

12/3/19

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM. Quorum (greater than 8) was achieved.

Present:

Charlie Baum (Past-President),
Jerry Blum (At-Large),
Don Fahey (Program),
Jim McRea (Publications),
Ben Sela (Dance, started later)
Jerry Stein (past-Treasurer),
Will Strang (Treasurer),
Neil Zimmerman (Secretary);

came later:

Renee Brachfeld (At-Large),

remotely:

Ingrid Gorman (VP),
Nancy Lisi (Publicity)

Absent:

Kim Gandy (At-Large),

Minutes: October meeting: Don moved adoption, Jerry B seconded, passed without objection. November meeting: Charlie B. moved adoption, Jerry B seconded, passed without objection.

President's Report: Charlie P: Thank you for substantive email conversation re several issues.

Treasurer's Report: Will Strang: Continuing to lose money; will have a report on 2nd half of 2019. Did not have to transfer money in November. Working on v 7 of FY 2020 budget. Charlie P QUESTION: Should we skip the audit to save money? ANSWER: Put in abeyance for Financial Comm. Will: Yes, he recommends we adopt v 7 of Budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mid-Winter Festival: Charlie P: Evening dance will be English cf Contra, in order to avoid conflict with BFMS event. General sense of the Board: the changes make sense.

WFF 2020 Update: Joel Bluestein: Planning going well. In the context of future years: Have heard some suggestions for better attendee experience (tent seating, better food, ...), as compared to performer/volunteer experience. 40th Anniversary: Maybe tie better to FSGW overall in the Program. Charlie P QUESTION: If fundraising runs short, are there contingency plans? ANSWER: No. Don QUESTION: Are there changes in WFF-GEP arrangement that would allow us to do things like [count number of attendees, food trucks, ...]? ANSWER: Not in last year, but in last few years NPS has had less participation which gives somewhat more flexibility. Limit on 10,000 attendance is no longer in force. Don QUESTION: Any limits on donations? ANSWER: Don't know.

Future of the Washington Folk Festival (WFF) (2022 and Beyond): Joel B: What is the WFF, where should it go? 1) Fundamentally, it is the depiction of Folk music, dance, arts and crafts of the WDC Greater Area. 2) It is free for attendees. Neil QUESTION: Who will run the WFF in 5 – 10 years? ANSWER: We don't know; we are discussing. Paying performers: Many of performers are not professional, and the WFF is their major performance for the whole year; for those people, payment is secondary. For professional performers: 1) Many do perform for free; 2) if some don't want to/can't afford to perform for free, the WFF Coordinating Committee (CC) does not believe that hurts the WFF.

Succession plan: Each committee is trying to recruit young people. Neil QUESTION: Quantitative? Joel B ANSWER: None at this time. Ingrid ANSWER: Two young people presently on Program Comm, and one more coming in January. Neil QUESTION: Any new people who could take on and would be willing to take on WFF CC role? ANSWER: Not at this time.

Jim: All of WFF CC documentation should be on FSGW website, so that FSGW owns the data and there is sustainable storage. Joel B: That effort has been started. Will: WFF database is already there.

Neil QUESTION: In terms of big issues (one vs two days, where, one vs 7 tents, etc), how do we bring young people onto the WFF CC? Joel B and Ingrid ANSWER: Not sure. WFF CC: Nominal term is 3 years for 3 people; there has been one very important exception to this for decades. Jim: We don't need young people, we just need new people; Don: Same; a 50-year old person who has free time and leadership skills and only one job would be ideal, as compared to a 34-year old person with multiple jobs and a young family. There is an ad hoc committee of young people; Don volunteers to hold another ad hoc meeting. He plans to do that in the next month and report back in January.

Action Items:

- 1) Don will hold ad hoc meeting.
- 2) Neil will send to Joel and Ingrid a question to which he hopes ...
- 3) They will respond in writing to the Board before January Meeting.

Bal DC: Renee: They sent Renee graphs; 70 registrants, taken in \$ 9, 200 (total expenses \$ 15, 000) [average \$ 130 per person]. **QUESTION:** They think they're going to break even; is the FSGW willing to guarantee expenses?

