

FSGW Board Meeting Minutes May 7, 2019

Attendance and quorum

Charlie Baum (President) called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm and all present introduced themselves. A quorum was present. Additional board members present: Ingrid Gorman (Vice President), Jerry Stein (Treasurer), Kim Gandy (Secretary), Ben Sela (Dance), Renée Brachfeld (At Large), Don Fahey (At Large), and Jerry Blum (At Large). Mike Livingston (Programs) participated by phone, and Cassie Sherman-Marks participated via Zoom. Jen Furlong (Membership) joined the meeting later via Zoom. Sinead Walshe (Publications) and April Blum (Past President) were absent. Guests were Will Strang, Charlie Pilzer, Bill Rucker, Michel Warshow, and representatives of Bal DC (Colleen Holroyd, Eva Allison, Robin Banerjee, and Maria Cramer).

Adoption of April minutes

The minutes were distributed electronically and in hard copy. With two corrections/clarifications, the minutes were approved without objection.

OLD BUSINESS

Progress reports, updates, and debriefs:

- **Chesapeake Dance Weekend Debrief.** Michal Warshow thanked FSGW and said everyone on the committee and the vast majority of the campers had a great time. There were 85 paid campers, and through various machinations there were additional people, including scholarships to dance/door committee members (who also provided volunteer labor) and staff inviting friends. They took in \$20,000 but the weekend cost about \$33,000. The venue cost was about \$23,000 of the total cost, and it had gone up another \$3k this year. People really enjoyed the residential nature of the weekend, but there is reluctance to pay so much money when they are an hour from home. Committee feels this model isn't sustainable. Some people noted that they might be interested in paying more than the \$250 rate to be "sponsors," though that would not be a small amount of money if we are to make up a loss of \$13,000.

Michal noted that this weekend used to be at the beginning of April, which made it one of the first weekends in the area -- and the change in dates to late April was the beginning of the slide in attendance. There was a discussion of other possibilities for next year, including a non-residential event, other camp-type spaces (like Louise), and level of interest from the current committee (in continuing to organize). Michal noted that the farther away from town your venue gets, the lower the price goes. In addition to the question of whether to continue holding the event, the CDW committee would want to know whether there are people who would want to be on the committee. Board discussed all of the challenges of putting on this kind of event. Michal isn't sure whether the current committee members are open to doing a different kind of event. Will Strang feels that Contrastock and #Dance (HashDance weekend) are competing

events, in that they are both major dance events sponsored by FSGW. Kim noted that they are not close in time to CDW.

The board expressed appreciation to Michal and asked her to convey our appreciation to the committee.

- **FSGW Board Elections** Jackie Hoglund reported the following outcomes for the 2019-2020 board year:

President - Charlie Pilzer
Vice President - Ingrid Gorman
Treasurer - Will Strang
Secretary - Neil Zimmerman
Dance - Ben Sela
Program - Don Fahey
Publications - Jim McRea
Membership - Jen Furlong
Publicity - Nancy Lisi
At-Large
Jerry Blum
Renée Brachfeld
Kim Gandy

Jackie offered to provide help to the folks doing the eBlast on how they can use Wild Apricot to send messages, instead of Constant Contact, and Will Strang offered to help with that as well. The board expressed appreciation to Jim Cole, Jerry Stein, and Jackie Hoglund, who served as the election/nominating committee.

- **Glen Echo Gala—Who wants to go?** Will Strang and Stephanie Smith, Jen Furlong +1; April and Jerry Blum, are interested. We have to submit a list to GEPPAC on Wednesday morning—we have 10 seats at our table. Charlie will send out an email and the first 4 people who get back to him will get the last four seats.
- **Dance Meeting (June 9)** – The site has been arranged with FSGW (Classroom 301) and the facilitator (Nanette) has been arranged. Discussed how to proceed, and whether to change the timing because of the Elixir waltz that runs until 6pm that afternoon. Kim will try again for a larger room, though we have been told it is not available. Discussed how decisions will be made, but at a minimum there is an understanding that the decision will not be made on the spot at the meeting, and that there will be an opportunity for people to submit comments (of reasonable length) if they are unable to participate. Agreed that it should be advertised in the weekly e-blast, flyers and announcement at the Sunday dance, and possibly a special email (with a caution from Jackie Hoglund that we risk unsubscribes from non-dancers). Also agreed that we should try to tell people when the decision WILL be made.

