change.** Agreed to eliminate the calendar because of the extensive work required, or limit it to just FSGW events.
4. **Wish List for Bylaw Revision:** A list of what needs to be changed, so we get to all of it. .
  - a. Easier method to amend Bylaws.
  - b. Change to membership structure – one person, one member. All member's dependents get the member rate (the old rationale for "Family").
  - c. Change one Board position to IT Liaison
  - d. Address "corporate" issues (Revels). They can't vote, and therefore need a different type of membership, such as "affiliation."
  - e. Allow a completely unopposed slate to be elected acclamation? Do we allow for write-ins?

- f. Elect only HALF of the Board each year? Or elect Board for two-year terms – with elections held only every other year instead of every year. This will also require rethinking "five-year" limit.
- g. Eliminate the differentiation between "Programs" and "Concerts" which is no longer reflected in the Board personnel.
- h. Should there be a mechanism for deputizing a committee member to represent a Board member at a meeting?
- i. Are we required by the bylaws to have a Sept. 1-Aug. 31 fiscal year?

## 5. Old Business

### a. **Logo**

- i. Lawn signs – Need to order at least 25. Ingrid is getting bids. Discussed color of text, size of arrows, etc. Ingrid will re-work the design.
- ii. Banners. April has several in her shed, and will give one of the bases to Ingrid in order to match.

### b. **Washington Folk Festival**

- i. Report from Molly and April regarding Thursday meeting with GEPPAC.
- ii. GEPPAC was extremely interested in keeping WFF at the Park. GEPPAC wants to explore re-configuring it as a truly CO-sponsored event with the National Park Service. They outlined a number of advantages, including reduction in the way donations can be requested. They thought they could help with contributions, and even partial sponsorship of the shuttle buses.
- iii. April gave GEPPAC a copy of the numbers showing the very large deficits, and they agree that it cannot go forward as currently structured. They actually had park service people come to the festival to see for themselves that it wasn't 100,000 people and so they didn't need to be quite so strict/stringent.
- iv. Follow up meeting ASAP with GEPPAC is essential.
- v. GEPPAC very enthusiastic about re-instating the 3-person committee, with one person rotating OFF the committee each year. Molly has agreed to take one of those slots. April has asked Charlie Baum (by email) if he will take one of the slots.

**Redistribution of Responsibilities.** Tabled this month.

## 6. New Business:

- a. **Focus Music Meeting and Combined Calendar:** Molly attended a meeting of non-profit concert organizers (sponsored by Focus Music). One suggestion is a combined/communal calendar.
- b. **Suggestions from new Membership Chair**
  - i. Jen has some proposals to reverse the loss of members that has been an ongoing issue for some time. She has identified attrition (people dying or falling away) as an issue, need to replace those people. Renewals are dropping off, and we need to have multiple notices, and Jenn wants to be more assertive.

- ii. Another problem is that most of our activities are confined to a small geographic area, and she is looking at that (as is Mike). Desire to bring in families, so that we have generational buy-in.
- iii. Jenn has talked to some teachers about potential "classroom memberships" with options that include a half-hour concert at some point during the year from an FSGW performer. A monthly letter will go out to each teacher – "here are all the events, and here is the one that your class will get to attend for free." Lots of exciting ideas!
- iv. Wants to have membership materials in places where kids go, like dance classes and recreation centers and libraries.

c. **Takoma Park Folk Festival Sponsorship of Abbott Stage.**

- i. For many years FSGW has provided the original TPF with a stage sponsorship and use of our Newsletter for distribution of the TPF schedule to likely participants (FSGW members).
- ii. THIS year there's a new TPF organization, and they have asked that THIS year we provide not only \$500 as a cash contribution (sponsorship), but that we also pay for the printing and insertion (tip-in) costs of adding their schedule into the newsletter.
- iii. After some online discussion, the Board agreed to this, but wants to be clear that FSGW does not anticipate any out-of-pocket expenses in excess of \$500 in 2018.
- iv. Resolution: Ingrid moved that FSGW allocate the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be paid to the Takoma Park Folk Festival, and that the cost of printing and inserting the TPF schedule be paid by FSGW this year, as a courtesy to TPF. Passed without objection.

d. **Baltic States Celebration**

April received the following message:

Dear Madam/Sir: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are celebrating their centennials next year and thus the respective Embassies here in Washington, DC are planning a joint Midsummer Celebration/Event with the folk dances, songs, games & traditions included We were wondering if you were interested to cooperate with us organizing this. Let us know who would be the right person to discuss this in more detail. (Signed) Gintare GEDRIMAITE, Executive Assistant to the Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States of America and to the United Mexican States. Mike and Ken will follow up with them.

e. **Use of Union Venues**

Tim raised the issue of house concerts vs. union venues, per Charlie Baum and Mary Cliff, and there was a discussion of the pros and cons. We will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

7. **Next Meeting, Budget Meeting, and Motion to Adjourn.**

- a. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 5, 2017.
- b. The annual FSGW Budget Meeting will be called to order after a short break.
- c. Tim moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Ingrid seconded. The meeting was adjourned without objection.