

Contra Dance Board Meeting, 6/19/1

Present: Ryan Smith, Ashley Greathouse, Frank Buschelmann, Larry Lankford, Charles Wallner, Shelly Zeiser, Tricia Gormon, Chuck Reidmiller, Kristen Planeaux, Christie Armstrong, Darlene Underwood

- New policies for special meetings (Charlie)
 - Charlie will re-email the policies
 - Biggest change: board meetings will be announced via the website
 - Changes are being made so that they are in accordance with group activities already occurring
- Response to dancer concerns - **please read attached document** (Larry)
 - Complains were made: 1. Callers not using word “gypsy”, and people have complained to this specific dancer. 2. Board members do not frequently attend dances enough to know what is going on with the community.
 - 1: We are within our power as a board to tell the callers what words to use (or not).
 - Does having a policy as a dance community about this serve the dance community?
 - Dance style and movement changes. We can develop a policy that says “we leave it up to the caller”.
 - It is unfair to bring someone up with an expertise and to tell them what/how to do it. Callers should feel free to call how like but do not need to make statements about their opinions.
 - In regards to number 2, board members are community members who are elected by community.
 - Board members will update the “board board” (photos of faces) to reflect all current board members who are willing to have their photo on the board.
- Hotpoint on a Saturday/booking restrictions (Kristen)
 - There have been concerns raised about having expensive bands.
 - What was mentioned was “once or two a year we like to treat ourselves to something nice and more expensive”
 - If we offer each member \$50, not including travel, they would cost \$750.
 - We could offer \$650 (total) plus \$50 travel. Usual limit for Saturday band is \$500.
 - At previous meeting, the board expressed that we would like local talent to be paid more. Is this feasible with the treasury sheet?
 - Future treasury sheets will be on Google Docs and updated at the end of each dance. Sheets will be shared with the board. A public document will be made that can be shared with members when requested.
 - Based on 2017 numbers thus far, it looks like Pigtown will not cover costs for this year. Pigtown made less money this year (largely due to travel costs for the band).
 - If Hotpoint is offered above numbers, we will maintain a loss consistent with other Saturday dances.
- Having an alternative dance like a hambo/polka/swing on Mondays (Patricia)
 - Can we tell the caller to do another dance? Issue is repeatedly brought from one dancer to Patricia.
 - This recommendation would be for the band. We could send an email to the bands saying that we are open to it as a community, if they have one prepared (as a dance during the break).
 - Can we then teach the community how to do these dances? Most community members do not usually participate in these dances.
 - Christie is willing to help teach these dances (with assistance). She will follow up with other dancers who can help teach and with the board on this plan.
 - Then we need to coordinate, which nights and which bands.

- New light strands (Patricia)
 - We are reviewing the light situation in the hall.
- Saturday Night Snacks (Christie)
 - Francie and John have supported our dance with wonderful snacks for years and is now longer filling this role.
 - Does our dance community still need to maintain this expectation that we feed people a full meal?
 - No! She has gone above and beyond.
 - Can we reach out to people each month with a clear expectation that we are not expected to put on a full meal, but rather to coordinate some salty snacks/fruit with a reimbursement up to \$20? They will set up tables, and buy \$20 worth of snacks of their choice (finger food). If we don't get a volunteer, it will be a potluck.
 - An announcement will be made the Monday before the Saturday dance looking for a volunteer to help set up tables.
- Intro session for Saturday dances/website info (Ryan)
 - We will remove the Saturday intro dance expectation from the website. If there are new dancers there, we will offer a workshop to them as needed.
- Dancing Well Project? (Charlie)
 - Charlie spoke with Deborah about Dancing Well. He will get back with us if she is interested in doing more with veterans in Cincinnati.
- Paying touring bands on Mondays (Kristen)
 - When touring bands come through on Monday, can we put up a sign/announce asking community members to pay \$7? We could also announce in advance and advertise more.
 - This will be considered further.