



**Board Meeting Minutes** (Approved 2/6/24 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

**BOARD MEETING – January 9, 2024**

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:03 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*  
Chris Lindsay, *Programs*  
Jim McRea, *Publications*  
Caroline Barnes, *Dance*  
Will Strang, *Past Treasurer*  
Lucia Schaefer, *At-Large*

**Absent:**

Lynn Baumeister, *At-Large*  
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*

**Guests:**

Mo Brachfeld (office staff)  
Maya Pierick (office staff)  
Dana Best  
Cat Tucker (until 10:10)  
Charlie Baum  
Nancy McKemie (until 9:55)  
Peter Maier (until 10:05)  
Jane Gorbaty  
Timothy Foley  
Joel Bluestein  
Renee Brachfeld  
Jim Cole  
Dwain Winters

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**Approval of Minutes:**

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the December 5, 2023 Board Meeting.
  - Vote: Jamie Platt moved; Will Strang seconded.
  - Resolved: The minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting are approved and entered into the Society records

**REPORTS:**

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

- This is the halfway mark of the current board member's term. Planning for the next board term has already begun.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The board consented to allow one member to prepay for multiple years of membership.
- Leslie Barkley (FSGW bookkeeper) and Jackie Hogle created a report in QuickBooks that compares the budget versus actuals. For FY23, the budget deficit at the end of the fiscal year

was about \$5,000 less than the budgeted deficit. For FY24, FSGW is running a \$6,000 deficit so far.

- Jackie has been paying to store old recordings of FSGW events using the \$25,000 endowment funds that accompanied the recordings. Beginning the digitization process (and no longer paying for storage) is a priority.
- FSGW has received about \$10,000 in donations so far this year.

#### **Office Report:**

- Mo Brachfeld is continuing to work on publicizing events and Maya Pierick is working on cleaning up membership data.

#### **Webmaster Report:**

- There has been no progress on the database conversion project because other tasks have taken precedent.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **COVID Review:**

- There has been a general increase in the number of covid cases assumed in our region, but it is not as large a spike as last winter.
- There was one report of someone testing positive following the NYE dance.
- FND is encouraging but not requiring masks which matches the current FSGW policy for a Tier 2 event.
- No action is needed but we'll continue to monitor.

#### **Dances:**

- The New Year's Eve contra had 122 people in attendance including volunteers and hired talent. The event lost \$1,700. Cat Tucker learned a lot and would like to chair the event again next year. She has ideas about improvements to the payment structure and registration process. The hall is already reserved for 2024 and Cat will bring a draft budget to the board in the coming months.
- Hashdance registration is open and publicity is underway. An optional tip jar was added to the registration form which is drawing extra profits.
- There have been 40-60 people at the last several barn dances.
- Jackie Hoglund suggested a new formula for dividing payment for the Open Band and the caller.
  - ***MOTION:** Jackie Hoglund moves, Will Strang seconds, that, for the Open Band at the Friday Night Dance, the split of any profit to the band and the caller should be 1/4 to the caller and 3/4 to the band. Approved with 2 abstentions.*
- FND voted to stop requiring attendees to provide an email address and contact information.
  - ***MOTION:** Jackie Hoglund moves, David Shewmaker seconds, to stop requiring the collection of contact information for the Friday Night Dance, in coordination with the FND board.*
  - *Discussion: This will mean we have no way to contact all attendees about covid exposures.*
  - *Motion passes: 9 for, one against.*

### **Concerts:**

- There was one very successful hybrid concert in December.
- January 12<sup>th</sup> there is a house concert with Keith Murphy and January 26<sup>th</sup> FSGW is cosponsoring a concert with Bruce Molsky at the Lyceum.
- February 11<sup>th</sup> is a cosponsored show at the Lyceum with Seán Gavin and Colm Gannon and February 15<sup>th</sup> is a cosponsored show at the Library of Congress with Rev. Robert B. Jones Sr.
- Audrey Knuth and Alex Cumming would like to do a concert following Hashdance. This is still in the early stages of planning.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

- Board approval is needed to appoint members to the Election Committee.
  - MOTION: *David Shewmaker moves, Alyssa Hemler seconds, to approve Kappy Laning, Jerry Stein, Renee Brachfeld, Jim Cole, and Joel Bluestein as the Election Committee for 2024. Approved unanimously.*
- The FSGW bylaws require four membership meetings per year including one in February and one in March. 25 members have to be present for quorum. David Shewmaker presented options for these membership meetings in the next few months.
  - MOTION: *David Shewmaker moves, Chris Lindsay seconds, that the required February membership meeting be at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Silver Spring dance. Approved unanimously.*

#### **Washington Folk Festival 2024:**

- FSGW has not budgeted any funds for the WFF in 2024. There are currently no coordinators for the festival but there is an eager program committee. Dwain Winters has expressed willingness to oversee operations.
- Charlie Pilzer, Jackie Hoglund, and Joel Bluestein met with GEPPAC to discuss the future of the WFF. Katey Boerner (CEO of GEPPAC) would like there to be a 2024 festival and indicated willingness to explore having GEPPAC take on the festival in the future but not in 2024. She will need to assess the feasibility before GEPPAC can make any commitments. GEPPAC has no funds or extra staff availability for a 2024 festival.
- GEPPAC sent Charlie a draft contract for a 2024 festival which contains essentially the same terms as the 2023 contract.
- Charlie presented an example draft budget of a scaled down festival with fewer stages, no printed program book, and hospitality scaled back.
- The board and Joel and Dwain discussed what is involved in organizing the festival and agreed that finding a coordinator is essential to being able to have a festival.
- Charlie will schedule a separate discussion to discuss the feasibility of a festival and assess interest and engagement.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 pm**

- Jim McRea moved, David Shewmaker seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 8pm on Zoom.