

Cincinnati Contra Dancers

Board Meeting

Jan 27, 2003

Members Present: Jim and Susan Vogt, Mary Judge, Darlene Underwood, Karen Keeton, Mary Lieneck, Eileen Bens, John Brockman, Dianne Frick, Pam Stoll, Jodi Sena, Larry Lankford, John McCain, Sandy and Orlan Jennings

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Facilitator, Jim Vogt and he asked for updates on issues from last week's meeting:

1. Jim negotiated with Bob Frankenhoff and he has agreed to rent us his electronic piano for \$50.00 per dance night when needed.
2. Pam has brought and donated a long mirror for the ladies bathroom. John B. agreed to hang it.
3. Susan reported that St. Mark's has put coat racks in the lobby area.

Issues from last meeting to discuss:

PARKING

1. There continue to be complaints/confusion about the parking signs and exits signs. "Is it OK" to go in the OUT ONLY exit in the lower level? We need to put some signs up especially on Sat. night to ease the congestion in the top level.
2. The chain is usually up. It was suggested that we think about assigning someone to take the chain down - especially on Sat. dances. But that means someone also will need to put it back up after the dance.

KEYS

1. We are developing a relationship with St. Mark's - would it be possible to have more keys. We currently have 2 sets of keys. John McCain has one set because he usually opens up. The second set will rotate with the assigned sound crew members for each dance night.
2. John M. pointed out there are many steps currently to getting the hall ready before a dance and also after:
 - a) set-up sound equipment
 - b) set out name tags, flyers, dance information
 - c) basket and \$ sign at door
 - d) open and unlock doors
 - e) put signs on doors
 - f) put signs on the street
 - g) check restrooms
 - h) turn on lights
 - i) sometimes sweep floor
 - j) put out shoe brushes

Lucy says the crew boss used to do all of the closing, but that isn't happening anymore. Lucy and John M. would like the tasks broken down into three groups: open up/set -up

- setup of all the sound equipment
- closing up (taking everything down that has been put up, cleaning up, locking up)

Having only 2 sets of keys is a current problem. It also is a problem rotating with only 1 set for all of the sound people. Until we get a plan worked up, John M. feels he should keep both sets and will open and close up each night. Lucy and Eileen offered to get to the dances early to help him. Susan is our contact with the priest and will speak with him about getting more keys. It was decided that John McCain would make a complete list of all jobs and give it to Lucy. He will also create a phone list for the sound people so they can call and rotate the second set of keys.

SOUND

Darlene -as a caller and dancer - feels that there are problems with the sound. She feels there is an energy missing between the caller/ band and the dancers. She thought the flyers, name tags, etc. could be moved to a table and the bands be encouraged to move up towards the front of the stage. She noted that people seemed to be leaving the dances earlier. She asked about a possible shell in the back of the bands. John offered to pull the curtains in back of the band to see if that helped. John B. and John M. both mentioned that the very front of the stage is not sturdy enough to put band members on. (sort of a false front.) It's OK for flyers, etc. Darlene suggested we have to get feedback from the bands, callers and dancers on this issue. Pam (as band member) agreed there is a definite change from Annunciation. Darlene will try calling from the floor and see if that helps with the energy level between dancers and caller/band.

ST. MARK'S

Mary brought up some issues concerning the floor. The silver caps are dangerous if you get your foot caught in them. Is there anyway to make them lower? Also both lines are drifting toward the center no matter how far apart they start. Is this the floor? Also, she has had questions/complaints about the lack of spring in the floor..concrete below? and dancers saying their feet are hurting much more than Annunciation.

DECISION MAKING

- Darlene began this discussion by asking some questions concerning the recent election: The ballot listed 7 positions open and 9 people were listed on the ballot. Later it was announced to the community that 9 people will be on the board and the by -laws were then changed to reflect this. These new by-laws were then to be voted on. This was after the fact. If the next time 15 people are on the ballot will the board be increased to that size. The current size board (7) was agreed upon when we filed for a non -profit status. Darlene also said that at that time the board was to bring decisions that needed to be made to the community to vote and decide on.

- John B. said he could answer the question about why the board membership was increased: The past board felt that if people express an interest in running for the board, then we have an opportunity to enlarge our leadership and increase volunteers. The election shouldn't be a popularity contest.

- Jodi feels we need to have more structure and that the community needs to decide what that structure is.

- Jim said there has to be thought given to what is a big and what is a small issue. Yes, the community needs to decide big issues/changes however we can't go to them for every decision. As an example he pointed out the questions concerning Flapjack's request to play a Monday dance this summer. Where is this line and where is the place for the steering committee to have opinions, discuss them and then make decisions. What is a big or little decision?

- John B. agrees that we need a more formal structure for decision making and that this should be reflected by supplementing the by-laws.
- Jim then asked the Steering Committee to make a list of the current decision making process and to look at which decisions the steering committee can/should make and what decisions the community can/should make.

The members of the current Steering Committee are:

Jim Vogt	John Brockman	Karen Keeton
John McCain	Jodie Sena	Larry Lankford
Mary Judge	Bernedene Zennie	Pam Stoll

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Judge