

12/1/14 – Contra Board: Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Frank, Whitney, Ryan, Terri, Greg W., Barbara, Chuck, Darlene, Deb, Tom, Trish, Kristen, Lea, Ashley, Larry, John, Josh

Agenda:

1) Board Leadership positions - Facilitators (we've traditionally had two), Treasurer, and Secretary

Current Facilitator: Ryan

Current Co-facilitator: Ashley

Current Treasurer: Frank

Current Secretary: Whitney

Ryan and Frank wouldn't mind having someone else take their places as facilitator and treasurer. Kristen volunteered to take over as facilitator—the group heartily agreed. Darlene will consider taking on the role of treasurer.

2) Beneficiary of the New Year's Dance - Need nominees (Last year proceeds went to Dancing Well: the Soldier Project)

Group ideas:

AC fund - for the main dance floor room

Other building upgrades (specifically upgrading the plumbing in the downstairs bathrooms, esp. the men's bathroom)

AED fund - So we can be prepared for potential emergencies on the dance floor. It would be a contribution to the Wyoming Fine Art's Center and other groups that use the building. This issue was brought up about two years ago and a board member advised we seek out grant money to help minimize the cost of purchasing an AED.

World Food Program

Group consensus: The board was interested in finding a more local charity to donate to, rather than something more global in scope. **The group agreed that all ideas for charities should be sent to Kristen by Thursday of this week.** The group will complete the discussion of this topic online and decide on a specific charity/nonprofit/cause within the next week or two (since the New Year's dance is imminent).

3) Scheduling for the June Dance - Do we want to have the dance 2nd Saturday (conflicting with Dance Trance) or move it to the 1st Saturday that month?

The group unanimously agreed to move the June (2015) dance to the first Saturday, so it will not conflict with Dance Trance.

4) Dancer Policies (i.e. non-intoxication policies) – Ashley & Kristen

Ashley and Kristen found a great non-intoxication policy through the St. Louis dance group. It is tactfully worded, yet a bit lengthy. Ashley and Kristen will condense St. Louis' dance policy and then share it with the contra board. The group will then make any needed revisions to the text so we can all approve and post it as the Cincinnati Contra Dancer's official non-intoxication policy.

It was also mentioned that the St. Louis dance group has not had any specific cases of having to enforce their non-intoxication policy. Ryan mentioned that a dance community in Kentucky has had to enforce such a policy in the past. Whatever policy our group decides on, we might consider having different levels of discipline for habitually intoxicated dancers that are disrupting the dance, dancing roughly, and otherwise making other dancers uncomfortable. Different disciplinary actions might include verbal warnings as well as temporarily suspending that person from the dance.

We will further discuss exactly how the contra board is going to implement this policy and handle specific situations that might arise in the future (i.e. if someone is having complaints against a dancer who is habitually intoxicated, who in the contra board should we direct that person to speak with?).

5) Shortage of Crew

There are currently five people on the clean-up crew for Monday and Saturday dances. Torres is in charge of scheduling the crew volunteers.

We need more people to be on the crew, as well as someone willing to be the crew facilitator (or team lead). The crew facilitator would be in charge of coordinating other people to help on the crew and to make sure we have enough crew members.

Greg and Tom volunteered to be on the crew. The group agreed that it would be a good idea to talk to the current crew volunteers to see if any of them would like to be promoted to the crew facilitator role.

Chuck will provide new crew volunteers with “closing instructions” of exactly what needs to be done during the cleanup process.

6) Contra Dance in Anderson – Lea

Lea’s friend heads up the Dancealot Studio in Beechmont (Anderson area). This friend has a venue available for \$17/hr and would like to have contra dances at this location two Wednesdays a month. They would need our dancers, callers, and bands to help launch this endeavor.

Group consensus: We are definitely willing to promote the Anderson dance. However, since we have limited resources and the venue is a bit pricey to host a nonprofit, the group decided that it would be best for Lea’s friend to work through most of the process herself. Terri volunteered to reach out to Lea’s friend to equip her with information on local bands, callers, and other resources she would need to start the Anderson dance (if she so desires).

7) Should we get an AED? – Tricia

General consensus: Everyone was in favor of getting an AED as a donation to the Wyoming Fine Arts Center as a whole. Since the estimated cost of the AED is in the \$1600-1800 range, Terri will actively look into grants to help fund the project.

8) Revisit purchasing permanent speakers for the ballroom? – Chuck

About 5 or 6 years ago, the board had approved the idea of installing permanent speakers in the hall. Board members did the research to see what speakers would be best as far as quality of the sound system and unobtrusiveness of the speaker design. Chuck said that Milan/the current facility management would be even more supportive of our group installing permanent speakers in the hall.

Having permanent speakers would save a lot of work hauling speakers in and out for each dance. The project would be a bit pricey, so Mary suggested we have the WFAC sign something saying we’ll have guaranteed use of the hall for _____ years to come (so we’ll have long-term benefit of those permanent speakers).

The group brought up the question of: if we did have permanent speakers, how would we protect them from damage? Would other groups be able to use them like weddings that use the WFAC? Ryan suggested that we let other groups use the speakers but require liability insurance.

Josh knows a sound technician that does sound systems for nonprofits that could give us a quote on permanent speakers.

Larry suggested we ask WFAC if they mind us mounting our speakers on the wall. Then we can lock up the connections to deny access to others not in our group (esp. if the speakers are small and unobtrusive).

The group consensus was that permanent speakers would be a great idea. We decided that it would be wise to use Mary and Chuck's connection with Milan/the facility managers to casually suggest the idea of permanent speakers (or at least mounting speakers in the hall).

Other Notes:

Chuck might put a link on the website for new contra dancers to be on the email list—we need to streamline the process of getting on the mailing list.