

9/3/2019

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM. Quorum (greater than 8) was achieved.

Present: Charlie Baum (Past-President), Don Fahey (Program), Ingrid Gorman (VP), Jim McRea (Publications), Will Strang (Treasurer), Neil Zimmerman (Secretary), Renee Brachfeld (At-Large), Jerry Stein (past-Treasurer), Nancy Lisi (Publicity), Ben Sela (Dance), Jerry Blum (At-Large), Charlie Baum (past President).

Not present: Kim Gandy (At-Large),

Minutes: Don moved adoption as corrected by Will, Jerry B seconded, passed without objection.

President's Report: Charlie P: FY started September 1. Charlie discussed his election platform; we need to broader appeal of FSGW, and do better fund-raising, especially from DC organizations (FSGW is chartered in DC).

Treasurer's Report: Will Strang: First 11 months we lost \$ 55, 000.

Bal Folk: Members of BF Committee: Need to push back date, due to complications with venue. Go/no-go date of Oct 1, 2019; actively looking at new venues. Discussion of having the Committee have "skin in the game", as discussed at the August Board Meeting. The Committee cannot do this. Renee suggested the Committee find others to underwrite. Q: Are they willing to delay for a year? A: Probably not, but not definite. Q: What is the total amount you are asking FSGW to commit? A: Don't know, but perhaps \$ 4, 400. Q: What if FSGW gives only \$ 3, 000? A: [unsure answer] We would cancel event in order to avoid not paying performers. Charlie P expresses that Board is very supportive of event in general, but has substantial concerns re logistics and timing. Q: What fraction of 100 people is local? A: 25 %, and many who would drive from Pitts/Philly/NE/Midwest

RESOLVED: The Board accepts the Oct 1 go/no-go decision. Discussion: The \$ 3, 000 commitment will be rescinded if "no-go" decision is made. Moved by Renee, seconded by Neil, passed with one abstention.

Chesapeake Music Festival: Janie McNeely: Idea of supporting this was broached almost a year ago; the Board at that time asked her to come back to ask again. Asking for \$ 1, 000 from Eberhart fund to hold event in Edgewater, MD.

RESOLVED: We authorize \$ 1, 000 from the Eberhart Fund to the Chesapeake Music Festival. Moved by Neil, seconded by Will. Discussion: How far away is it? Q: Could FSGW Members get free parking? A: No. Moved without exception, one abstention.

FSGW Getaway Status: Charlie B: Planning going well, looks like will break even (117 attenders).

Contrastock: Ben: Under-registered (35 ppl), don't know historical advance registration numbers, don't know break-even point. Penelope is very concerned with registration number so far, and didn't get into e-blast.

Calling Terms for Sunday Dance: Ben Sela: [please see "Statement from Dance Chair Ben Sela" in Appendix] Neil: Opposed to policy driven by out-of-town callers. My belief, based on survey and Listening Session, is that our community has clearly spoken, and that the plurality is opposed to Larks/Ravens, and several people have stopped coming as a result. Jim: Not a good idea to tie to specific Named dances. Will: Let's avoid multiple sets of non-gendered terms, in order to make new dancers comfortable. Bill Rucker: Disagree with almost every statement in "Statement from Ben"; will not be at Contrastock; Hash-Dance 2020 has ALREADY been publicized as non-gendered. Callers are contractors who can be told what terms to use. Don: Q: How hard to get callers to call Ladies/Gents? A: Not a problem. Jerry B: We should decide on non-gendered terms, and only use those. Ingrid: We are not ready yet to decide; invites Board to make suggestions, including on how to periodically update policy. Charlie P: Haven't seen letter, suggests we state a clear policy that callers must follow, wants a single set of non-gendered terms. Suggests that Ben present a draft policy to the FSGW Membership, to see which policy would get the largest attendance.

RESOLVED: The Board agrees that the appropriate wording of the separate notice in the Newsletter should be "The FSGW Community is involved in active discussions regarding role names at our Contra Dance. If you want to know the latest on what role name will be used or learn more about this conversation, check out the FSGW website at fsgw.org" In addition, the Board agrees to remove the following sentence from the Newsletter list of Sunday Night Dance: "FSGW allows callers to choose role names with at least one gender-free dance each month."

