



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 7/1/25 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – May 27, 2025

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:06 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

Attendees Present:

Lucia Schaefer, *President*
Charlie Pilzer, *Past President 24-25*
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*
Jackie Hoglund, *Treasurer 24-25, Past Treasurer 25-26*
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*
Lynn Bayer, *At-Large 24-25*
Laura Robertson, *Dance 24-25*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
David Shewmaker, *Membership 24-25*
Aristhide Nobanza, *Dance Chair 25-26*
Sherry Lynn Smith, *Membership 25-26*

Joel Bluestein, *Treasurer 25-26*

Liz Donaldson, *At-Large 25-26*

Absent:

Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*

Guests:

Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Milo Pierick (office staff)
Charlie Baum
Will Strang
Timothy Foley
Linda Zebooker
Jane Gorbaty
Fred Stollnitz

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the May 6, 2025, Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Laura Robertson moved; Ayan Kishore seconded. Approved unanimously with one abstention (David Shewmaker).
 - Resolved: The minutes of the May 6, 2025, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records.

Introduction:

- Current and elected board members introduced themselves and their roles.

Open Forum:

- Charlie Pilzer acknowledged and thanked Will Strang for everything he has done for the organization as he prepares to retire as webmaster after many years.

- Discussion of technical transition to new board members: updating email addresses and the FSGW website.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- Lucia attended the GEPPAC gala along with 7 other FSGW-linked folks. It was a lovely event to support Glen Echo Park.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current account balances:
 - Wells Fargo:
 - Main: \$19,806
 - Dance: \$20,925
 - River: \$4,254
 - WFF and Grapevine: \$3,381
 - Total: \$43,366
 - Securities:
 - Fidelity: \$55,942 (as of 3/31/25)
 - Vanguard: \$172,673 (as of 3/31/25)
 - Total: \$228,615
- Total: \$276,981
- To date this fiscal year, there is a net loss of \$22,567. The approved budget was for a loss of \$29,174.
- Bruce Edwards was added as a signatory to the Dance account, and will be getting a deposit card for the Main account.
- The second Getaway deposit, \$8100, will be due June 1; the Wild Apricot Annual Fee, approximately \$12,200 will be due June 30.
- Jackie renewed insurance with CDSS for all of our venues. Jackie is working to make sure all venues that are used for FSGW events are under our insurance. This does not include house concerts.

Dance Report:

- May Dances:
 - Family dance, Silver Spring contra, weekly ECD as per usual.
 - ECD Ball May 17: No financial report yet but it was well attended with over 100 tickets sold. This should be well above the break-even point. Very successful event and next year's chair is already at work.
- Upcoming Dances:
 - Family dance: June 8. Jacob Barker calling to Katie Stalh and William Brauneis. We can no longer have the dance at Browne Academy. It will move it back to a double classroom at Glen Echo Park.
 - Silver Spring Contra: June 12 Janine Smith calling to Frog Hammer in the Great Hall.
- Laura expects to hand off duties to the incoming dance chair by the end of June.

Program/Concert Report:

- Trio Sefardi concert happened this month at Washington Ethical Society. It was an artistic success but not a financial one. 65 people attended but the venue cost was high. If Betsy can't negotiate a better rate, we will not host more concerts there.
- Upcoming concerts:
 - June 12 Keith Murphy and Yann Falquet at Stephanie Kaufman's house.
 - September 6 Alex Cummings and Audrey Jaber house concert at Jamie and Betsy Platt's house.
 - Brian Dolphin & Elizabeth LaPrelle finalizing September date
 - Patrick Egan & Seamus Wade house concert finalizing October date
- Seeker's Church has offered us a good venue rate. We will likely host a series there.
- Old Parish House in College Park is interested in having us host more concerts there. We've had one successful event there so far.

Office Report:

- Mo and Milo introduced themselves to the incoming board members and provided an overview of what they do for FSGW.

Webmaster Report:

- Will is leaving the position of webmaster and moving away from the area sometime around September 2025. Will documented all the tasks he's done for many years.
- Will will send an email to everyone on how to access the wiki which is the homebase for documents on how to do certain FSGW tasks.

ACTION ITEMS:

- None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Newsletter Advertisement Policy:

- The way the policy is currently described is oriented towards a print edition newsletter.
- The board discussed what items should be included in the newsletter, who should be charged, and who gets highlighted coverage. There is a difference between listings and advertisements; this needs to be reflected in our policy. Historically it's been at the newsletter editor's discretion to include larger graphics.
- Discussion to be continued offline.

Washington Folk Festival:

- Programming and fundraising are well underway.
 - Ayan is working to get fundraising mailers sent out in June.
 - Ingrid is working to get Carpe Diem Arts to be a stage sponsor.
- The WFF is looking for additional ideas for potential stage sponsors.

Update to FSGW Safety Policy:

- Lucia is scheduling a separate meeting to discuss.

Support for Board Members:

- Many board members could use additional support in fulfilling their roles.
- The board brainstormed ways to support board responsibilities. It is key to define specific help that is needed. A committee structure to support various board jobs would be effective.
- Lucia proposed an application process for people to join committees and will put together a draft form.
- Asking for volunteers at events would be effective. Advertising in the eblast is another avenue.

New Series: Queer-affirming social dance in Alexandria

- Milo and Lucia are working to start a new dance series. Milo did a lot of venue hunting and proposes the Durant Center in Alexandria. It has many positive attributes including being accessible by public transit.
- Lucia has offered to call the first dance for free.
- There are still many details to be decided including the type of social dance and the frequency. The goal is to have the first dance in September 2025.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:59pm

- Jackie Hoglund moved, Laura Robertson seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 1, at 8pm on Zoom.