



## Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 1/9/24 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

### BOARD MEETING – December 5, 2023

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

#### Attendees Present:

Charlie Pilzer, *President*  
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*  
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*  
Jackie Hogle, *Treasurer*  
David Shewmaker, *Membership (joined 9pm)*  
Chris Lindsay, *Programs*  
Jim McRea, *Publications*  
Caroline Barnes, *Dance*  
Will Strang, *Past Treasurer (joined 8:20)*  
Lucia Schaefer, *At-Large*  
Lynn Baumeister, *At-Large*

#### Absent:

Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*

#### Guests:

Mo Brachfeld (office staff)  
Maya Pierick (office staff)  
Dana Best  
Cat Tucker (until 8:30)  
Charlie Baum (joined 8:30)  
Fred Stollnitz  
Jane Gorbaty  
Timothy Foley  
Joel Bluestein

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#### Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the November 7, 2023 Board Meeting.
  - Vote: Jackie Hogle moved; Jim McRea seconded.
  - Resolved: The minutes of the November 7, 2023 meeting are approved and entered into the Society records

#### REPORTS:

##### President's Report and State of FSGW:

- Charlie has been busy with many different FSGW items.

##### Treasurer's Report:

- Leslie Barkley has taken over check writing responsibilities. Jackie and Leslie are reviewing checks older than six months that have not been cashed and are reaching out to those parties to see if they need a new check issued.

- Jackie is still working to set up a Quickbooks report to compare actual revenue and expenses to the budget for the year but it is not ready yet.
- FSGW has about \$256,000 total current assets between our Fidelity, Vanguard and checking accounts.

#### **Office Report:**

- Mo has completed a first pass of duplicate contacts in our database and is working on a gameplan for addressing those contacts who didn't respond to initial outreach.
- Office staff will reach out to current life members to see if they still want to get the printed newsletter. There's a possibility for saving money on printing and postage.
- Maya is working with David Shewmaker to clean up membership data in the database.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **COVID Review:**

- There has not been any outbreak at FSGW events, but covid has not gone away. No changes are needed to the FSGW policy.

##### **Dances:**

- Charlie Pilzer signed the MOA with Glen Echo Park for 2024 barn dances, Contrastock, and Hashdance. Dana Best will follow-up on the MOA for the Friday Night Dances.
- There are currently 40 people (including volunteers) signed up for the New Year's Eve contra dance. Outreach and publicity is in full force, including an email to all attendees from the past few years.

##### **Concerts:**

- There were two concerts in November including a partnership with the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian on November 4<sup>th</sup> featuring Raven Chacon and Joy Harjo. On November 27<sup>th</sup>, Gangspil drew a big crowd for a house concert.
- On December 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a holiday extravaganza with Karen Ashbrook and Paul Oorts and special guests. The event will be hybrid- both in person and streamed online.
- Coming up on January 20<sup>th</sup> is a house concert featuring Dick Hensold and Patsy O'Brien, and on January 26<sup>th</sup>, a cosponsored show in Alexandria with Bruce Molsky.
- Chris is working on lining up shows for February and May.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Nomination/Election Committee Chair:**

- David Shewmaker agreed to be Chair of the Elections Committee for the 2024 elections but the Board needs to confirm that nomination. Charlie Pilzer clarified that David will not be able to un for the board. *MOTION: Will Strang moves, Jamie Platt seconds, to approve the appointment of David Shewmaker to chair the FSGW Elections Committee for 2024. Approved unanimously.*

### **Donation Campaign:**

- A \$1000 check was received before Giving Tuesday.
- A fundraising email was sent for Giving Tuesday and \$285 has been received since then.
- Lucia prepared an end-of year fundraising letter which will be sent on December 11<sup>th</sup> to everyone who gets the eblast as well as members who don't get eblast.

