



## Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 11/4/24 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

### BOARD MEETING – October 1, 2024

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

#### Attendees Present:

Lucia Schaefer, *President*  
Charlie Pilzer, *Past President*  
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*  
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*  
Jackie Hoglund, *Treasurer*  
Betsy Platt, *Program*  
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*  
David Shewmaker, *Membership*  
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*

#### Absent:

Paul Lieberman, *Publications*  
Laura Robertson, *Dance*  
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*  
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*

#### Guests:

Maya (office staff)  
Mo Brachfeld (office staff)  
Dana Best  
Jane Gorbaty  
Will Strang  
Charlie Baum  
Liz Donaldson

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#### Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the September 9, 2024 Board Meeting.
  - Vote: Jamie Platt moved; Tim Livengood seconded. Unanimous with one abstention (David Shewmaker)
  - Resolved: The minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

#### REPORTS:

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

- Lucia has been very busy. A lot of the items she's been working on will be addressed later in the meeting.

### **Office Report:**

- Maya has been editing memberships that have had no renewal date in our database and making sure they are correct.
- All FSGW event details and updates need to be sent to office staff in addition to newsletter folks so they can be properly advertised. We need to better define criteria for FSGW co-sponsored events.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **Auto-Renew Memberships:**

- Discussion:
  - Auto-renewal of memberships would be a new option offered to members. Members would need to proactively opt-in. FSGW would not store any payment information.
  - This option will be added to/advertised in our materials.
- **Motion:** *Jamie Platt moves, Ayan Kishore seconds, to enable the auto-renew feature in Wild Apricot. Motion approved unanimously.*

#### **Asset Management:**

- Discussion:
  - Herman xx from Merrill Lynch has moved on to another position. We were connected to a new contact at Merrill Lynch.
  - The board agrees that at least two bids should be considered before any changes are made to our asset management strategy.
  - Lucia will reach out to Fidelity and Vanguard to see if they offer additional services. We already have a relationship with both companies; maybe they can do more for us.
  - More information is needed. *No action was taken.*

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

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

- Discussion:
  - Glen Echo Park (GEPPAC) has presented FSGW with two options for a springtime festival:
    - FSGW can rent the park facilities for \$10k (no tents) and run our own small festival
    - GEPPAC will go ahead with their own international-focused festival and FSGW can be a stage sponsor for 5k.
  - Neither of these options is ideal but the WFF is a staple event for the organization and it is important not to lose our WFF brand. The festival has also historically brought in a lot of donations for the organization.
  - Not having additional infrastructure (tents) would significantly limit the scope of an FSGW-produced event. It may be too late to plan a one-day festival for 2025. Perhaps our energy is better used promoting the Mid-Winter festival.
  - Consensus of the board to start exploring other location options for a future festival. Perhaps local universities and coordination with local counties. This is a good time to start planning for a 2026 festival and recruiting volunteers and leaders.

- **Motion:** Jackie Hoglund moves, Tim Livengood seconds to amend the 2025 budget to allocate \$5000 to sponsor a stage at a new GEPPAC one-day festival.
  - Discussion:
    - Sponsoring a 2025 GEPPAC festival does not obligate us to future sponsorships.
    - FSGW would not be responsible for any programming.
    - If FSGW sponsors this event, which will pay performers, it will be hard for us to go back to not paying performers at our own events.
    - Passage of this motion does not obligate FSGW to spend this money, just makes it possible to do so if we wish.
- Vote: 6 yes, 3 no. Motion carries.

**Mid-Winter Festival:**

- The Browne Academy has agreed to let us use their facilities for free. Lucia will find out more details about the gym floor and whether or not it is danceable. This is a great opportunity to rebrand the festival.
- No programming has been done yet but this is a good opportunity to reengage members of the Washington Folk Festival program committee.

**Silver Spring contra:**

- Charlie Pilzer spoke with Busy Graham who will meet with Laura and Charlie about the future of the Silver Spring dance.

**Discontinuing the song circle:**

- Charlie Pilzer spoke with Fred Stollnitz and informed him that FSGW will discontinue funding for the song circle after the first two meetings in FY2025. As the group was unable to meet in September and October, Fred has two months of funding that may be spent.

**Next meeting date:**

The regularly scheduled November is on election day. Lucia would like to move the meeting to Monday November 4th at 8pm on zoom. The board members present agreed to the date change.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:03 pm**

- Jackie Hoglund moved, David Shewmaker seconded.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 4, at 8pm on Zoom