

1. **Call to Order and Quorum.** April Blum (President) called the meeting to order at 8:10pm. Seven additional board members were present in advance of any votes, constituting a quorum: Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Ingrid Gorman (Publicity), Jen Furlong (Membership), Kim Gandy (Secretary), Mike Livingston (Programs), Tim Livengood (At Large), and Steven Roth (Dance). Absent were Heather Livingston (Publications), Ken Mayer (At Large) and Steve Kaufman (At Large). Also present was Charlie Baum, past vice president.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes.** Draft December Minutes were distributed by email and print copies were provided. With minor corrections, the minutes were approved without objection.
3. **Action Item Reports:**
 - a. *Independent audit/Combined Federal Campaign* (Jerry) See below under Old Business. Jerry will look into applying to be part of the Combined Federal Campaign.
 - b. **Pat McGee archival materials retrieval.** (April) April has sent an email to D'Arcy Fowler asking for an estimate of how much "stuff" there is. No reply yet, but April got a mobile phone number for D'Arcy from Kathie Mack and will follow up. April has asked Kathie if she is still willing to drive to Texas to retrieve whatever is there.
 - c. **Musical Theater adaptation** No change this month.
 - d. **Distribution of Donated 78s and Books.** (April). Betsy Platt has completed the list and she and April will coordinate getting the list to Steve Winick for review.
 - e. **Recruitment of additional Concert Committee members.** Mike would love to have someone volunteer to become an expert in the P3 (Artist) Visa process for bringing in international folks. Attorneys are very expensive for doing this. Otherwise, no change this month.
 - f. **Training Sound Techs.** No change this month.
 - g. **Problem Attendee.** Nothing to report this month
 - h. **Combined Calendar.** (Molly)
 - i. **Logo.** April needs to collect the rest of the banners and get them reprinted. Lawn signs not yet ordered.
 - j. **Lithuanian Embassy Event.** (Ken)
4. **Wish List for Bylaw Revision:** A list of what needs to be changed, so we get to it all.
 - a. Easier method to amend Bylaws.
 - b. Membership:
 - i. Change to membership structure – one person, one membership. All members' dependents get the membership rate (the old rationale for "Family").
 - ii. Address "corporate" issues (Revels). They can't vote, and therefore need a different type of membership, such as "affiliation."
 - c. Board position issues:
 - i. Change one At-Large Board position to IT Liaison
 - ii. Eliminate the differentiation between "Programs" and "Concerts" which is no longer reflected in the Board personnel.
 - d. Elections:
 - i. Can we elect an unopposed slate by acclamation? Must we allow for write-ins?
 - ii. Elect only HALF of the Board each year?

- iii. Elect Board for two-year terms – elections held only every other year instead of every year. This will also require rethinking "five-year" board service limit.
- e. Meetings:
 - i. Should there be a way to deputize a committee member to represent a Board member at a meeting?
 - ii. Should we be required to meet monthly? Should there be exceptions?
- f. Are we required by the bylaws to have a non-calendar fiscal year (currently September 1 to August 31)?
- g. April will lead the campaign to change the Bylaws once her term as President is over.

5. **Old Business**

a. ***Recommendations/Background on WFF and Wild Apricot.***

- i. Report by April. MON to Wild Apricot – Feb 2010; Nov 2014; now. Report by April re WFF financials and reliability of same.

b. ***WFF / GEPPAC Co-Sponsored Event***

- i. Oral report by Ingrid. Moved here from Action Items.
- ii. WFF group has met and created a mission statement, in addition to the desire not to lose money. Has eliminated one of the stages; discussed whether the crafters need to be together; letter to Friends of WFF didn't go out last year; Molly is working on it with Ken Mayer for this year. Will add to the program book; GEPPAC will help with soliciting sponsors. GEPPAC isn't willing to contribute anything toward the shuttle buses because if it was their event then they would make it shorter/smaller so that buses wouldn't be needed. Written WFF Manual is still desirable.
- iii. Publicity for WFF: "logo" or other branded graphic that could go on T-shirts/postcards/whatever to sell/distribute at MiniFest.

