

Folklore Society of Greater Washington  
Minutes of board meeting on April 7, 2020

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM. Quorum (greater than 8) was achieved.

Present remotely:

Charlie Baum (Past-President),  
Jerry Blum (At-Large),  
Renee Brachfeld (At-Large),  
Kim Gandy (At-Large),  
Ingrid Gorman (VP),  
Jess Eliot Myhre (Membership)  
Ben Sela (Dance, started later)  
Jerry Stein (past-Treasurer),  
Will Strang (Treasurer),  
Neil Zimmerman (Secretary);

came later remotely:

Jim McRea (Publications),

Absent:

Nancy Lisi (Publicity)

Remote guests:

Fred Stollnitz  
Jane Gorbaty  
Bill Rucker

**Minutes of previous regular Meeting:** Ingrid moved adoption, Will seconded, passed without objection.

**Minutes of Special Meeting on March 18:** Will moved adoption, Jerry B seconded, passed without objection.

**President's Report:** Charlie P: "What an astounding month." Wants to schedule another work session. Wants to form a Bylaws Committee – expects to appoint a Chair next month.

**Treasurer's Report:** Will Strang: Joel recently deposited \$2090 of WFF donations, We have not yet paid out anything to cancelled performers. Investment accounts – one went up, one went down; the net is 12 % down from late February as of today. Charlie P: How does everything impact the budget? Will: Yes, I will put it all together.

The Previous Treasurer (Jerry S) and VP (Ingrid) have credit cards; Will would like one also. Jim: Credit cards have better protections than debit cards; we should move away from debit cards. Will: We need to keep debit cards to get cash for event cash boxes. Charlie P: Will, please come back in a month with recommendations for credit/debit cards.

**MOTION:** The FSGW Board hereby authorizes Will to get a credit card.

Jerry B moved, Jim seconded, one abstention.

**Zoom for Grapevine report:** Renee: It's going well; we are ready for event with confidential Zoom attendance. Will: FSGW has a Brown Paper Bag account. Fred Stollnitz: Open Sing went well (40 attenders).

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Financial control policy:** Charlie P: I forwarded a multiply-updated version today; "Neil, what are your comments?"

[Neil made a bunch of comments, which at the request of Jerry B he wrote down and distributed to the Board later]

Will: Setting the minimum at \$ 300 would be a lot of extra work. Jim: \$ 300 is too low; \$ 600 or \$ 700? Charlie B: similar. Jerry B: Neil had some very good suggestions; maybe Neil could send his comments to Committee. Ingrid: sounds good. Kim: recurring takes care of Newsletter, so we could lower the minimum for non-recurring. Kim would like entire Board to look at recommendations of Committee. Will: I would go higher than \$ 300; could be a negative affirmation, as in Treasurer only has to respond if there's a problem with a commitment. What about Wednesday dances (as small as popcorn)? Charlie P: Consensus: Deadline of two weeks for next version from Committee (Ingrid, Jerry B, myself).

Will: A 2 could be the mechanism for enforcement; Neil: I agree. Will: Bookkeeper needs that level of detail.

**MOTION:** The FSGW Board tables the Financial control policy for one month, and remand to (Committee is Ingrid, Kim, Jerry B, Will and Charlie P ex officio); Committee will report back in two weeks.

Charlie B moved, Jerry B seconded, passed by affirmation.

**Funding for Grapevine/Hope and a Home (Renee):** The Grapevine is a monthly adult storytelling event; it is unique because tellers are hired, that come from all over the country, and not Moth-style (i.e., Grapevine hears traditional stories not contemporary personal stories).

Policy from a previous Board: Each teller gets \$ 150 plus half of the door; this brings an unusually large payment per hour. Jim: There have been two occurrences in past year where each teller got \$ 650; that is too much. FSGW should offer a minimum plus a little, and the rest of door proceeds should go back to FSGW. Kim: Several years ago, we moved to change from \$ 150 to \$ 100; I asked Tim Livengood how this was raised back to \$ 150, and it's unclear to us. Renee: She agrees that we need to change policy. Charlie P: For next three months, tellers do not get \$ 150 FSGW; Charlie would be happy to get a policy suggestion from Grapevine. Jim: Reiterated that FSGW should get money back.

