

## **FSGW Board Meeting Minutes February 5, 2019**

### ***Attendance and quorum:***

Charlie Baum (President) called the meeting to order at 8:05pm. A quorum was present: Ingrid Gorman (Vice President), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Jen Furlong (Membership), Mike Livingston (Programs), Ben Sela (Dance), Renée Brachfeld (At Large), and Jerry Blum (At Large), attended in person. Kim Gandy (Secretary) was sick and participated by phone and Cassie Sherman-Marks (Publicity) participated by videoconference. Absent were April Blum (Past President), Sinead Walshe (Publications) and Don Fahey (At Large). Visitors were Jane Gorbaty, Joel Bluestein, Bill Rucker, Jim Cole, Dwain Winters, Charlie Pilzer, and Tom Milke.

### ***Adoption of January minutes***

The January minutes were provided electronically in advance of the meeting. The minutes were adopted with minor corrections and without objection.

### ***Chesapeake Dance Weekend (25 mins)***

Report about 2019 Chesapeake Dance Weekend and budget revisions; Joel Bluestein attended, and also represented Michal Warshow who is on the committee. Joel thanked the board for the time, and also for publicizing the event in the FSGW newsletter.

Right now there are 51 paid admissions, which is roughly where we were last year at this time. The committee has been amping up the PR and fliers have been mailed to a lot of East Coast locations. Joel saw one at the Nashville dance last weekend, and they were at Terpsichore and will be at Flurry. There is a FB page and an email list of over 1000 people. Also announcing at Glen Echo dances. \$23,000 for the camp, \$8000 for performer fees and travel.

Break even is about 130 paid campers, with a mix of early bird, non-member, different levels. Joel feels that this is do-able with where we are now. Lots of other events happening this month, including NEFFA, but the fact that it is later in the month should help. Joel doesn't think it will lose more than the \$3000 it lost last year. Joel: Cancel vs. non-cancel only takes 100 people to have the same amount of loss whether we cancel it or hold it.

### ***Washington Folk Festival***

Report about 2019 Washington Folk Festival and budget revisions:

Dwain Winters, Joel Bluestein, Jim Cole, and Molly Hickman have been working together on this. Dwain thanked the board for supporting the event, and especially appreciated Molly Hickman co-chairing the event last year. Dwain reported that there is a new relationship with GEPPAC because the event is now co-produced with them. We used to have issues with the National Park Service (NPS), but now that we are funneling most of the funds to GEPPAC, and they have vendor authority with Montgomery County, they are able to help us avoid some of the pitfalls.

GEPPAC wasn't able to help much with fundraising last year, and this year they're helping us review the sponsor package and will be identifying potential sponsors. \$5000 or 20% of the gross, whatever is larger. This should not include the Friends of the Festival funds, and they will agree to apply this retroactively. Historically we've had to apply to the NPS for a special event permit, which is a giant hassle. With GEPPAC co-sponsorship, and this event being one of their annual events, we won't have to do this, based on their agreement with the county. This is one of many positive changes, though there are downsides (someone has to pick up the trash and staff the parking lot, which will probably cost about \$1,000).

Fundraising: Dwain would like to send a "Friends of the Festival" fundraising mailing to the full FSGW membership in February, in advance of the festival, and would like to send a separate e-blast in March. Dwain reviewed the proposed budget, and noted that they hope to access the Eberhard fund in the event of a shortfall. They don't want to request donations for the shuttle bus, and feel it would reduce contribution at the festival. The board thanked Dwain for his work, and he noted that this will be his last year as overall coordinator, and will move into an operations role next year after the transition.

***Dance questions about Larks/Ravens and other issues raised by FSGW members***

Bill Rucker emailed Charlie on Sunday and was invited to come to the meeting. He explained that he was concerned about the use of Ravens/Larks (non-gendered) calling at the contra dances. Bill said that Ben, as dance chair, has been very responsive and has tried to address Bill's concern, which is that there seems to have been a policy change and he couldn't find anything about the policy. Bill thinks the change creates more problems than advantages. He thinks there were surveys but didn't see any of the results.

Ben said that the calling roles have been handled as "callers choice."

Cassie stated why L&R is more welcoming than the traditional 'Ladies and Gents' especially to younger people. Mike said that this is not a board issue, because this authority is designated to the elected dance chair, and that's where complaints should be directed.

