

Contra Dance Board Meeting 6/18/18

People present: Larry Lankford, Ryan Smith (facilitator), Frank Buschermann (treasurer), Kristen Planeaux (co-facilitator), Shelly Zeiser (secretary), Deb Barrett, Josh Telecsan, Mike Kop, John McCain, Charlie Wallner (member at large), Bret Augsburg, David Robert, Lynn Ross, Ashley Greathouse, Robin Roland, Janine Bermglamen, Debbie Lucas, Chuck Reidmiller (member at large), Lea Crain, David Crain, Liz Burkhart, Erik Hermanns, Christie Armstrong, Rebecca Pace, Trisch Gorman, John Feldman, Candice Telecsan, Cary Ravitz, Janet, Laura Buschermann, Sally Christopher, Steve Tossey

1. Treasury Report
 1. We had a summary of financial standing. For more details, contact Frank Buschermann.
2. Saturday food cleanup
 1. We have a lot of Saturday food (yay!) but there is a lot of Saturday food leftover and not a lot of help with cleanup. Frank has been spending about 20-30 minutes each Saturday cleaning up. He would be willing to help train volunteers on food cleanup in exchange for a proposed free Saturday dance. Frank asked for volunteers- Liz, Lynn, and Tom were interested. Liz suggested reminding people it is a potluck and that they should take whatever they bring back after.
3. Dancer Database- information dissemination policy
 1. We have a lot of personal data from Pigtown and other sign ups. We received a request that we thought was for the database (which it turns out wasn't) but we realized we didn't have a policy and therefore need to create one. Charlie has volunteer to write an official policy for us.
 2. The board has decided that we will not give out our dancer's personal data.
4. Dancer behavior outside of dance- official policy
 1. This is in regards to a dancer at another dance where the contra board knew about dancer behavior outside of the dance but since the behavior was not happening at the dance, they felt they couldn't do anything.
 2. As CCD, we do not want to overstep our bonds and police people's behavior; however, if things are serious enough, we want to have a record of how to act.
 1. We already have a dancer behavior policy, can we modify this somehow to recognize that our responsibility to the community does not begin and end on the dance floor downstairs? We are looking for a way to be able to discuss things if needed (not immediately ban dancers). If the behavior can adversely affect our dance community, is it within our guidelines to do something?
 2. Is it different if the situation regards minors?
 3. Keeping the current policy, do we have any right to police anything outside our dances? That puts us in the position as a board to be judge/jury when we do not have the right to police. If we hear something, can we look into it? What constitutes inside v. outside the dance? (i.e. is Darlene's Pigtown after party considered part of the dance?)
 4. Can we go to CDSS and ask for their advice on this situation? Frank will contact the **Ohio non-profit association** and **CDSS** for advice.
 1. If you see something and do not want to report, Frank is a mandated reporter and has gone through the reporting process so you can report to him.
 5. **Next agenda:** do we have an official policy on minors attending the dance without chaperoning? Currently, the state policy is fluid around ages 11-12.
5. Sliding scale fee proposal
 1. We are exploring a change to the fee structure to invite people to pay more than the minimum. Perhaps emphasizing suggested donation of \$5-10 to put awareness out there that if you have means to pay more, please do, to help pay talent more.
 2. Robin suggested passing around a hat for the band or a tip jar on stage. If we pass around a hat, we would have to report the extra as revenue. We are currently right on

the border of the revenue fees for reporting. We will have a “tip jar” that band/caller/sound can regulate, decide if they want it there, and decide how to distribute at the end among talent.

1. Kristen suggested a sign that she saw at another dance that sort of spelled things out and broke down what was needed to break even/pay talent at whatever level, etc. **Kristen** can investigate the poster situation and create something concrete for voting on in a future meeting.
 2. Cary recommended asking Atlanta- they were asking people to sponsor dancers.
 3. Robin suggested a table but John reminded us that the reason we do not have a table is because someone would have to sit out/increased hassle.
 2. We may want to consider higher a bookkeeper because things are very complicated with tracking individuals earned income. Larry will check into a CPA.
6. Facebook page moderation
1. We had an unofficial FB group for years and now has an official FB group. We should have some policies for behavior and how moderation is done and when it is appropriate to freeze or remove discussions/comments.
 1. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in putting together a proposed social media policy for a vote at a future meeting.
 1. Charlie and Liz volunteered.
7. Vaping- Official WFAC policy is the same as smoking, not allowed in the dancehall and must be 25 feet away from doors.
8. Ceiling fans- cannot be installed due to current hall lighting. WFAC is not willing to install new lighting at this time.
9. New sound system
1. We need some people to help draw up the agreement with the WFAC as to how it is going to go in. Josh and John volunteered to help draw up the agreement. They are in touch with Bob Frankenhoff in regards to what is needed/how to install, technical details, etc.
10. NYE dance
1. We need a volunteer to plan it. It includes: finding talent (sound, calling, band), making sure you have someone to put up lights, publicity/FB event, potluck set up, coordinating volunteers. Liz is interested. Frank is willing to help Liz.
 2. The Rosenthorns are interested in playing (per Chris’s report).
11. Role terms
1. A question came up regarding Pigtown using gender free terminology (this year, Oberlin dance weekend used larks/ravens).
 2. Larry stated “I think we can be welcoming to anybody without changing the terminology. I think changing the terminology is confusing”.
 3. We are trying to figure out if we want to tell callers what to do- do we want to ask them and then tell people what they are going to do or have one policy for everything?
 1. Last year, we had this issue in regards to gypsy. Charlie said “in my opinion, you don’t bring an artist in and then tell them how to do it”.
 2. Massachusetts has a policy as a community about what they like (per Robin’s statement). Liz suggests we encourage callers to use what they feel comfortable with in regards to whatever they want, giving them the temperature of the community and let them make the final call.
 3. Frank- “One thing to keep in mind, Cincinnati is a crossroads from communities from the east/west/south/north. If our dancers are going to other dances and hearing these things, we can help teach our dancers what to expect in other places.”
 4. Lea “I don’t see the issue as an artist, letting the artist be what they need to be, my issue is not advertising the fact because we have people coming, paying money