Moved by Neil, seconded by Will. Jim: This is the policy in place, that there is at least gender-free dance per month. Jim: The separate notice was not seen by him ahead of publication. In favor: 5, Opposed: 2, Abstain: 4. Motion passes. Discussion after Motion: Jim stated that the Newsletter Chair has the right to print whatever he wants and does not have to follow the Board Motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Discussion: Will Strang: Will went through budget details for each line item. Renee expressed doubt that Storytelling budget is complete. Neil: We need an enforcement mechanism more than we need a detailed projected budget. Charlie P: Agree.

Q: What do we need to do this month? A: We need a month while waiting for data from outstanding line items.

RESOLVED: The Board accepts v. 4 of FSGW draft Budget as an interim Budget until the October Board Meeting.

Moved by Charlie B, seconded by Neil. Don: "I support it". Passed unanimously.

Newsletter Discussion: Jim Mcree: Neil: Fully support Jim's "New publication plan"; Nancy: Don is doing a great job to cut back concert expenses; people are crying about the trees that were cut down to print Newsletter. Short version of Jim's plan: Members to pay own postage (\$30 ea. Per year); Strict limit on 20 pages requires some brevity on contributions; Drop all of the commercial concerts, possibly open mics.

RESOLVED: The Board affirms its support for Jim's plan to modify the Newsletter. Neil moved, Renee seconded. [Jim's plan: Members to pay own postage (\$30 ea. Per year). Strict limit on 20 pages requires some brevity on contributions. Drop all of the commercial concerts, possibly open mics.]. Ten in favor, one opposed, no abstentions.

Social Media: Nancy: Old folkies hate social media, young ones love it. Discussion of details; Nancy feels like she is being scolded. Q: How often does Nancy send out messages? A: 1 – 3/day, on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook.

Next Meeting: Charlie P: If we hold October meeting on first Tuesday, it will bump up against Rosh Hashanah. Consensus: We will hold at normal time on October 1.

Move to Adjourn: Don moved, Renee seconded, passed by affirmation at 10:48 PM.

Executive Session:

The material in red should be deleted before publishing.

The Board unanimously agreed to move into ES.

The Board unanimously agreed to move out of ES.

Appendix:

"Statement from Dance Chair Ben Sela"

Proposal: Callers choice.

The terms used at the Sunday dance will be up to the caller. The terms used at hashdance will always be non gendered. The terms used at contrastock will be decided with the callers. The provisions that are currently in place for callers that choose ladies and gents will continue. An effort will be made to book callers that are willing to test drive new sets of terms in order to find something that more people can agree on. However not

many callers can just try out new terms so I will not set a bar on how frequent that situation needs to be.

Justification:

One potential issue is that this policy means callers that are not part of our local community are still getting a voice in what terms we are using. I believe that this is an important advantage. Many of these touring callers have called in communities where there is more support for such a change. That means that those callers have heard feedback from people who in our own community might not be showing up to our dance because they feel unwelcome. Callers are also well aware of the complaints surrounding terms like larks and ravens as they speak with organizers in different communities. Thus, callers who travel to different communities have a more global view of how different terminology can impact dancers.

My perspective is as a relatively new dancer who is not particularly accustomed to any sort of tradition surrounding the dance. I personally find it easier to justify just using non gendered terms than to justify a compromise even though that is what I am suggesting.

The most frequent complaint about larks and ravens that I have seen is that it is confusing to beginners. While I quite strongly disagree with this claim, it is also not relevant to big dance events like contraststock, hashdance, and challenge dances. If a newcomer shows up to one of those events, they are already jumping in the deep end in many other ways. As for confusion during a regular dance, I believe people are conflating two separate issues. It is of course more confusing to dance if you cannot rely on someone in a particular role looking a certain way. But the terms are not the issue, it is the lack of visual identification. It happens to be the case that in our community most of the people dancing the gents role present as male and most of the people dancing the ladies role present female. Losing that pattern would certainly make the dance slightly harder, but I hope no one is suggesting we keep the terms as a form of social engineering to perpetuate the current pattern of role preferences.

End of "Statement from Dance Chair Ben Sela"