Neil: I agree with Jim; this should be like any other FSGW event, with budgeted expenditures. Any extra door receipts should flow back to the FSGW, just like any other FSGW event. Jerry B: Does Grapevine have FSGW banner? Renee: Next 3 months, Grapevine will probably break even.

**Elections:** Charlie P: In hand, Jackie training Penelope. Jim: Haven't received any candidate statements yet for Newsletter. Electronic ballots come with candidate statements (same as paper ballots).

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**WFF cancellation:** Charlie P: WFF Coordinating Committee and GEPPAC agreed to cancel the 2020 event. Neil: This cancellation without a Board Motion is a classic example of the lack of a regular relationship between the Board and the WFF Coordinating Committee. Charlie P: This is the way it works; WFF and Chairs have traditionally have had great autonomy. Jim: I agree with Neil; Getaway etc are decisions made without Board concurrence, and I think that's a problem. Neil: This should be part of the Bylaws Committee discussion re governance structure.

**Payment to cancelled performers:** Charlie P: Spreadsheet is the same as two weeks ago, with exception for Steve Cormier. Jim: Some of those numbers seem awfully high. Neil: Maybe we should put a maximum gross amount, and prorate if not enough performers decline offer? Charlie P: I feel strongly we should pay the minima. Renee: Strongly agree with Charlie P. Jim: Are we coordinating with co-sponsoring organizations? Charlie B: None of them are supposed to pay performers?

Jim: What does this do to our projected \$ 22, 000 deficit? Will: I will provide that info.

**MOTION:** The FSGW Board authorizes payment to cancelled performers as provided for in Charlie P's spreadsheet.

Neil moved, Renee seconded, passed by affirmation.

Kim: Is it correct that spreadsheet list is based on contractual minima; my understanding is that most of the performers have not provided written confirmation. In cases of lack of written confirmation, I suggest we pay Union Local 1000 guideline minima. Charlie B:

Most performers have not provided written confirmation. Charlie P: Total difference is \$ 1000 aggregate. Neil: I agree with Kim; we need to base the amounts on a rational basis such as Local 1000. Charlie P: Local 1000 guideline is \$ 125/event minimum.

Jess: We could raise money by having online concerts in place of House Concerts.

Neil: Will write article announcing this.

**Payment to Schweinhaut Song Circle:** Charlie P authorizes SSC to use FSGW Zoom account. Fred Stollnitz: SSC has been co-sponsored by FSGW and Carpe Diem. Vastly superior performances with a piano accompanist, who at \$ 100 / hour has been paid \$ 100/month by FSGW and \$ 50/month by Carpe Diem. SSC is asking \$ 75/month from FSGW during online events; they will explore other sources of money after online over. Charlie P and Will: \$ 100/month is in Budget for this FY. Charlie P: Agreement: We should pay as budgeted; Will agrees.

**Move to Adjourn:** Neil moved, Kim seconded at 10:40 PM.

### **Written Report by Tim Livengood**

Revised report for the March 11 Grapevine:

On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the FSGW-sponsored program the Grapevine hosted featured storytellers Rachel Dunstan Muller and Renée Brachfeld. An audience of 33 enjoyed a program of literary and original stories, both personal and fictional, and donated a total of \$445 at the door. We added \$55 from the Grapevine reserve to bring the total to \$500 in donations to distribute to the two featured tellers. The donations were distributed as \$250 to Rachel Muller, and \$250 to Renée Brachfeld, plus an anticipated contribution from FSGW of \$150 to Rachel Dunstan Muller. As an officer of FSGW, Renée Brachfeld refuses payment from FSGW operating funds.