

Minutes – Cincinnati Contra Board Meeting – July 2, 2023 7:00 pm

Members present: Bonnie Carpenter, Tricia Gorman, Steve Edwards, Valerie Allendorf, Cori Yaeger, Larry Lankford, Myra Mitchell, Deven Corzine, and Charles Wallner. guest: John McCain

Introduction

Meeting Minutes from 6/11/23 – approved.

Treasurer’s Report for June 2023 – approved

Secretary’s report

Dance Attendance Numbers stable -

June numbers have averaged 41 (per John) - 47.5 (per Larry)

WFAC report – nothing new that we’re aware of for WFAC. Charles reported that he and Valerie looked at College Hill Town Hall as a possibility if needed in the future.

Social Secretary Report – card sent to Larry from board and dancers after his heart surgery. Card will be sent to Charles who has not been feeling well.

Scheduling Reports – callers, bands, openers and closers scheduled through December.

Old Business

Pigtown – Regular vs Lite at this late date? Different title? Steve voiced concern about time constraints in order to have a big event for March 2024; do we want to commit to a smaller event?

Deven thinks Purcell-Marion is still a possibility and maybe negotiate the price down.

Deven will contact PM – maybe for 2025 (**Myra will get Deven the contact info for PM**). No go if they require a tarp. We need to confirm with PM whether they’ll waive the tarp and negotiate the price down.

Charles mentioned that we are “behind the game” as far as venue goes – need to get “ahead of the game” for the planning.

We’re still waiting for Mercer to get back with us on whether we can use that venue. Valerie has a price list from Mercer, but it is difficult to formulate a budget until we know which rooms we need and for how many hours. Myra worked up a potential budget for Mercer. **Valerie and Myra will send their Mercer cost information to Deven so he can compare with PM when he talks with them.**

Charles has been talking with the church next to Mercer (Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church) about using their great hall for lunch and breakfast on Saturday of the event. (Note: Myra, Cori, and Steve also have connections with HUUC)

John pointed out that sound people are booked a few years ahead, so that might be an issue. **John will investigate sound options.** Plan A includes Mercer and PM. Deadline for decision – end of August.

Plan B options include smaller venues that do have sound. Larry pointed out that even if a venue has a sound system, it may not be good enough for a dance, and we'd still need a professional sound system/person.

Pigtown Report - clarifying roles and responsibilities – Tricia sent a list out. Steve thanked her for the information.

Charles, Bonnie, and Valerie will have a Plan B (smaller venue) plan to present at our next meeting – maybe not 3 days, but just 2 nights. Plan B may include different time of year as well.

Flyers and Publicity update. Cori and Steve will meet with Audrey and Philip to look at their plans.

New Business

Out of town bands and callers – do we want to have out of town folks come for Monday dances? Do we need them? Bonnie pointed out that Cincinnati seems to be a “hub” again – these bands and callers are coming to us.

Executive session to further discuss bands and callers.

End of exec session

Exec Session Summary:

The board directed Bonnie to receive a formal request from Bernadene if she wanted to be a caller.

Jan 1, 2024 – since January 1 is on a Monday, we will just have a regular dance. Possibility of making it festive with New Year's theme. **Myra will check with WFAC to make sure the hall is available. She will also check with WFAC to make sure we have the hall for Monday nights in the coming year.** Larry recalls that when the new sound system (which CCD bought) was installed there was an agreement about us using the hall in coming years. He is not sure whether that was ever put in writing. **Bonnie will see if bands are available for that evening.** Larry suggested focusing on bands with fewer members as sound work for larger bands is difficult, especially if only one sound person.

Annual meeting and next year's board – It was decided to have the annual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, October 10. We can continue to solicit new voting members up to and including the dance on October 9. **Cori will check to see when notice needs to go out and will prepare notice.**

Cori asked current board members if they are willing to serve another year. All but Tricia indicated that they will do so. We lost 3 board members this year (Darlene Underwood, John Brockman, and Mary Rekers and with Tricia leaving in October, that makes potentially 4 open positions). Cori has approached Philip Ogden and Audrey Embry about running for a board position. Cori asked that board members let her know if they have recommendations and she will approach potential board members to see if they are interested.

Saturday night dance: any interest in resuming Sat night dances? Maybe not until January 2024? We could charge more? Like \$15. We could keep our old schedule of 2nd Saturdays. No meal needed. Maybe not every month, but possibly quarterly. In the fall we can plan to resume Saturday dances, but start with one time and see how things go. Maybe Halloween. Table decision to a future meeting

Next time:

Clarify if there is a difference (in status) of member of the community vs voting member

Open mike nights (suggested by Liz B)

Communications

Teaching Tips – is there a way to incorporate some teaching into our dances?

Hall of Fame

Meeting adjourned at 8:52.

Next meeting: August 6, 2023, 7:00 pm