### **Co-Sponsorship:**

- Jackie Hoglund outlined the two ways that FSGW has historically provided cosponsorships to other groups and events. Option one- fiscal cosponsor: all money flows through FSGW- income and expenses show in our budget. FSGW carries the exposure/risk. Option two-in-kind sponsor: groups handle their own money and FSGW provides insurance and advertising support.
  - Potomac River Shape-Note Convention: Alexa Silverman and David Shulman asked FSGW for insurance coverage and help with publicity for their event. They do not need financial support.
    - **MOTION:** Jackie Hoglund moves, Jamie Platt seconds that FSGW cosponsor the Potomac River Shape-Note Singing Convention only for the purposes of insurance and publicity.
    - *Discussion:* Further clarification that this co-sponsorship does not include fiscal responsibility for FSGW. It is only insurance and publicity.
    - *Motion approved unanimously.*
  - Le Bal Perdu DC Balfolk: Leslie Barr and Lynn Baumeister have asked for cosponsor support for a new Bal Folk series. They are looking for publicity support and the backing of a larger organization to help lend credibility when booking venues. The plan is to start with a monthly event. The board suggested starting this partnership as a non-fiscal cosponsor (insurance and publicity only) and discussions about further involvement can happen later.
    - **MOTION:** Will Strang moves, Alyssa Hemler seconds, that FSGW cosponsor Le Bal Perdu DC Balfolk only for the purposes of insurance and publicity.
    - *Discussion:* There are options for helping figure out how to accept non-cash payments that don't involve formal FSGW fiscal support.
    - *Unanimous with 1 abstention. Motion passes.*

### **Purchase of Sound Mixing Board for Glen Echo:**

- Charlie Pilzer informed the board that FSGW has previously approved funds directed to purchasing equipment for GEPPAC use. FSGW recently used some of that money to purchase fans. The current sound mixer at Glen Echo is very old. Charlie suggested that FSGW could spend some of the set-aside money for GEPPAC to purchase a new sound board. The new sound board would be owned by GEPPAC and stored in the Spanish Ballroom for use by all groups, not just FSGW.
- Board members discussed asking other groups and/or GEPPAC to help pay for a new sound board, which costs about \$2,000-\$2,500.

- If FSGW wants sole access to a new sound board rather than sharing with other groups, FSGW already owns a digital sound board which is currently stored in Joel Bluesteins garage. This sound board could be relocated to Glen Echo Park for use at FSGW events only. The earmarked funds could then be spent on something else for GEPPAC.
- The FSGW board is not ready to commit funds to buying a new sound board when we already own one that does not get used very often, but could be relocated to Glen Echo Park.
- Charlie Pilzer will reach out to the FSGW sound technicians for further discussion on equipment needs and preferences and will come back to the full board with a concrete proposal.

**WFF:**

- Charlie and Jackie have a meeting scheduled with Emily and Katie of GEPPAC to discuss the future of the Washington Folk Festival. Dwayne and Joel have retired as coordinators and there are no current FSGW volunteers to lead the festival. The program committee, however, is still intact and ready to move forward with planning and multiple performers have reached out about performing. Dwayne would like to continue to help make the festival happen, but not as a primary coordinator.
- FSGW has no money in the current budget for the festival. The approximate expenses from the past few years have been about \$50k/year, mostly going towards buses, tents and hospitality.
- GEPAAC has no candidates to take on a leadership role and they do not have funds to put towards it.
- If a 2024 festival were to happen, the key is finding a lead coordinator. It is a huge amount of work and there have not been many new leaders stepping up to help in the past few decades.
- A scaled down version of the festival is a possible compromise. The event doesn't have to be all or nothing.
- The board agreed that it is worthwhile for Charlie and Jackie to have a conversation with GEPPAC about the future of the festival.

**Digitization of FSGW Archive Tapes:**

- FSGW received a targeted donation to digitize old reel to reel tapes and give them to the Library of Congress. The board discussed the process for soliciting bids.
- Charlie will help put together a statement of work to be circulated to potential bidders.

**Next meeting date:**

- Will be moved to January 9th instead of January 2nd

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 pm**

- Caroline Barnes moved, Jamie Platt seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 8pm on Zoom.