Tom Milke said that the dance chair doesn't care about the broader interests of the FSGW in terms of that kind of thing, and that this is no different from "trigger words" for undergrads at over-privileged institutions who decided they couldn't hear certain things. Next one is 'gypsy' [meaning that callers were asked not to use this term] and no one is soliciting comments about that. He agrees that newer dancers may be less encumbered, but said that people walking in the door know whether they are gents or ladies. Are we not going to have waltzes? No ladies and gents in squares?

Mike again said that this complaint shouldn't rise to the level of the board, and belongs to the dance chair's discretion. Tom said that the contract with callers says you can't say 'gypsy' and he noted that some of the Charlottesville dancers said 'what's with Glen Echo.'

Jerry B said he had suggested alternative terms but got no feedback. He received other comments re whether L&R is the optimum substitution for the gendered terms. How far do we go in acknowledging that people are uncomfortable with gender-specific terms. Lots of recent dancers have been enjoying being able to switch roles during the dance, and the gender-specific terms are confusing, however Larks and Ravens (if you think of them as Left and Right) doesn't work in 'proper' dances.

Bill wants to raise issues that were not addressed; surveys weren't addressed; has heard from people in favor of it, and from others who were grumbling; are there better alternatives that would resolve some of the issues? Joel: this has gone on for a while and won't be resolved tonight. General discussion: Were there surveys? Where did they go? Is it an FSGW policy or a dance chair policy? A lot of feedback is also not just "I like it or I don't like it" but questions about how it was implemented. Opportunities for the board to think about how such things should be addressed; and how should they be promulgated. That might be a more useful place to start.

#### ***FSGW Member/non-member survey***

—Ingrid Gorman reviewed the draft of her proposed survey, several suggestions were made, and she requested additional feedback to be provided in the near future.

#### ***Old business and progress reports (in writing):***

- Montgomery County grants (Ingrid and Cassie) – Ingrid has sent out information about what is required for application.
- New fundraising opportunities (Jerry Stein) Hasn't heard back from CFC because of the shutdown.
- WFF—Charlie is awaiting revised memorandum of agreement from Katey Boerner and GEPPAC.
- Getaway— Charlie is still awaiting contract with West River venue for October 2-5, 2020

#### ***Revision and adoption of 2018-2019 FSGW budget***

As we are out of time, the board agreed without objection to adopt a continuing resolution for the budget.

#### ***Elections and Nominations Committee***

For the benefit of nominators, Charlie asked that anyone who has not declared their intentions for 2019-2020 respond to the committee.

February membership meetings at which floor nominations will be entertained at intermission/break—

Concert—Saturday, 16 February 8:00 pm, Seekers Church, Takoma, DC (Occidental Gypsy)

Dance—Sunday, 24 February 7:30 pm, Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD (Melissa Chatham with Not Enough Fiddles)

March membership meetings at which floor nominations will be entertained at intermission/break—

Concert—Saturday, 23 March, 8:00 pm, Mari Black World Fiddle Ensemble, John Kendall Recital Hall at Potter Violins (Silver Spring—Takoma Park, DC line)

Dance—Sunday, 31 March 7:30 pm, Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo, MD (Brian Hamshar with Atlantic Crossing)

***Retreat with Nanette Alvey*** on Sunday, March 3 in Takoma Park, MD; to discuss FSGW's internal communications, future, mission, etc. Ingrid moved that we offer Nanette up to \$500 to prepare for and facilitate the retreat on March 3. Kim seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Ingrid offered to contact Nanette.

***Next board meeting***

Scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2019; 8:00 pm, Glen Echo Park Arcade Room 201

***Adjournment***

Jen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jerry B. Adjourned without objection.

***WRITTEN REPORTS:***

**PROGRAM REPORT from Mike Livingston:**

In January 2019, FSGW cosponsored one concert: Leigh Beamer. This event had an audience of 62 and a net cost of zero, or an average subsidy of zero.

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

>\$15 in 12 out of 31 months (39%)

\$10-\$15 (target range) in 9 out of 31 months (29%)

<\$10 in 10 out of 31 months (32%)

**STORYTELLING REPORT from Tim Livengood:**

Renée Brachfeld told stories and committed spectacular feats of juggling in our outreach program for Hope and a Home on Monday, 28 January 2019. There were 10 children attending, ages 3-13 (estimated) plus two adults.