- **Review of FSGW finances** Jerry Stein had previously distributed a spreadsheet and noted that we are fairly on-budget, but that YTD does not yet include the losses from CDW or the expected losses from the Washington Folk Festival.
- **Distribution of event passes with membership**--We agreed to do this, but some haven't yet been properly distributed. How to execute? There was a discussion of this, but still no resolution of how to do it, except that we want to give retroactive passes to everyone who has joined/renewed this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Bal DC committee The four members of the committee made a presentation on a Bal Folk event that they are proposing to organize in Washington, DC, at Josephine Butler Center on January 4-5, which would be a Saturday-Sunday European-style Bal Weekend. The date is selected around the band Nova being in town for another event. They propose that FSGW be a sponsor of the event, guarantee the expenses, and provide an additional grant of \$1,060.

The event would be pay-what-you-can, which has been successful at other events, and they distributed a fact sheet outlining the musicians, instructors, and dance/music workshops they are suggesting. They distributed a budget proposal with various scenarios, including the requested one which they estimate would involve a \$1,060 grant from FSGW, in addition to backing the entire cost in the event that they do not meet their expected ticket and merchandise sales. Any profits would be divided among the performers (40%) and workshop presenters (20%), and retained to launch a regular Bal DC dance series (40%). None of the profits, if any, would offset any of the requested \$1,060 grant. They would like for FSGW to cover the event under our insurance, which will be relatively easy for us to do, if we are a sponsor. Renee moved that FSGW agree to advance the cost of the Josephine Butler Center deposit and the cost of the website in support of the event, which is approx. \$2500. Cassie seconded. The motion carried without objection.

Support for 2019-2020 Program Budget

Next year's program chair needs to book next year's concerts now and can't wait until the budget is passed. Can we commit to a sum for programming in advance? Don moved to authorize up to \$18,000 for the program committee to book concerts from Sept. 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. Seconded by Renee. Motion carried without objection.

Next board meeting in June

Scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2019; 8:00 pm, Glen Echo Park Arcade Room 201

Adjournment

Don moved to adjourn. Renee seconded. Motion carried without objection.

Written Reports:

STORYTELLING (Submitted by Tim Livengood)

There was no Hope and a Home outreach performance for April 22. Tim Livengood was going to tell stories on this occasion, but a delay in dinner delivery shifted the schedule and necessitated canceling the storytelling. As the organizer of the program, Tim takes no pay, and so no cost for this event in April.

The Grapevine storytelling program hosted featured tellers Tahira Akua Tahira (aka TAHIRA) and Susan O'Halloran on April 10, 2019 at Busboys and Poets Takoma, for an audience of 40. We had one open mic teller, Melissa from Teatro Latino. Donations at the door came to \$525 shared equally between the featured tellers. FSGW also will pay each teller \$150 by check, for a total of \$412.50 each.

The Grapevine storytelling series hosted featured tellers Valentina Ortiz and Scott Whitehair on May 8, 2019 at Busboys and Poets Takoma, for an audience of 22. We had one open mic teller, Carol Lite. Donations at the door came to \$240, shared equally between the featured tellers. FSGW also will pay each teller an additional sum by check.

PROGRAM (Submitted by Mike Livingston)

In March 2019, FSGW produced or cosponsored two concerts: Lydia & Emily Martin and the Mari Black World Fiddle Ensemble. These events, including one of the two concerts per year mandated by the bylaws to be free for members, had a total audience of 89 and a net cost of \$1,582, or an average subsidy of \$18.

In April 2019, FSGW cosponsored two concerts: Andrea Beaton & Troy MacGillivray and Two Sisters. These events had a total audience of 74 and a net cost of \$54 (no subsidy).

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

>\$15 in 14 out of 34 months (41%)

\$10-\$15 (target range) in 9 out of 34 months (27%)

<\$10 in 11 out of 34 months (32%)