

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cincinnati Contra Dance Board 07-10-20, 11:30 am, via Zoom

Attendance: Board members - Debra Barrett, John McCain, Frank Buschelman, Larry Lankford, Charles Wallner, Darlene Underwood, Ashley Greathouse, Kurt Grannan, Mary Rekers.

Should we post messages of condolence on our Facebook page about major medical events or loss of loved ones in the dance community? After discussion, it was agreed that each individual would be asked if they wanted a posting.

Covid-19

In a web chat sponsored by CDSS on July 8, medical personnel suggested that it is not time to restart contra dancing anytime in the near future. What conditions would lead us to restart? What status of the virus and what restrictions or conditions would we place on returning dancers, musicians, etc. when we restart?

CDSS has issued guidance for organizers of events: **“CDSS is recommending that all in-person participatory dance events originally scheduled through the end of 2020 be suspended or cancelled. It may be necessary to extend this period.”** For our group to start dancing, we need to be in conditions where masks and social distancing are no longer required or recommended by medical experts, so that we would be safe. That would probably be after a vaccine is available.

We can't go with Wyoming Fine Arts Center (WFAC) policy because they will open up under conditions that are safe for WFAC activities, but not safe for social dancing. Social dancing is much more dangerous than one-on-one lessons with masks and with air moving. I think it is way too early to determine the conditions.

There is always the threat of a lawsuit... Since other groups may post on our Facebook page, we should have a disclaimer on our Facebook page saying that we do not endorse any in-person social dancing event at this time. It is expensive to defend yourself, whether or not you win.

During lengthy discussion, all those in attendance agreed that we should not resume dancing until there is a widely distributed vaccine and/or herd immunity.

Should we have a formal statement on Facebook and our website of our policy for when we would restart or consider restarting dancing? Our dancers would like some clarity.

A statement was drafted:

“To our community:

The Cincinnati Contra Dance Board met today—and will continue to meet regularly—to discuss when we may be able to resume in-person dancing. The health and safety of our community is our top priority. Accordingly, we will continue to take into account guidelines from the medical community as well as federal, state, and local mandates and guidelines. We will continue to meet regularly, but we do not anticipate being able to dance in person for at least the remainder of the calendar year. When medical and governmental guidelines allow for us to consider resuming in-person dances, we will also be reaching out to the membership

to address other important issues in our community (including continuing our conversations about caller terminology).

Please note that, while anyone is welcome to post to our Facebook page, posts (including those promoting in-person dances and other events) are NOT implicitly endorsed by the Cincinnati Contra Dance leadership or our members.”

Motion: To post the above statement on Facebook by Deb, and to post only the first paragraph on our website. The motion was seconded. **Vote 9 for, 0 against.**

Maintaining communication with our community.

The discussion included our concerns about maintaining our crucial sense of community during this hiatus. We should provide updates every month or two, since that may help our community stay engaged.

We should encourage our members to participate in online song, concerts, and dance events. And we should post info about those parties and performances to help our members stay informed about upcoming events.

Larry will collect suggestions about online events and forward them to John Brockman to send out on our email list. Charles and Ashley will post suggestions on Facebook

Regarding maintaining community spirit, Darlene said she’s looking into starting a Contra Zoom Dance for Cincinnati. Mary Rekers says she and the Rosenthorns would like to be involved.

It was suggested that we consider a general membership meeting in September or October, because that is when we elect officers. Maybe give an update on the gender issue. We need to use as much social media as possible.

Next meeting- Monday August 10, 8PM, via Zoom.

Enter Exec Session to discuss personnel issues.
Return from Exec Session and adjourn meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Larry Lankford, secretary.