

Attendance and Quorum: Charlie Baum (President) called the meeting to order at 8:07pm. A quorum was present: Molly Hickman (Vice President), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Kim Gandy (Secretary), Mike Livingston (Programs), Penelope Weinberger (Dance), Ken Mayer (At Large), and Ingrid Gorman (At-Large) attended in person, and Sinead Walshe (Publications), Jen Furlong (Membership), Jerry Blum (At Large), and April Blum (Past President) attended by telephone. Charlie Pilzer attended part of the meeting as a guest.

Adoption of September Minutes:

Ingrid moved to approve the minutes from the September board meeting. Seconded by Jerry Stein. Penelope and Molly abstained because they weren't at the meeting. The motion carried without objection.

Guest presentation and request from former board member Janie Meneely:

Janie is moving forward with the first Sing the Bay Fantastic! A Chesapeake Bay Music Festival to be held on Saturday, September 14, 2019 on the grounds of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) near Galesville, Md., south of Annapolis. This is in conjunction with the Smithsonian Year of Music, the Four Rivers Heritage Area and the West/Rhode Riverkeeper (housed on the SERC grounds). The first two entities are offering small mini-grants to help cover the cost. They have applied for the grants, but do not yet know if they will be awarded what they've asked for though they feel fairly certain that they will be getting a substantial contribution from both sources. Even so, they will come up short of their fundraising goals and would be looking for an additional grant of \$5000.

Janie would very much like FSGW to be involved in this endeavor, which will include music as well as spoken word opportunities. The event should draw people from a broad swath of the Washington Metropolitan region, including tourists. FSGW signage and an information/membership booth could draw interest from a significant number of people.

Janie noted that FSGW has a toehold in this area. The Callaghan House Concerts are in nearby Edgewater and FSGW has sponsored several concerts at the Galesville Memorial Hall (e.g. Ocean Quartet and Gordon Bok). A portion of our membership lives in the Annapolis area. Finally, South County is a nice place to visit and fairly easy to get to from DC.

When Janie brought this event to our attention before, several board members had replied with enthusiasm. She's hoping to build on that enthusiasm and discuss ways in which FSGW can become a full-fledged partner in this endeavor and perhaps support the main sound stage.

Janie hopes to request a supplemental contribution of \$5000 that would go towards supporting the main stage, through their fiscal agent, West/Rhode Riverkeeper, which is hosted at SERC. She expects to know by January how much they would need to supplement their fundraising. They are hoping to make this an annual event and will dedicate festival earnings (on-site donations/sales) to next year's seed money.

Jerry S. suggested that the Eberhard Committee might be interested in this, and Charlie B. agreed.

Penelope moved that we invite Janie Meneely to return to the February meeting with a proposal, to

be provided to the board two weeks in advance of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Molly and passed without objection.

Washington Folk Festival update from Molly Hickman

1. GEPPAC staff (Katey Boerner and Emily Rogers) will meet with Dwain, Molly and Charlie Baum in late October. Will try to figure out impact of transfer of responsibility for Glen Echo Park from National Park Service to Montgomery County – she expects that the change will result in greater costs but more flexibility.
2. Old Business:
 - The ops team (headed by Dwain Winters and Mary Boeckman) inventoried the trailers this summer.
 - GEPPAC is open to renting us the Ballroom on June 1, 2019 evening if we want to do a dance.
3. Resignations:
 1. Heather Livingston resigned in August as WFF program committee chair. Members of the program committee will be meeting to discuss a successor.
 2. Rita Ferrera is resigning as WFF crafts chairperson. She has a successor in training.
 3. Dwain Winters and Molly Hickman (2018 co-coordinators) want to resign after the 2019 WFF. Feelers are out to two possible co-coordinators to be “in training” during 2019 and take over afterwards. Dwain will continue to lead the ops team.
4. Molly's work on documenting WFF at Glen Echo (roles and systems) is ongoing. Goal is a handbook for coordinators (replete with photos, maps, calendar, notes from WFF 2019+ meetings).
5. Don Fahey and Jess Myhre (WFF 2019+ ad hoc committee members) have been researching possible other sites. Several of Molly's friends are concerned about the location at Glen Echo (past racial baggage, not accessible to Metro) but the downside of moving includes potential loss of financial support from Friends of WFF, and it might be more costly. At Glen Echo we have lots of things that are already set up, and we can use volunteers to set up over a period of. Other places we have very little setup time and might have to pay professionals to set up.
6. Dwain Winters and Mary Boeckman, in their roles as ops leaders, both have young people in training (have had for several years).
7. Liz Porter, videographer, has footage from WFF 2018 that we plan to use to solicit funding and advertise WFF 2019+.
8. Charlie Pilzer attended the board meeting and suggested that there might not be a loss of funding from Friends of WFF, depending on where it might be moved to. He also thinks that there is not necessarily an additional cost for quick setup.