c. ***Mini-Fest***

- i. April has begun to update the grid and will update the website this week.
- ii. Jerry Stein sent the insurance certificate and Mike Livingston sent the equivalent of the required CPR and Crowd Control certification, and Montgomery County has processed our payment.
- iii. Cost of using the school is up twenty percent this year; after an online discussion with the programmers, it was agreed to raise prices by roughly the same amount. This is the first time prices have been raised for several years. Jerry's budget line has been amended to reflect this.

d. ***Elections***

- i. Jim Cole has once again agreed to head the Election Committee. Jackie Hogle is the second member. While April will serve if necessary, Jim Cole feels that it should be someone other than the current President. Please ask around, as Jim would also like to train someone else in the process.
- ii. Need two-thirds of the Board to approve April's appointment of Jim Cole as Election Committee Chair, Jackie Hogle as one additional committee member. The board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of both Cole and

Hoglund, and approved April Blum as Acting Committee Member until someone else can be appointed.

iii. Current Board members anticipating staying on are:

- (1)VP – Molly Hickman
- (2)Treasurer – Jerry Stein
- (3)Secretary – Kim Gandy (unless Ingrid is willing to serve)
- (4)Concerts – Mike Livingston
- (5)Membership – Jen Furlong
- (6)Dance – Steven Roth
- (7)At Large – Ken Mayer

iv. The following positions will need candidates:

v. President – Charlie Baum is interested

vi. Publicity – Ingrid will not run again, although she might consider an At Large position, or Secretary

vii. Newsletter/Publications – Heather will not run again

viii. At Large – Tim must rotate off, but has agreed to look for another storyteller candidate.

ix. At Large – Ingrid, if not secretary. A crafter?

e. Concert and Dance Chairs need to designate two free events for nominations from the floor. Jim has already sent an email to both chairs and to Heather as Newsletter editor, as this information needs to appear in the February and March issues.

6. **Auditor's Final Report and Letter**

a. Print copies of the Draft final report and financial statement were distributed electronically and print copies were available at the meeting.

b. The Board discussed the auditors' recommendations and will begin implementing them, including having a second person count and verify cash at events, and having the bookkeeper send out a Quickbooks financial report each month.

7. **New Business:**

a. ***Wild Apricot Migration Issues***

i. April has received two emails this week which have pointed out significant security issues with the current (My Org dot Net – MON) platform. She has passed them on to Will Strang, the FSGW Webmaster, who has acknowledged the threat and reminds the Board that the migration to Wild Apricot seems to be perpetually languishing.

ii. Lynn Baumeister has simultaneously requested a chance to meet with at least two Board members to discuss the membership options and how to set them up.

iii. Jen Furlong has volunteered to act as point person for the Board, to see if the process can be accelerated.

iv. There were volunteers to meet with Lynn, and will report at next meeting.

b. ***2017-2018 Budget***

i. Because completing the Independent Audit took precedence, budget approval is considerably later than usual.

ii. Major deficits are

- (1) Concerts (\$16,000)
 - (2) WFF (\$14,000)
 - (a) This year is critical. If the deficit cannot be brought down to within reasonable levels, it may not be possible for FSGW to continue to absorb these losses. The goal should be a loss of no more than \$10,000.
 - (3) Publications (\$40,000)
 - (a) As paper, printing, and postage costs continue to rise, and more and more consumers move away from printed to electronic publications, the Board should consider raising the member rate for paper copies from \$6 per year to a more realistic amount. This could significantly reduce this deficit.
 - (b) At some point in the not too distant future, the costs will be so high, and relative demand so small, that FSGW will no longer mail paper versions of its Newsletter and will print a reduced number for distribution at concerts, dances, and other events, as well as libraries, music stores, etc.
- iii. The budget was adopted without objection, as proposed by Treasurer Jerry Stein.

8. Next Meeting and Motion to Adjourn.

- a. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 6, 2018.
- b. Mike moved to adjourn the Board meeting, Tim seconded. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 10:02pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Storytelling (Tim Livengood)

Grapevine: On December 13, 2017, the Grapevine hosted storytellers Ed Stivender and Nestor Gomez for a program under the theme “CROSSING BORDERS: mixing the flavors”. There were 27 audience members (not counting the storytellers or organizers) who donated a total of \$320. The treasurer has also sent checks for \$150 each to pay the tellers. Attendance was consistent with December attendance the past two years — significantly less than the rest of the season.

Hope and a Home: There was no outreach event for Hope and a Home in December. The program will resume in January 2018.