

January 14, 2020

Quorum established: Charlie Pilzer (President), Will Strang (Treasurer), Jerry Stein (Past Treasurer), Ben Sela (Dance Chair), Don Fahey (Program Chair), Jim McRea (Publications), Jerry Blum and Kim Gandy (At-Large), and Nancy Lisi (Publications) joined by phone, for 9 members and a quorum. Neil Zimmerman (Secretary) joined at 9:30pm by phone. Guest: Jess Eliot Myhre

Call to Order: Charlie P. called the meeting to order at 8:10pm

Adoption of December minutes: It was agreed that this item would be postponed to such time as the secretary is able to join the meeting.

Membership Chair: Jerry B. moved, and Will seconded.

MOTION: Moved that the board appoint Jess Eliot Myhre to the vacant board position of Membership Chair. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Charlie P. has briefed Jess on the duties. Will outlined that the position involved supervising the mechanics of processing and maintaining memberships on the database, much of which is done by paid staff, as well as coming up with ways to recruit and retain members. It was agreed that member recruitment and retention is a big job that needs everyone. Will and Kim offered to help Jess in learning the membership database and correspondence. From this point on, Jess is added to the quorum.

President's Report: Charlie P. has been meeting with lots of people, formally and informally. Getting more people coming to events is key, and having enough interest by people who want to get involved and make things happen. Do we need to have better events or just better advertising? People mentioned to Charlie P. the concept of "seeds" – having several people, at least one charismatic person and a few others, a ringleader who gets other people to come, and then they bring other people, and it grows from there. Why in an area with a population of millions do only 20 people come to a concert? What are we doing that isn't drawing people? What do we need to do to break through?

Nancy encouraged all board members to "push the button" on Facebook, and she will re-send instructions, to help get the word out. Charlie P. would like to have some informal workgroup meetings to talk about this, as well as about other issues, such as potential grants we might qualify for, and how to get other kinds of outside support, like sponsors. He has sent around a Doodle poll and would appreciate responses before the Feb. 4th meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Will reported on the current status of our bank accounts and investments, and will provide an updated budget (Budget Version 8) at the February meeting. The board discussed the need for timely financial reports. Charlie P. noted that the official records of our financial transactions are in Quickbooks software on the bookkeeper's computer, but there are sometimes delays in getting the information to the bookkeeper (Leslie Barkley), both in terms of transactions (like writing checks or making deposits) and event reports/reconciliations (e.g. concerts, dances, storytelling)

Motion on Financial Controls: Postponed to the February meeting at Neil's request, by general agreement.

Financial Transactions:

MOTION: Moved that FSGW financial transactions will be reported to the bookkeeper and the Treasurer within 48 hours. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Jim moved and Will seconded. There was agreement that “financial transactions” includes obligating funds on behalf of FSGW. Charlie P. noted that this requirement needs to be conveyed to all of those who are engaging in financial transactions on behalf of the organization.

Event Reports: Jim moved and Jerry S. seconded:

MOTION: Moved that FSGW event reports/reconciliations be provided to the bookkeeper and Treasurer within two weeks after the event. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Dance Report:

BAL DC. Ben reported that Bal DC (Bal Folk) weekend was successful and people really enjoyed the weekend. He provided some graphs that had been submitted by the Bal DC committee, showing that the weekend was profitable, and he will request a more detailed financial report. Based on that report, it is expected that FSGW will be repaid \$2000 of the \$3000 deposit on the venue, the remaining \$1000 having been a grant for the event.

HASHDANCE/#DANCE: Ben reported on the March #dance weekend, that we are undersubscribed compared to last time, though the responses on Facebook have been good. He thinks the low response is partly because the date has been moved earlier and people may not be thinking about it yet, and partly because the pricing system is overly complicated (at the request of the people who were responsible for housing last time, because there were problems). Kim suggested that #dance is a confusing name (compared to the previous Hashdance, which referred to hash calling) and Jess noted that #dance is used as a hashtag for all kinds of dances. Ben will discuss with the committee the name of #dance Weekend versus the previous name. Charlie P. suggested having Contraststock registration available in time for #dance in March.

CALLING TERMS: Postponed to such time as Neil is able to join the meeting.

Mini-Fest Update. All is going well so far, though volunteers are always welcome. Charlie P. and Jerry S. will be there all day and Don in the morning. The Baltimore challenge contra at 3pm is a conflict for some members. Kim offered to come in the morning if needed, and Charlie P. encouraged those who are able to come and help with the membership table.

WFF 2020 Update. The WFF committee is meeting tonight and there will be an update at the next board meeting.

