

Cincinnati Contra Dancers Board Meeting

1/9/17

Members Present: Kristen Planeaux, facilitator, Ashley Greathouse, co-facilitator, Frank Buschermann, treasurer, Shelly Zeiser, secretary, Chuck Reidmiller, Member at Large, Larry Lankford, Tricia Gorman, Darlene Underwood, Ryan Smith, Charlie Wallner, Debbie Lucas, Christie Armstrong, John McCain, Deb Barrett

Monday Night Performers Pay:

- Proposed to raise pay for performers on Monday night
- Currently making ~\$305/Monday; attendance ~59 full paying individuals, 5 students
 - Approx. \$29/performer; numbers change if band >4 people or out of town talent
 - Do we currently have a policy documented regarding differences in pay between in town/out of town bands?
 - Charlie will document policy
 - In order to break even on Mondays with out of town bands, we need to have >66 people attending
 - Should out of town callers get the same amount as local bands (and same with out of town bands/in town callers) when serving as parts of the same evening?
 - Out of town talent gets \$65/person
- If increased Monday payment to \$6, estimated increase to \$364, increase to \$7, estimated to \$423
- If we increase the pay, we need to consider that we would need to provide tax forms for individuals making over \$600/year
- We need to find balance between demonstrating appreciation for callers/bands and recognizing that some community members may be of limited financial means
 - Should we announce every few weeks to members at large to assess how changes would be received?
 - We have considered using language of "donation" before- "suggested \$5 donation"
 - Other dance non-profits charge \$5
- Frank's proposal for local talent: for paying, each Monday night \$200 flat rate for band, \$50 for caller, \$30 for sound
 - \$280 total for talent, \$100 for house (pay for hall); ~76 people needed at \$5
 - Perhaps a bit too high? No longer considered "giving back to the community"
- We could place a "tip jar" or caveat that "if you really like the talent, considering giving more"
- We could pay Saturday night talent less and put money on Monday nights (i.e. pay Saturday talent \$500 total instead of \$600 total, give extra \$100 to Monday)
 - Would only result in \$25 increase per Monday because there is only one Saturday dance per month
- Can we expect Pigtown Fling to cover a loss on Mondays and Saturdays?
 - We cannot expect/anticipate margin until we have a budget/understanding of all Pigtown expenses
 - If we go down this road, we need to have a paper trail of everything
 - We can reconcile each year, loss of Mondays/Saturdays verse Pigtown surplus beginning fiscal year on April 1st (after Pigtown Fling each year)
- Should we raise Saturday admission?
- Darlene's proposal: pay talent \$35, increase Saturday's by \$1
- **Shelly's proposal: after each Pigtown designate specific surplus to pay for half of hall for the year. Then, overages each Monday can be allocated to talent**
 - **\$6600 needed for hall each year, if we can conserve \$3300 from Pigtown to allocate to the hall**

Booking Local Callers for Saturday

- **Current Process:** allowing 3 local callers for 12 Saturday dancers rotation
- We want to ensure good talent for Saturdays, current rotation restricts that (i.e. scheduling an out of town caller who may not be up to par because local callers have already filled 3 spots)

New Year's Dance recap/plan

- Bottom line: \$215 loss

- Thoughts:
 - charge more next year
 - have chairperson in charge- select person now
 - Did not appear different this year than last
 - Appear to have lost “community participation” from dance with not having open callers/bands
 - If not part of the process, cannot see that most of bands/callers left to go to other events
 - Previously, we have been scrounging for people to play/call
- We used to have more volunteers but now dance communities around us are booking
- If we want it to feel like a big festive event, we need to hire a band sooner in advance to draw people
- Are we interested in having “the world’s biggest new years” or do we just have a small community event?
 - Visualized like a Saturday night dance; \$150/person (and travel) because dance is longer
 - Perhaps Darlene will chair with committee (to be discussed after Pigtown)

Feedback on the new contra policy flyers

- Let Kristen know if you receive any feedback on them