

Minutes – Cincinnati Contra Board Meeting – January 7, 2024, 7:00 pm

DRAFT

Present: Present: Valerie Allendorf, Charles Wallner, Myra Mitchell, Josh Telescan (joined at 7:35), Philip Ogston, Audrey Eyman, Steve Edwards, Larry Lankford, Cori Yaeger, Deven Corzine, Bonnie Carpenter.

Meeting began at 7:04

Introduction

Meeting Minutes from 11/05/23 and 12/03/23: November minutes approved with one minor change and December minutes approved with two minor non-substantive changes.

Treasurer's Reports for December and year end approved.

Secretary's report – Cori reported that she took the dancer contact excel files from John and ones that she has created over her tenure (a total of 7) and combined them all and removed duplicates – so we could send out PTF flyer bulk emails and snail mails. Flyers printed by Ketmoy printing (contact: Daniel Sester) – referred to printer by Kurt Grannan. She also searched contradancelinks.com (per suggestion from Josh) and mailed 24 large envelopes with flyers to groups from that website. An additional 28 emails were sent with PTF info to groups from that site that didn't have snail mail addresses.

WFAC report – Charles indicated that WFAC is still needing funds and we may need to have another venue at some point. Steve reported that Ramona said she would schedule a hall use meeting in January, but the meeting has not been scheduled. We are not in a position to give donations to WFAC (except as individuals). Steve talked to Steve DeHoff about the lighting. Flying Cloud gave \$ to replace lights, but the work has not been done (parts were missing?) Valerie reported receiving a notice that the lights have been fixed. Sound system issues will be taken care of by WFAC (got warranty extended on the one that was out of warranty).

Charles suggested we send WFAC a letter reminding them nicely that we have helped WFAC out by buying speakers and (fixing or replacing?) the front door. Chair situation still to be determined. Phillip said that we leave most of the chairs along the walls, but move from heaters and doors with 3-stacks on either side.

Social Secretary Report – nothing to report.

Scheduling Report – Confirming the leads for 2024. Callers and bands are usually coordinated by Deven and Bonnie together, but the last cycle was done by Bonnie alone as Deven was swamped with work. It was noted that current schedule indicates some callers will use “both calling languages”, leading to a misunderstanding that they will do both in the same evening. Bonnie is working to fix this.

Deven says he has a schedule made up for openers and closers but it hasn't yet been released as he's waiting for responses from some.

Sound persons are scheduled by John McCain who is working on current schedule and will send to us when complete.

Old Business

Pigtown update – Valerie reported:

Cori worked with the flyers. Registrations are currently at 88. 12 volunteers indicated a willingness to help out during their registration process. Current focus is promoting. Registrations so far from 18 states. Hoping to have a few people on each committee task rather than just one lead.

Pigtown Go-No Go Steve looked at needing at least 100 registrations by the early registration deadline of January 22. It appears that this is realistic. We will discuss again at February board meeting if needed.

Possible a la carte options will be offered in the future – depending on the number of registrations for full weekend.

Waltz night – schedule another one; June 29; August 31; November 30 – Thanksgiving weekend) will check with Tricia. She has agreed to reserve WFAC for waltz nights.

Saturday Dance – January 13 and March 2, 2024 Myra suggested no food for January 13, but maybe potluck for March 2 (depending on availability of downstairs room).

Fliers and Publicity - general and for Pigtown – in process.

Calling Language Posting – continue to post for our dances. PTF has one caller gendered and one gender-free. Myra wondered if Nils wants to post non-gendered. Darlene will do gendered. Charles pointed out that we have ethical obligations to both the callers and the dancers – so posting makes sense. Josh suggested we make a policy to have calling language posted for future PTF. It was pointed out that the decision should be made by future board.

New Business

Opening and closing issues – trying to clarify. Cori indicated that some are not following the opening instructions sheet. Cori will look over the opening instructions and make changes if needed – maybe format as a checklist so it is easier for openers to assure they are completing the tasks. She will send to Patricia who has indicated that she wants to continue to handle the closing instructions.

Amendment to disciplinary policy – tabled.

Website – Audrey will convene the committee and report next month.

Emails MAILCHIMP – Valerie currently using a \$26/month subscription that is working great. Cori thanked Valerie for the great work she's doing on Facebook to keep our community up to date on our activities.

Saturday dances - if resume, 2nd Saturday or move? Columbus moved to 2nd Saturday, and other Saturdays are taken by Lexington, Louisville, and Berea. Philip suggested that we wouldn't be stepping on their toes if we continue our 2nd Saturday as has been the tradition. Concern is that we won't have any Columbus attendance and some Cinti folks will go to the bigger name band/caller. We don't really know but we could "lose" a dozen Columbus/Cinti dancers to a Columbus dance. Switching to a different Saturday may "lose" fewer dancers depending on the competing talent. We were losing money previously on Saturdays when we had higher cost, bigger name talent. Steve asked – who are we doing the Saturday dances for – our local folks who can't do Mondays or out of town folks? We will have a variety of talent coming up and we will track the attendance and financials. (We could do a welcoming "where are you from" poll during the announcements). Start dialog with Columbus. It was also pointed out that our March 2 dance is the same date as Lexington. Steve will contact Cary Ravitz to apologize and explain our reasons for having a March 2 dance. Consensus was that we will continue to have 2nd Saturday dances as has been our tradition.

Communications - tabled

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50

Next meeting: February 4, 2024, 7:00 pm zoom
