Minutes of the Meeting of the Cincinnati Contra Dance Board 04-26-21, 8:35 PM, via Zoom

Attendance: Board members - Debra Barrett, John McCain, Larry Lankford, Charles Wallner, Bonnie Carpenter, Kurt Grannan, Mary Rekers, Patricia Gorman, and Frank Buschelmann.

Note: Votes taken are listed as Yes/No/Abstain, e.g. 7/1/1.

Set the date for a voting membership meeting to vote on the new proposed bylaws-

After discussion about possible dates, Monday June 28 at 7 PM was chosen.

Question: Will this be a Zoom meeting or can we meet in-person in the ballroom with the windows open?

Response: The maximum number allowed in the ballroom is 51 until August 3.

Response: At this time we have 54 voting members. This will not work.

Question: Shall we have some in-person and some on Zoom?

Response: Some members may be uncomfortable to meet in person. Not everyone will be vaccinated by then.

Motion: Instead of in-person and Zoom, let's just do Zoom. Vote: 8/0/1

Update on the Reentry Committee-

The tentative volunteers for the reentry committee so far are: Jeneene Brengelman, Bret Augsburger, Bonnie Carpenter, and Robin Roland.

The committee will not be making decisions, but will present recommendations to the board. The purpose of the committee is to get input from the dancers via surveys to determine when and under what conditions enough dancers are ready to resume dancing. We do not want to restart dancing if we will not have enough dancers willing to come. This will not dictate the restarting date. The restart date will be determined by the board using factors such as CDC guidance, local and state guidance, WFAC policies, guidance from CDSS, and response from the dancers.

Question: How will the surveys be taken and analyzed?

Response: The committee should propose methods to the board for approval.

Discussion: CDSS suggested that we start talking to our members to see when they would feel comfortable and safe to come to a dance at all.

Discussion: If people say "sure, we are ready to dance" or "we will not dance in a mask", that gives us important information about the mood of the dancers.

There was a lot of discussion about what the committee would do and not do. Much was said about possible specifics of the survey with no real recommendations made.

Outdoor Dance-

There was discussion of an outdoor dance using a snap-together dance floor, dancing on the street or in a parking lot. A suggestion to check with local government entities about sponsoring a dance using their portable dance floor [if such a floor exists].

Motion: Is the board willing to spend to buy a [portable wooden dance] floor, pay a band, caller, sound person, and do an outdoor dance without a survey ahead of time?

Discussion: How much would a floor cost and where would we store it? We already have storage problems for the Pigtown stuff.

Discussion: There is still the safety issue of close face-to-face contra dancing.

Discussion: I think we are getting too deep into the discussion of things that we shouldn't be discussing yet.

Motion: To drop the discussion of an outdoor dance. Vote: 8/0/1

The next board meeting will be Monday May 24 at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Bonnie will report back on the reentry committee.

Additional comments:

Mary: The WFAC is not requiring vaccinations to enter, but masks are required.

Larry: I will set up a recurring Zoom board meeting to accommodate those who can easily add the link to their calendar.

Question: Do we want to recruit key people from other dance communities to be on the reentry committee?

Discussion: There could be hesitation to involve outside communities to determine when Cincinnati starts dancing. We could check with other communities about their progress.

John McCain notified Julie at the WFAC that we would not restart in June. Question: What date should we give the WFAC about a possible restart date? After discussion, it was decided to tell the WFAC that "We would love to start dancing on Labor Day, but we do not know yet if it will be safe then."

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.