

10/1/19

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. Quorum (greater than 8) was achieved.

Present:

Charlie Baum (Past-President), Jerry Blum (At-Large), Don Fahey (Program), Ingrid Gorman (VP), Nancy Lisi (Publicity), Jim McRea (Publications), Ben Sela (Dance), Jerry Stein (past-Treasurer), Will Strang (Treasurer), Kim Gandy (at-large), Renee Brachfeld (at-large).

September 3 Minutes: Jerry Blum moved adoption, Jerry Stein seconded, passed without objection.

September 22 Minutes: Don Fahey moved adoption, Will Strang seconded, passed without objection.

President's Report: Charlie P: Please contribute to Doodle poll to find extra time outside of board meeting to address lingering topics, such as how to increase attendance, how to implement board retreat recommendations from March.

MOTION: Ingrid Gorman is appointed as a member of the WFF 2020 Coordinating Committee. Will Strang moved, Charlie Baum seconded, passed by affirmation.

Treasurer's Report: Will Strang: Will is continuing to work on the FSGW 2020 Budget.

Program: Don Fahey: : In September, there were 5 events and 4 artists; \$ 280 in donations was taken in for the Windborne workshop. Claude Martin memorial scholarship needs confirmation for this year; there has been one nomination.

Dance: Ben Sela: Contrastock was revenue-neutral, even though attendance was down from 2018. . Plans for Contrastock 2020 (the 10th, October 4, 2020) are underway and the line-up is set, but future Contrastocks are not certain. Charlie P. requested door-sheet details.

Calling Terms Status (please see Appendix for details): There are three sources of statistical data: 1. Member Survey from last winter; 2. SS Contra; Dance 3. Listening Session. About 80% were neutral in SS survey; a significant fraction of people were also neutral in the Listening Session comments submitted outside of the form, with similar results. One idea is to apply a ratio for all dances across time with both. Ben thinks we might need to go nongendered because of people who won't come and won't bring their friends if not nongendered. Changing terms doesn't solve the whole problem but if we don't, Ben's opinion is that it will slow the progress moving forward.

Bill Rucker (non-Board Member) commented that he believes the sources Ben cited are not inclusive. Also, we should include the surveys made at the dances themselves. Can we move to nongendered without increasing dissonance? Jerry Blum commented on a nongendered alternative which is positional calling. Charlie Pilzer commented that we might use non-board meeting time to continue this discussion.

Publications: Jim McRea: October Newsletter was reduced to 20 pages; this length limit is his goal from now on. New life Members will not get the Newsletter for free; there was discussion of how to deal with existing life Members who receive the Newsletter for free during their lifetimes.

Publicity: Nancy Lisi: Happy about new social media buttons on website; also, we should try and figure out how to make e-blast shareable/forwardable.

OLD BUSINESS:

Getaway Status Update: online reservation is turned off now. Registration is down about 10 from last year (about 100 now) but there's fewer requests for scholarships. Charlie Baum is optimistic about being close to breaking even. (Charlie Pilzer suggested idea to consider budgeting for 15-20% more than break-even).

Budget Discussion: Will recommended we extend the interim budget until November meeting, and he will ask board members for additional information as needed.

MOTION: The FSGW Board accepts version 4 of the FSGW draft budget as the interim budget until the November board meeting.

Charlie Baum moved, Jim McRea seconded, passed by affirmation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Need to Appoint Membership Chair: Jen Furlong resigned being too busy to carry out duties. Charlie Pilzer asked the board to think of someone that would be a good candidate, perhaps someone who goes to both dances and concerts.

Mini-Fest: Moved from Feb 8 because the PTA asked us to move, but now the Baltimore mid-winter ball conflicts with mini fest. The board is in favor of working hard to not be in conflict with Baltimore ball and get a new date, if possible. Charlie Pilzer will call April.

MOTION: The FSGW Board allocates \$ 150 per year to become a member of FAI (Folk Alliance International).

Don Fahey moved, Charlie Baum seconded, passed by affirmation.

MOTION: The FSGW Board will pay the registration cost for the Program Chair to attend FAI in February 2020.

Nancy Lisi moved, Will Strang seconded, passed by affirmation.

Move to Adjourn: Don Fahey moved, Jerry Stein seconded, passed by affirmation at 10:18 PM.

Appendix:

Calling Terms:

Calling Terms Status -- high level takeaways. Three sources: 1. Member Survey from last winter; 2. SS Contra; Dance 3. Listening Session. About 80% were neutral in SS survey. Significant # of people were also neutral in the Listening Session comments submitted outside of the form, with similar results. With people who are very caring about the situation, there is a split among those against Ladies/Gents and those against Larks/Ravens. One idea is to apply a ratio for all dances across time with both. Ben thinks we might need to go nongendered because of people who won't come and won't bring their friends if not nongendered. Changing terms doesn't solve the whole problem but if we don't, Ben's opinion is that it will slow the progress moving forward.

Bill Rucker -- (limit to 5 minutes) -- he believes the sources Ben cited are not inclusive. For example, some people didn't go to Contrastock because of nongendered terms. If nongendered is needed, Larks and Ravens is not the right one. He believes that the way the community did this was intrusive, and therefore not his community. Also, need to include the surveys made at the dances themselves. Can we move to nongendered without increasing dissonance?

Jerry Blum commented on a nongendered alternative which is positional calling. April Blum is moving to that approach recently and seemed to work well and mostly avoids terms. Will Strang commented that Andrea Mettleton is a good source for POV; Will advocates for getting the most people to the dances, so picking a solution that maximizes dancers is key. Charlie Pilzer commented that we might use non-board meeting time to continue this discussion. Kim Gandy. added that in her conversation with Will Mentor he mentioned positional calling as being up and coming but also limiting to the callers and limiting to types of dances, especially more complicated ones. Dances around the country are moving to nongendered but not all using Larks & Ravens (Robins sometimes). Kim also commented that she thinks we all need to move forward and not dwell on the past.

Written Report by Tim Livengood

The Grapevine Storytelling Series continued on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 with featured tellers Jamie Brickhouse and Megan Hicks, for an audience of 35 and \$495 in donations; \$5 was taken from our reserve to raise it to \$500 to be distributed. There were

three participants in the open-mic portion of the program. The featured tellers received \$250 each from the donations and will receive \$150 each from FSGW, resulting in total disbursements of \$400 to each teller. The reserve is reduced to \$85, being held to compensate for weak nights.

FSGW presented its folk-arts outreach program for Hope and a Home on Monday, October 28, featuring The Face Paint Lady (Michelle Johnson). Sixteen (16) children participated in getting faces painted and had a good time.