MOTION: The FSGW Board will cover any financial loss of Bal DC.

Renee moved, no one seconded, the Motion did not proceed.

Discussion: We should get a written request from Bal DC comm, and ask them to open their books.

MOTION: The FSGW Board will not give any further financial support to Bal DC.

Neil moved, no one seconded, the Motion did not proceed.

Financial Controls: Neil: This is not about a single problematic Boardmember, this is about having a sensible Policy for the FSGW. Will: The Board (i.e., the Treasurer) has been remiss in providing oversight; this Policy provides that oversight. Charlie P: We should have a very short Motion which adopts the full 2 ½ page policy. Jim: This goes to fix a 2 – 3 year problem. This is already in the Bylaws. (“No contract or obligation of The Society's funds in excess of the budget for any activity shall be made or undertaken except with the express approval of The Board or membership, as herein provided.”)

Don: He doesn't sign contracts, he just emails – need to define “contract” to include emails, etc. Charlie B: Emails are equivalent to contracts. Charlie P/Jim: All obligations should be via contract or formatted email, for payment trail and liability coverage.

Action items:

- 1) Change MOTION to short Motion + long policy.
- 2) Develop formatted email. Will, Ben, and Don to develop, with corporate memory from the Charlies.
- 3) Wisdom from Jim, on: a) burden on Treasurer, b) conflict with Bylaws.
- 4) Pro forma FY 2021 budget as 2nd year of FY 2020; have in place by March 2020.
- 5) Will: Potomac River Shape-Note Singing Convention needs a Certificate of Insurance for the 2020 sing.

Neil **QUESTION:** Did any other Boardmember find the draft Motion “... frankly is insulting to those board members and other volunteers who have been conscientious.”? **ANSWER:** No one did. Will Strang observation: Please accept comments from that Boardmember in the context of that person's personal history. Charlie P: Having appropriate policies is a good thing, but they can't be onerous. Jerry B: Ditto, having structure and rules is good.

Charlie P: Would like to move to two-year budget. Board is in general agreement.

Programs: Don: 1) Potomac River Singers needs a letter. 2) Nina Budabin McQuown “Crankies and Cajas” at Takoma Park Fest.

MOTION: The FSGW Board authorizes Don to commit up to \$ 100 to this event as a Grant.

Neil moved, Renee seconded, passed with 11 yeas, one abstention.

Dance: Neil QUESTION: What is status of contra terms? Charlie P ANSWER: He will again commit to working with Ben.

Newsletter: Jim: Going well. Broadsheets will go somewhere with Charlie P.

Grapevine: Renee: Going well, will break even. Will come back next month with proposed policy for performer payment.

Election Committee: Jerry S: Send around Jim Cole’s email, discuss at next meeting.

Moving email blast to website, stopping paying Constant Contact: Will: Partially happening. Beth S and Lynn B are best to do this work, and to train Corinne. Charlie P: Lynn B to be Project Manager? Will: Better for her to do work. Jim: Let’s get Jackie Hoglund.

Move to Adjourn: Neil moved, Charlie B seconded, passed by affirmation at 10:10 PM.

Written Report by Tim Livengood

Tim Livengood told stories for our Hope and a Home outreach project on November 25, 2019, for 10 children and 4 adults.

Written Report by Ben Sela (Dance)

SND			member	non member	7-17	total	Income	expense	net	calling terms	
	11/03/19	Janine Smith	gigmeisters	63	24	4	91	962	935.4	26.6	ladies and gents
	11/10/19	Greg Frock	Chris Ousley	52	17	0	69	741	760	-19	Larks and Ravens
	11/17/19	Janine and Susan	Dead Sea Squirrels	59	11	0	70	733	760	-27	Ladies and Gents
	11/24/19	Ann Fallon	Pete’s Posse	61	19	4	84	877	823.41	53.59	Ladies and Gents
challenge dance							0	0		0	
	11/24/19	Janine Smith	Pete’s Posse	91	13	0	104	1079	983.99	95.01	Ladies and Gents
Family Dance			adult	kid							
		Greg Frock	Chris Ousley	18	15		33	165	225	-60	NA