Molly's Assessment/Questions

1. Is a loss of \$6K on a rainy year (like 2018) acceptable to the board? Kim noted that this was only because of an unusual \$10K last minute contribution.
2. WFF has always been FREE TO THE PUBLIC and ALL-VOLUNTEER. Molly does not think this is a sustainable/defensible model anymore.
3. Chris Ousley said it best. Here's an excerpt from an email he wrote in May, which was shared at the last WFF 2019+ ad hoc committee meeting/WFF 2018 debrief:
 - Any good, local folk festival should *concretely support* the folk communities within that locale.
 - DC is a really *expensive* town, with lots of AMAZING communities with bearers of their respective traditional arts *finding it harder and harder to afford to live in/near DC and thus moving away.*

- Therefore, WFF should seek to *ease the financial burdens of and concretely support* all of these awesome communities.
4. Paying artists would require a huge remodel and unprecedented effort in increasing the amount and sources of WFF funding. Is this something the board is interested in supporting? There have been several ideas about how to make this work/roll out new model over time, including:
 - Pay QUALITY sound engineers in 2019 - see if we can rustle up the money for just that. And that will make it a better experience for the artists!
 - Every artist would need to perform 2x – so ½ the artists costing ½ the money.
 - Only pay headliners (whole host of fairness issues here, but could be a game-changer for the Festival - Jess Myhre) instead of a per-person or per-group stipend.
 5. Ballroom: Given the cost of running shuttles into the evening, the cost of the Ballroom (GEPPAC's opportunity cost), and Molly believes that a contra-dance would only attract more FSGW members (while the point of WFF is "evangelizing" to a broader audience), is the board interested in securing the Ballroom for a Saturday June 1 dance? Penelope suggested reserving the ballroom for a dance that would draw more people from DC, such as a Go Go band/dance.
 6. Questions posed by Charlie Pilzer: Does FSGW want to continue running the WFF? If so, should it stay at Glen Echo? Should it be larger, smaller, or is it just right? Charlie thinks the single most important thing for future success (after 2019) is that the location be Metro-accessible. Especially in case of rain, Glen Echo is a terrible venue. Charlie thinks that after 40 years it's time to reinvent the WFF. Molly thinks there are young people chomping at the bit to run WFF in a different location, but not at Glen Echo.
 7. Future of WFF suggestion from Charlie: Merge with Takoma Park Street Festival, move to downtown Bethesda, consider the DC Yards area (stadium/ballpark/urban festival), or figure out something in or around Strathmore.
 8. There was consensus to go ahead and book the Ballroom for Saturday night of WFF, with the understanding that we can give it up early next year if we don't come up with a Go Go band or some other interesting dancing.

Takoma Park Street Festival

Ingrid reported that she, Kim, and Penelope have volunteered for our booth, but we could use additional volunteers.

Organizational Development Project with Nanette Alvey

Ingrid has talked with Nanette Alvey, and recommends that we ratify Molly's motion, which was passed via email vote as follows:

Moved that FSGW allocate \$1,600 for the following organizational development/facilitation work by Nanette Alvey:

1. Needs Assessment: Hold individual interviews with six board members to better understand situation, emotions, relations, perspectives and objectives.
 - a. Create interview guide (2 hours)
 - b. Conduct 10 interviews and write up notes (1.5 hours x 10 = 15 hours)
 - c. Write summary and recommendations (4 hours)
2. Share the written needs assessment report with the board.
3. Present the conclusions and recommendations of the needs assessment to the whole board with suggestions for follow-up (4 hours for prep & meeting). With the board, identify any systemic or management practices that can improve the effectiveness of the board and the organization.