Board Elections in June: Charlie P. noted that we need to have two concerts and two dances that will be free to members, for the purpose of board nominations. Discussed how to do this, and possibly doing them in March and April. There was a discussion about when and how many free events are required by the bylaws for this purpose, and Don noted that the bylaws require 2 events, in February and March. Charlie P. will talk with the elections/nominations committee (Jim Cole and Jackie Hogle) about what needs to be done. At this point they are soliciting candidates. Agreed to make the Feb. 29th concert one of the free events, and we will need to have at least one more, probably a dance in March. Discussed whether we should be reducing the “two free concerts and two free dances” that we have been verbally promising, since we have not been managing to send out the free coupons (which are now in Charlie’s possession). There was no conclusion on that point, and we will discuss further in February.

Sponsorship Donation to WOWD: Neil moved and Don seconded:

MOTION: Moved that FSGW donate \$408 to WOWD radio to cover a day of FSGW sponsorship. Charlie P. will cover half of that as a contribution to FSGW, and Will has just made a donation of \$100 that can be applied to the cost. Nancy would like to get bluegrass country radio included in our advertising, and they have an inexpensive package. Agreed that the expense is properly part of the advertising budget.
Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Grant of \$300 to Youth Traditional weekend. This grant was approved unanimously by the board via email. Checks were provided (by Will to Kim) at this meeting. Ingrid reported to Will that the weekend went well, and also expressed to the board her appreciation for the support of young people's involvement.

Maintenance of Event Information: Charlie P. wants to ensure that membership and event information is adequately and timely maintained, especially in terms of the newsletter and the website having the same information (and sometimes the e-blast doesn't match). We should try to have the information we need well in advance of events so that they can be adequately publicized, since last-minute PR isn't very effective.

Also there is web database cleanup that is frequently needed (e.g. person registers for an event online but pays offline). Likewise failed payments, deceased members, etc. don't get cleaned up. Mandy (staff) does the basic admin work, Don does concerts entries, Corinne (staff) does the e-blasts, Ben does dances, Lynn Baumeister and Will are the webmasters, but are not responsible for that kind of maintenance. Discussed whether someone might volunteer to take this on as a regular responsibility

Report on Calling Terms at Contra Dances: Ben, as Dance Chair, reported on the policy he has developed and which he sent to the board recently:

"Sunday night dances will be called either with the terms "ladies" and "gents" or with the terms "larks" and "robins". Approximately 25% of dances will be called with "ladies/gents" and approximately 75% will be called using "larks/robins". This relative frequency will be maintained over a rolling 6-month period. All special event dances such as Hashdance, Contrastock, and challenge dances will be called using "larks" and "robins". The terms being used at each Sunday dance will be posted on the FSGW website with as much advance notice as possible. The FSGW membership will be given the opportunity to vote for or against this policy. If the majority vote is opposed to the policy, the dance chair will be required to come back to the board with a revised decision."

Policy on Calling Terms: Moved by Neil, seconded by Will: Moved that it is the policy of the FSGW to hire callers for all Contra dances (including both weekly and annual events) so as to provide dances that are split approximately 50% with gendered terms and 50% with non-gendered terms. The detailed implementation guidelines for this Policy will be set by the Dance Chair. All notices in the FSGW Newsletter/website that reference Contra calling terms policy will include the first sentence in this paragraph." There was an extensive discussion of the pros and cons, as well as the advantages of positional calling, which is also non-gendered.

Jerry B. moved an amendment in the nature of a substitute, Don seconded:

MOTION: "Moved that it is the policy of the FSGW to hire callers for all Contra dances (including both weekly and annual events) so as to provide dances that are split approximately 25% with gendered terms and 75% with non-gendered terms. The detailed implementation guidelines for this Policy will be set by the Dance Chair. All notices in the FSGW Newsletter/website that reference Contra calling terms

policy will include the first sentence in this paragraph.” The substitute motion passed and became the main motion. *The motion carried.*

Yes: Ben, Don, Kim, Nancy, Jerry B., Jim

No: Neil

Abstentions: Jerry S., Will, Jess

Not voting: Charlie P. (as chair)

Next meeting: February 4, 2020 at 8.00pm, Glen Echo Classroom 201

Meeting adjourned without objection at 10:40pm (note: I’m not sure of the exact time)

From: StorytellerTimLivengood <storytellertimlivengood@gmail.com>

To: FSGW board <alltheboard@fsgw.org>; Barkley Leslie <barkleyassoc@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020, 11:16:10 PM EST

Subject: report for the December Grapevine

Hi all,

Report on the Grapevine in December:

On Wednesday, December 11, 2019, the FSGW-sponsored program the Grapevine hosted featured storytellers Mitch Capel and Motoko. An audience of 36 enjoyed a program of folk, folksy, funny, and poetic stories, and donated a total of \$540 at the door. The donations were distributed as \$270 to each of the featured tellers, plus an anticipated contribution from FSGW of \$150 to each teller by check.

Attachment: Separately, please find Treasurer’s report in filename “2020-0114 FSGW Treasurers report 2020-01-21.pdf”