

Minutes – Cincinnati Contra Board Meeting – November 6, 2022

Members Present: Steve Edwards, Bonnie Carpenter, Valerie Allendorf, Charles Wallner, Deven Corzine, Darlene Underwood, John Brockman, Larry Lankford, Cori Yaeger, Myra Mitchell, Mary Rekers

Meeting began at 7:31 pm

Steve welcomed the group, especially new board members Myra, John, and Deven.

Steve indicated that he will be less ‘hands-on’ than previous facilitator and that board members who are asked to manage a task take care of things rather than going back to the full board for approval.

Steve hopes that we can use a more “consensus” model for our board meetings, where we don’t vote until we have discussed matters and heard from everyone. We will restate things clearly before voting.

“Calling the Question” does not mean calling for an immediate vote. Instead of calling the question, hopefully members can clarify the discussion and ask whether it is time for a vote.

Executive session means whole board. Executive committee (officers) is only called into session when there is an emergency or a need for an immediate decision.

Approval of **meeting minutes from 09/19/2022** was postponed to next meeting.

Treasurer Report

Larry reported that as of October 3, our balance is \$15,275.19.

Steve reported that from the year-end report received from Frank, we are down about \$2k from January. Dancing started in March. We have lost about \$2300. – part of the loss is insurance (\$2k – liability policy runs from 5/1/22-5/1/23); the rest of the loss is from dances (musicians, callers, sound, room rent). We’ve lost

about \$46 per dance. That number would be \$77 per dance, but some callers and sound techs don't take payment for their work at the dances.

We need about 50 dancers at each dance to break even. We'll have to see if we have larger numbers since we've gone to weekly dances. It is important to make a commitment to the weekly dances, so our dancers know that we'll be there every week.

A full treasurer's report will be made at our next meeting, when Larry has received all of the documentation from Frank (who was acting as our interim treasurer).

Dance Attendance Numbers

9/12-**38**, 9/26-**44**, 10/10-**33**, 10/24-**26**, 10/31-**50** – **average 41**

Valerie offered to remind folks of weekly dances. She will formulate an email for John to send out, post on Facebook (Charles will give her access), and post to website.

Old Business

The board moved into **executive session** to discuss personnel issues at about 7:50.

Out of executive session 8:03. **Motion: unanimous** vote to authorize Steve to send Ryan an invitation to become a caller as drafted in the email along with a request to respond to Deven and Bonnie with blackout dates for upcoming 6 months schedule.

Masks and Vaccinations requirements going forward?

Significant discussion of this topic resulted in the following points being made/questions being asked:

- Darlene reported that she has been traveling the area (several states) and sees three different ways of handling.

1. Like we do – proof of vaccination and boosters – and masks
 2. Proof of vaccination and boosters – and masks optional.
 3. No requirements (came back to haunt them – 50 people came down with covid from one dance.)
- What degree of protection do we think we can give people?
 - Previously we have depended on the prevalence of cases in the area.
 - Option of someone vaxed but not boosted, to wear mask?.
 - Concern that folks can be non-symptomatic and still transmit the virus.
 - Which is primary concern: protection of the community or increased attendance by relaxing requirements?
 - Individual board members voiced their concerns/questions – one option would be fore dancers to wear a mask they choose, rather than N95 or KN95.
 - Which protects more? Vax or mask?
 - Reminder that it will be difficult to change rules and then impose them again later. Small changes are better than big ones.
 - Maybe let people who have a medical reason (not needing documentation) choose whether to wear a mask.
 - Not change until January – wait to see what happens with possible “surge” in colder weather.
 - Maybe masks optional after the break?
 - Surgical mask rather than N95 or KN95?
 - No requirement for new bivalent booster?

The only change we will make now: Vaccination requirements are not changed, but change from minimum requirement to be a surgical mask or N95 or KN95.

Vote unanimous

Valerie will send out change of requirements to email, FB, and webpage.

Bonnie and Deven reported that **scheduling** is under control.

Pigtown

Significant discussion occurred around whether we can plan to have a Pigtown/Pigtown Light in 2023?

Traditionally PT it is scheduled for the 3rd weekend in March.

One option might be to skip the Friday night dance and just to workshops and dance on Saturday, and waltz and dance on Sunday. This arrangement might be feasible.

It was decided after some discussion that we don't scale back because attendees would be disappointed. Their expectation is to arrive Friday night for a dance.

It was pointed out that we have over 5 months to plan – if we make the commitment, we can make it happen. Maybe less food or medium sized space (rather than Purcell Marion).

One of the main concerns is that we could lose a ton of money. 2020 lost a LOT of money b/c pandemic and needing to cancel.

It was pointed out that we paid for our venue (Purcell Marion high school) for 2020 and they said we could postpone the dance. That was not possible because of the pandemic in 2021 and 2022, but we might actually have already paid for the venue, which is a major cost for PT.

We might plan for a lower number of dancers. Other cities seem to be attracting about 50% of their usual attendance, but some of them are limiting numbers as part of their precautions.

Darlene offered to go to the community to solicit funds to help pay for PT 3023.

Our first priority is to check with P-M to see if high school is available that weekend, and to confirm that we have already paid for the venue.

The following have offered to work on the Pigtown committee: **Tricia**, Darlene, Deven, Bonnie, John, Charles, Myra,

Charles suggested that it be announced (with energy) at the dance tomorrow night and asking for volunteers to help. Steve suggested we wait until we can confirm that we have the venue and it is already paid for. Frank is the one who handled PT 2020 contract with PM, so will check with him.

It was suggested that we let bands and callers know that they won't be paid if we need to cancel because of covid. Darlene agreed to be the person to contact callers and bands. Tricia will be the point person to check with Frank about \$ and school availability.

The vote about moving forward with PT 2-23 was delayed until we know we can have the hall (and it is paid for); that we have a budget that is manageable/reasonable; and dates are verified.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09.

New Business

Webpage

- Update pages
- New photos with masks
- Schedules: Bonnie and Deven
- Minutes: Deven posts after Cori sends
- Schedule of Board meeting dates

FaceBook

- Update pages
- New photos with masks
 - Monitors: Charles and Ashley
 - Weekly posts – Sat or Sun about Mon dance
 - Mask and Vax policy moved to top regularly

Emails

- Emails to larger list
- Emails to current members

Communications

WFAC: Myra

How announcements get out:

Facebook

Webpage

Emails to larger list

Emails to current members

Board Decisions: - Steve writes, Deven posts?

Board meeting dates posted and notice to voting that members are invited to attend (but only board members will vote on issues)

– email: Cori (one time or monthly?)

How does a voting member who wished to attend a board meeting obtain the zoom link?

Social secretary – unofficial position – cards? Gifts? memorials?

IF TIME:

Shift dance start time to 7:30

Hall of fame

Board photos

Other social media?

Invite other dance groups to post on our FB or webpage schedule?

Contact list: WFAC, other dance groups, Fringe etc

Fringe 2023