



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 4/2/24 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – March 5, 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*
Caroline Barnes, *Dance*
Will Strang, *Past Treasurer*
Lucia Schaefer, *At-Large*
Lynn Baumeister, *At-Large*
David Shewmaker, *Membership*
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*
Chris Lindsay, *Programs (8:15)*

Absent:

Jim McRea, *Publications*

Guests:

Maya Pierick (office staff)
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Dana Best
Peter Maier
Jane Gorbaty
Charlie Baum
Dean Clamons
Carly Gewirz
Fred Stollnitz

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the February 6, 2024 Board Meeting as corrected.
 - Vote: Jackie Hogle moved; Jamie Platt seconded.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the February 6, 2024 meeting are approved as corrected and entered into the Society records.

REPORTS:

President's Report and State of FSGW:

- There has been a lot of response to the decision not to hold the Washington Folk Festival. Charlie commended the board for undertaking the difficult decision and still believes it is the right decision.

Treasurer's Report:

- Jackie's number one priority is to get the Getaway deposit paid. The deposit is \$2,000 higher than expected, but the total bill is only \$1,300 higher than the approved FY24 budget. If the event attracts the same number of attendees as last year, this cost difference will be covered.

- **MOTION:** Jackie Hogleund moves, Will Strang seconds to increase the FY 2024 budget line item for the Getaway venue from \$24,556 to \$25,864, an increase of \$1,308. Approved unanimously.
- Jackie reported that FSGW is tracking a budget deficit of \$12,000 for the fiscal year. The approved budget expectation was a deficit of \$44,000.

Office Report:

- Office staff are working with the English Country Dance organizers to create a more engaging email blast.
- Mo will lead an effort to create a new page on the website to let people know how they can get involved, help organize an event, start a new event, etc.
- Maya has been working with David Shewmaker to define the relationship between office staff and the Membership Chair.
- Office staff have been working on writing up instructions and processes for the tasks they are responsible for.

Webmaster Report:

- Will is working on revising the event count tool to account for Square transactions in addition to Wild Apricot transactions.

OLD BUSINESS:

COVID Review:

- The board discussed the pros and cons of tracking registrations and attendees for the Friday Night Dance. Not tracking names would make it easier/more efficient to check people in to the dance. Tracking names gives us more data to track the impact of events and engagement over time.
- No action is needed but we'll continue to monitor.

Nomination/Election Committee:

- Committee Chair David Shewmaker reported that he has solid candidates for 3/8 open positions and is in discussion with prospects for 2 additional positions.
- The next membership meeting is March 11th.

Dances:

- Hashdance Weekend is April 9-10. 168 people are registered.
- The monthly Barn Dance is April 10th.
- Planning for Contrastock in October is underway.
- The English Country Dance Spring Ball is in April.
- Brainstorming is underway for ways to build attendance at the Silver Spring contra dance.

Concerts:

- March 7th is a Library of Congress cosponsored show with Northern Resonance. March 11th is a membership meeting and free (to members) concert with Alex Cumming and Audrey Jaber.

- In April, Windborne will be performing as another Library of Congress cosponsored show.
- May will feature another City of Alexandria cosponsored concert.

Wild Apricot Database Project:

- Maya been working on data cleanup in Wild Apricot.
- Development of an archive policy for inactive contacts would help with additional data cleanup.
- We are not going to be migrating away from WA in the near future. Will Strang has created tools within WA to address issues and lessen the need to migrate.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wild Apricot Privacy Policy, Refund Policy, Terms of Service:

- WA is updating their checkout page this month to automatically link to these three policies. We will need to create and upload these items or these links will link to an error message.
- A small group will need to work on these policies and bring to the full board for approval.

Grant Opportunities:

- Lucia and Maya attended Grants 101 with DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities. FSGW is eligible to apply for their Projects, Events, and Activities grant for up to \$20k (with a match requirement).
- MD State Arts Council also has grant programs that FSGW would qualify for.
- Next steps include a brainstorming session to discuss specific grants and applications. The Barn Dance is a good candidate for grant funding.

Donation to GEPPAC in lieu of site fee for Washington Folk Festival, and GEPPAC gala:

- In the past, FSGW purchased a table at the GEPPAC gala and paid a \$5,000 site fee for the WFF. There is currently \$2,400 in the budget for the GEPPAC gala.
- The board discussed sponsorship levels for the GEPPAC gala.
- **MOTION:** *David Shewmaker moves, Lucia Schaefer seconds that we buy a table at the 2024 GEPPAC gala at a price not to exceed \$5,000. 9 yes, 1 no. Motion passes.*
- Charlie will express interest in sponsoring a table and see what the options are.

Revive the FSGW Picnic:

- Lucia is willing to lead/plan a 2024 FSGW picnic with the purpose of presenting an opportunity for FSGW members to get together.
- Charlie will talk to the GEPPAC about reserving the Bumper Car Pavilion and Cuddle-Up.

Expand the FSGW Website:

- Charlie presented a concept of an expanded FSGW website that showcases all FSGW events PLUS links to many other events. Maintenance is the hardest part of a comprehensive website like this.

- Charlie wants board members to think about this idea. He will schedule a brainstorming session to evaluate the newsletter, the current website, how information is disseminated, and what the associated costs are.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:23 pm

- Will Strang moved, Lynn Bayer seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 8pm on Zoom.