

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cincinnati Contra Dance Board 07-29-21, 7:36 PM, via Zoom

Attendance: Board members - Debra Barrett, John McCain, Larry Lankford, Bonnie Carpenter, Mary Rekers, Charles Wallner, and Frank Buschermann.

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

Changes in guidance from the CDC-

-The CDC is now recommending masks indoors for everyone (including the vaccinated) in areas with high transmission rates, due to the sharp rise in the Covid Delta variant.

Discussion:

-It does not make sense to restart dancing if we will need to stop in a few weeks due to Covid.

-One of our fully vaccinated dancers has contracted the Delta variant.

-The Delta variant produces about 1000 times the viral products which makes it much more transmissible than the original virus. Fully vaccinated people, if infected, can spread the virus even if they do not feel sick.

-This is a mutating virus. We will have to review the conditions on a day by day basis.

-I have read about two more recent variants, Lambda and Epsilon.

-Hamilton and surrounding counties have low infection/100,000, but they have increased by 10% to 20% in the last few days. The rates are rising quickly. The Butler County Journal-News reported that Butler County had reached the CDC threshold for everyone to wear masks indoors. There are two factors defined by the CDC. One is infections/100,000, and the other is the positivity rate of 5%.

-We need to set a benchmark about when we need to cancel.

-We also need to keep an eye on the trends. Maybe every Monday evening we have a quick meeting to discuss the available data and trends to decide on upcoming dances.

-If it gets to the point where we should be wearing masks, we should not dance.

Motion: Shall we cancel the first two dances (08-09 and 08-16), and meet on a weekly basis (starting 08-09) to determine whether we can safely dance the following week? **Vote: 7/0/0**

Discussion:

-We need to use the CDC benchmarks and also look at the trends.

-It was suggested that we look at the data from Cincinnati and surrounding counties. If they are above either of the CDC benchmarks, we should not dance. We should also look at the trends to determine if it is likely that we will exceed the benchmarks soon. We need to look at the availability of our volunteers.

-Frank will review the data and have that available for the weekly meetings.

-We should not be dancing even if we are somewhat below the benchmarks because contra dancing is more intense contact than just being close to others.

Motion: Shall the board use two benchmarks to determine whether to resume the dance: 1) the definitive 5% positivity rate and 2) the trend towards reaching the 5% positivity rate, considering data from Cincinnati and surrounding counties? **Vote: 7/0/0**

-Schedules will need to be adjusted.

Fans-

-We need to replace all of the fans.

-We should research fans for our application, and buy one to try it out for sound level and air movement.

-You can download a sound level meter for your smart phone.

-Grainger and Cincinnati Fan might be good places to ask for expert advice.

Motion: Shall we approve a budget of \$300 to buy one fan for evaluation. **Vote: 7/0/0**

Pigtown Fling 2022-

-We need to start the planning soon if we are to have Pigtown 2022.

-Pigtown can be up to a \$26,000 investment. With the way the Covid variants are coming through, it is irresponsible to start putting money towards an event that may not happen. If we are to have an event like Pigtown, we should reserve the WFAC for the weekend and have local talent. We would have to limit the number of dancers to maybe 100. That way, if we have to cancel, we are only out \$300 to \$400 for the hall rental.

-Are there any board members against this proposal? [There was no opposition.]

-Since we are using local talent, I think we can start planning this two months before the event.

-We could announce this at our October voting membership meeting.

-How do we keep it local? We don't want folks from all over the country coming in from high risk areas.

Motion: Shall we make preliminary arrangements for Pigtown 2022, in light of the Covid infections, as a local dance with local bands and callers, at the WFAC, depending on the infection rate and Covid status? **Vote: 7/0/0.** A board member who could not be present previously agreed to a similar description of Pigtown 2022, making the vote 8/0/0.

-We need to plan and announce the October voting membership meeting.

-The meeting may need a Zoom option even if we have restarted dancing. There will be unvaccinated dancers who may wish to vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Larry Lankford, secretary