



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 6/4/24 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – May 7, 2024

Charlie Pilzer called the meeting to order at 8:08 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 Hoglund, *Treasurer*
Will Strang, *Past Treasurer*
Lucia Schaefer, *At-Large*
David Shewmaker, *Membership (8:40pm-end)*
Jim McRea, *Publications*
Caroline Barnes, *Dance*

Absent:

Lynn Baumeister, *At-Large*
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*
Chris Lindsay, *Programs*

Guests:

Maya Pierick (office staff)
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Dana Best
Peter Maier
Jane Gorbaty
Charlie Baum
Robin Stearn
Liz Donaldson

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the April 2, 2024 Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Jamie Platt moved; Will Strang seconded.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the April 2, 2024 meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

REPORTS:

President's Report and State of FSGW:

- Charlie Pilzer summarized the many FSGW events going on including concerts, dances and the recent English Spring Ball.

Treasurer's Report:

- The dance bank account has \$16,334, the main account has \$20,917, and the Rivers account remains at \$25,000.

- We are currently running a budget deficit of \$18,248 compared to the \$47,776 deficit in the approved budget. There are major expenses in the approved budget for website migration and an audit that will likely not be spent this year. This will help reduce the deficit.
- Jackie has renewed FSGW's Folk Alliance International membership and the CDSS membership. The CDSS membership increased by \$125.
- The W-9 language on the website has been updated to note that an unsigned, undated W-9 is acceptable.
- The next Wild Apricot bill is due by the end of June. The price has increased and there are multiple payment options including a 2-year subscription, 1-year subscription, or monthly payments. Charlie suggested paying a one-year subscription which will cost \$500 more than what is in the current budget.
 - **MOTION:** Jackie Hogleund moves, Jim McRea seconds, to increase the budget line item for 18: FSGW Admin Technical Support from \$5,010 to \$6,000. 7 yes, 1 opposed. Motion approved.

Office Report:

- Mo continues to work on updating and publicizing events. Maya continues to work on data cleanup. They have completed cleanup of 4 years of event registration data.

Webmaster Report:

- The treasurer email forwarding was not working correctly and Will is working on troubleshooting that.
- Will is working on a tool to help automate archiving inactive contacts in Wild Apricot. This could potentially reduce our number of contact records enough to change our pricing tier and reduce the cost we're paying.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nomination/Election Committee:

- The board elections are underway. Paper and electronic ballots have been sent and the voting deadline is May 14.
- Committee Chair David Shewmaker read the slate of candidates (it is a non-competitive slate). There are currently no candidates for Programs or Membership.
- Throughout this process, David spoke to about 100 people and generated a lot of interested volunteers.

Concerts:

- The April co-sponsored concert at the Library of Congress with Windborne was cancelled by the performers and may be rescheduled for later in the summer TBD, but not before July.
- On Saturday, April 27, 2024, FSGW co-sponsored a workshop and show with Mari Black with the Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club. 10 people attended the workshop, and about 12 the concert that night.
- The May 9th co-sponsored show with the Trad Music series in Alexandria at the Lyceum with Finn Macgill had 55 registrants.

- Petrichord is playing a house concert on May 18th.
- May 19th and 20th, Kalos is doing a tune workshop and house concert.

Dances:

- FSGW's co-sponsorship of the weekly Friday night dance will be ending as of June 30th. FND will take charge of all aspects of the Friday Night Dance. FSGW is working on a document to give to FND outlining the tasks that FSGW has been responsible for. Charlie congratulated Dana and the FND board on bringing back the weekly dance after covid. Dana thanked FSGW for the support.
- The English Spring Ball was a big success.
- Contrastock planning is underway. Registration will be open soon. NYE planning is underway. Hashdance dates are reserved for 2025 and booking is underway.
- Charlie will schedule an off-board discussion to discuss the future of FSGW dance events including the potential for another monthly dance.

FSGW Picnic:

- The FSGW Picnic is scheduled for July 14th which is the same day as the regular barn dance. Charlie Pilzer, Steve Hickman, and Rebecca Weiss are the musicians for the barn dance.
- The board discussed a number of other activities planned for the event including dance performances from Cutting Edge Sword and Just In Time Cloggers, a jam led by Bobby LaRose, a potluck, and an FSGW membership meeting. Other activities may include shape note singing, open singing, an old-time jam, and Balkan dancing.

FSGW Newsletter discussion recap and next steps:

- **MOTION:** *Lucia Schaefer moves, Will Strang seconds, to bring back the tabled motion from previous meeting. Approved unanimously.*
- **MOTION from previous meeting:** *Moved by Jim McRea, seconded by Lucia Schaefer, that FSGW move to an electronic-only format for the newsletter starting September 1st, 2024.*
 - Discussion:
 - If this moves forward, we need to be careful that we communicate well with our current members who receive printed newsletters.
 - There could be an option to print a small subset of newsletters for those members who truly do not use computers.
 - This is largely a financial decision, but it is also a way to update our practice. Printed newsletters are not common today and do not produce much long-term value for the organization.
 - *Will Strang calls the question. Seconded by David Shewmaker.*
 - *Motion passed unanimously.*
- Jim will work on a banner for the front page of the next 3 newsletters announcing that the last printed newsletter will be August 2024.

Mary Cliff Celebration Lunch Sponsorship:

- A celebration lunch for Mary Cliff is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday September 15th at Ireland's Four Provinces in Falls Church. A save-the-date will go in the June newsletter with more details in the July newsletter.

GEPPAC gala:

- The GEPPAC Gala is Saturday May 18th at Glen Echo Park. Charlie has reserved an 8-person table for \$3,000 and FSGW will have 8 people in attendance.

COVID Review:

- No notifications of covid cases were received in the past month.

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

- FSGW still needs to update our policies on the FSGW website. They will need to be reviewed by an attorney since it's a contract agreement.
- Alyssa Hemler and Will Strang will work on drafting these policies and share with the executive committee. The goal is to vote on policies at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:**Takoma Park Folk Festival Joint Board Discussion:**

- Robin Stearn (president of TPF) proposed an off-board meeting between the two organizations to discuss opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing. Both organizations have faced similar struggles getting and retaining volunteers. Charlie will create a doodle poll to schedule an off-board discussion between the two boards.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:07 pm

- Jamie Platt moved, Jim McRea seconded.

Next meeting will be joint meeting between current board and incoming board. Scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 8pm on Zoom.