- and not getting what they think they are paying for. We are responsible to tell the people we are taking money from what they are getting before they're getting it. I feel it was irresponsible and rude to the dancers."
5. Bret- "Are we gonna ask the callers to fill out how progressive they are?" How do we advertise ahead what they are going to call?
 6. David- "When I moved to Cincinnati, I joined a lot of different organizations, most have died off people new people have not joined them. Contra is a great exception. I think new people coming in and making them feel comfortable is very key to making the organization viable. I don't want to confuse them or weird them out with this terminology."
 7. Janine- I think new people if we want to encourage them to come back, we need to not use larks/ravens.
 8. Deb- "I was starting to wonder when the language would shift to what we were already seeing- that a meaningful number of people were wanting to dance outside of their gender role and we were recognizing that. I could see something besides Gents/ladies but I would rather see something more easily recognizable, like left and right. I think a national consensus would be nice."
 9. John- "I dance in St. Louis, the caller specifically said, do you want to come early, before the dance, I have an experiment we're going to do." Liz was at the same dance and had a sort of "gender free" awakening- because Will Mentor allowed for a total acceptance of swapping, her personal opinion is that Larks/Ravens is best but perhaps we can advertise, but we are currently moving that way- into more swapping, more gender non-binary people who won't come because of the language used.
 10. Shelly suggests caller and band bios to advertise style of music and terminology that will be used.
 11. Cary states "when you switch to gender neutral terminology, you switch to a gender neutral dance. I think you don't need to advertise specifically words but more that you are having a gender neutral dance. A gender neutral dance is where there is no push (not exactly correct word), to dance a certain role."
 12. Debbie- "We're all acting like this is all or nothing... one thing I've learned as years of negotiating is that it doesn't have to be all or nothing. One thing we've never entertained is the idea of the first half doing traditional terminology/second half of the dance using different terminology."
 13. David- "Looking around this room, the people who come here are overwhelmed and we have hundreds of people who come once and don't come back."
 14. Christie- "How about buttons identifying role? I do like lead/follow because it is clear and concise and it is gender free and you don't have to explain it."
 15. Lea- "to answer Shelly's question, we can be upset and welcoming of anybody, but this thing has got me feeling where I am not welcoming anymore. David and I have been dancing for 7 years and I have never had a line where it was all gendered line."
 16. Deb- "What if we have a line specific for people who want male/female gendered dancing?"
 17. Ryan- "I am not against having an informed public, traditionally, the public has been able to be informed without having the board/internet/FB moderators making it so. I.e. Kathy Anderson and calling squares. If we ask a caller what they're going to call and then don't do anything if they don't do that, should we bother inserting ourselves into that relationship anyway?"
 18. Candice- "I don't understand what is the big deal about lead/follow?" Ryan suggested if we need to discuss merits of specific words, they have been hashed out in spread sheets and if you're interested in why people like/don't like specific terms, see Ryan for reading material.
 19. Charlie- "We're not going to decide everything right now. Change happens but it doesn't happen overnight. It's not our job to tell the caller how to call, it is our job to

facilitate between the audience and caller. That's the job of a venue and however you define it, we are a venue. The other issue is change- dance has changed since the 17th century, terms are changed, that is something that this group needs to take on maybe 1 meeting, 5 meetings, etc a year. I beg you to keep the two issues clear- the callers are one thing and how this group moves between progressive terminology is another. Change is slow and trial and error and mistakes and confusion and hurt feelings and the job of people bringing about change is to try and reduce the hurt and confusion."

20. Liz- has anyone thought of having an alternative event a couple times a year with gender free terminology?
21. Laura- "I think we should let people decide by what callers they like by whether they show up or not".
22. Board approval- Liz Burkhart and Steve Tossey and Laughing Lizards to join rotation.