

FSGW Board Meeting Minutes December 3, 2018

Attendance and Quorum: Charlie Baum (President) called the meeting to order at 8:07pm. A quorum was present: Ingrid Gorman (Vice President), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Kim Gandy (Secretary), Mike Livingston (Programs), Penelope Weinberger (Dance), Sinead Walshe (Publications), and Jerry Blum (At-Large) attended in person, as well as newly elected board member Don Fahey. Publicity Chair Cassie Sherman-Marks participated by Google Hangout, giving us a quorum. Jen Furlong (Membership) and April Blum (Past President) were unable to attend.

Adoption of November Minutes:

The November minutes were circulated electronically and also distributed in hard copy. The minutes were adopted without objection.

Election of New At-Large Board Members:

Charlie introduced Don Fahey and described his background and interest in the board, including the Hamlin Street Diner series and the Washington Folk Festival Future committee, and Don talked about his long interest in folk and his volunteer work. Charlie also described the background and interest of Renée Brachfeld, who was unable to attend tonight because she is out of the country. Ingrid moved that Don be elected to the board, and the motion was seconded by Mike. The motion carried unanimously. Jerry B. moved that Renée be elected to the board, and the motion was seconded by Sinead. The motion carried without objection.

Old Business and Progress Reports:

- Claude Martin Memorial Life Membership Award is on hold, still pending a meeting in the next week or two of the committee; the committee would like board advice on whether the award needs to be for a single performer, or can it be given to a group (this year, a trio is in consideration). There was general agreement to stay with the description of the award for now, which is that it is a singular award – to one artist, once a year – reserving the right to change the award guidelines for future years.
- WFF--Programming Committee is ready to go; it will function with several co-chairs, each of whom has defined responsibilities. The committee awaits word on how many stages (tents) will be available. Operations slowly getting its stuff together. Charlie will need to talk with Katie B at GEPPAC and sign contracts.
- Montgomery County grants—Ingrid and Cassie are working on these. Ingrid described a “Maryland grants” site that accumulates the grants, at a cost of \$200 per year. We still need to identify board members who can help write grants, and do outreach/reconnaissance on potential grants. Ingrid noted that we need to figure out our goal for the fundraising, as a first step.
- Fundraising letter—Cassie and Ingrid created a short missive, which was mailed to the Board for comments and corrections.
- CFC -- Jerry Stein took the training last year, and you are required to have a street address and a phone number. Cassie will set up a Google Voice account for fsgw@gmail.com and we can submit that to the CFC. Application ends in January and the booklet comes out in September.
- MiniFest planning is getting into full swing. Charlie chatted with April and everything is lined up. Jerry B. says there is progress.

Report from Organizational Development Consultant

Nanette Alvey, who wrote our report (“FSGW Board: Review of Context, Conflict and Future”) is willing to do in person going forward workshop and has proposed dates. Ingrid agreed to set up a Doodle Poll to select a date to meet with Nanette.

Revision and adoption of 2018-2019 FSGW Budget

Charlie suggested that we need to stick to a budget; we need monthly budget reports from the bookkeeper and treasurer, and that no expenses should be paid beyond what’s budgeted, without a board-approved revision of the budget. Kim suggested that concerts should make no new commitments. There was an extensive discussion about the deficit in the current year, and the deficit proposed for the coming year. Discussed ways to save money and possible changes in the way we do things, like changes to the newsletter. There was consensus to a continuing budget resolution with no new commitments to be made before the next meeting.

Elections and Nominations committee(s)

Charlie B needs to put this together before the next meeting. Following advice from last year’s committee, we will try to have two parts—one group who will nominate candidates for the board, and a second group to actually run the mechanics of the election, because previous expertise helps a lot with the actual balloting process.

Jim Cole and Jackie Hoglund have volunteered for this second part of the process. Ideas for those who should serve as nominators? Anybody planning not to serve next year who would like to be a member of the nominations committee? Nominators should include dancers, singers, and perhaps representation from other elements of FSGW—probably three people at most

Adjournment

Mike moved to adjourn the meeting and Jerry B. seconded. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 10:21 pm.

Next Board Meeting in January

Scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2019; 8:00 pm, Glen Echo Park Arcade Room 201. (second Tuesday to avoid New Year’s—Happy New Year, everybody!)

WRITTEN REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT (Jerry Stein) The board received an Excel spreadsheet showing income and expenses by category. For the most recent fiscal year, which ended August 31, FSGW had income of \$260,198 and expenses of \$346,387, for a net loss of \$86,189. The 12-month budget had projected a loss of

PROGRAMS (Mike Livingston) In November 2018, FSGW produced or cosponsored three concerts: the Nordic Fiddlers Bloc, DC Ambiance, and the Cider Week Virginia festival with the Cigar Box String Band, Sibling Rivalry, and Lindsay & Dodds. These events had a total audience of 827 and a net cost of \$1,203, or an average subsidy of \$1.

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

>\$15 in 12 out of 29 months (41%)

\$10-\$15 (target range) in 8 out of 29 months (28%)

<\$10 in 9 out of 29 months (31%)

STORYTELLING (Tim Livengood) FSGW brought storyteller Bunjo Butler from Baltimore to tell stories for children in our program supporting Hope and a Home, on 19 November 2018. Unfortunately, representatives of the church hosting the meeting did not arrive to open the doors and so the meeting had to be canceled and Bunjo was unable to tell stories for the children, who were milling about, and they were numerous.

On 14 November 2018, the Grapevine hosted featured tellers Jiaan Powers and Megan Wells at Busboys and Poets Takoma. We have had Megan Wells at the Grapevine previously. The show host was Renée Brachfeld. There were two audience tellers in the open-mic portion, Sufian Z. and Kristin Pedemonti. Total audience was 22 with \$290 in donations, averaging \$13.18 per person. The tellers each received \$145 from donations and will each receive a check for \$150 from FSGW. Megan Wells, in particular, really brought the house down with a powerful personal story of having been sexually assaulted, which she expertly tied into themes from stories told earlier by both featured tellers.