4. If further assistance is needed in developing such systems, a different SOW will be negotiated.

Thus, the number of hours are estimated as:

Needs assessment: 19 hours

Present conclusions to board and discuss systemic improvements: 4 hours

TOTAL: 23 hours

The above motion, which was previously passed by email vote, was ratified without objection.

New Publicity Chair Candidate

Ingrid reported that she received a tentative "yes" from a potential new publicity chair referred by Kim. Ingrid spoke to Kathy Sherman-Marks, and she has nonprofit communications experience and is interested in storytelling, and willing to join the board.

Old business and follow-ups

- Combined Federal Campaign (Jerry Stein): Application will be made in November
- Archives in April and Jerry's Basement (Charlie): Now that Jewish holiday season is over, Charlie hopes to find an evening or two to continue working on this.
- Adding Library subscriptions (Jerry Stein): We have figured out a technique to do this that doesn't screw up Wild Apricot database – hooray!
- Claude Martin Memorial Life Membership Award (Mike): Panel is being assembled, needs to meet electronically to make a recommendation to the board in time for the November newsletter
- 2018-2019 Budget: Charlie noted that some lines still need adjustments;
- Chesapeake Dance Weekend is working on a giving us a better estimate, but they have contracted for Camp Letts already and we are stuck with the event for another year, regarding the Washington Folk Festival, what Molly presented tonight may have an impact on this line; Fundraising—can we realistically increase donations now that we're audited, with limited fund-raising energies; Concerts and programs—still need financial info for expected revenues and possible sponsor/donor possibilities tied to particular events

New Business:

Mike requested that there be a monthly progress report on fundraising from the President. This is not his skillset but he thinks we need to hire a contractor or bring on a board members whole skillset this is. Jerry Stein suggested that we need to do the end-of-year fundraising letter this year. Ken will look at past fundraising letters. The Arts Council of Montgomery County grant is for WFF 2020 and Molly will direct that grant to FSGW.

Mike moved that for every board meeting where a quorum is assembled and business is conducted, the Secretary or the Secretary's designee will submit draft minutes to the Board within 72 hours thereafter. The motion was discussed but not voted on.

Mike moved that "For every board meeting where a quorum is assembled and business is conducted, the Secretary or the Secretary's designee will make a digital audio recording of the proceedings in their entirety to be kept on file for the next 60 days, during which time it will be furnished on request to any Board member for review. No party, without consent of the Board, will retain such recordings past 60 days after the meeting recorded." The motion was discussed but not voted on. Ken offered to record the meetings if someone would acquire an appropriate recording device, and Ingrid agreed to do so.

Ken Mayer moved that the board go into executive session. The board returned from Executive Session with no report out.

November Board Meeting:

The next meeting will be on November 6, 2018 (the evening of election day), 8:00 pm, Glen Echo Arcade Room 201.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm without objection.

Written Reports submitted:

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

In September 2018, FSGW produced or cosponsored six concerts: Martyn Wyndham-Read, After the Flood, American Folklife Center Archives Challenge Sampler, Bua, Alice Gerrard CD release w/ Jake Blount & Tatiana Hargreaves, and Jez Lowe & James Keelaghan. These events had a total audience of 466 and a net cost of \$3,986, or an average subsidy of \$9.

Since and including July 2016, the subsidy rate for concerts has been:

>\$15 in 12 out of 27 months (44%)

\$10-\$15 (target range) in 7 out of 27 months (26%)

<\$10 in 8 out of 27 months (30%)

STORYTELLING REPORT:

Grapevine report, 10 Oct 2018:

The Grapevine Storytelling Series hosted featured storytellers Linda Gorham and Judith Black on October 10, 2018 at Busboys and Poets in Takoma Park, MD. There were 58 audience in attendance, donating a total of \$709 (\$12.224 average per person). Funds were counted by Tim Livengood and by Renée Brachfeld. We held out \$99 to return to FSGW, for which organizer Tim Livengood will send a check to the FSGW Treasurer (it made the arithmetic easier). The storytellers each received \$305 from donations. The Treasurer is asked to please send a check in the amount of \$150 to each of the two featured tellers. We also had two open-mic tellers: Steve Hobbs and Jo Tyler.