

Cincinnati Contra Dance Meeting March 17, 2003 7:20PM

Members present: Mary Jane Miller; Karen Keeton; Larry Langford; Pam Stoll; Eileen Bens; John McCain; Jim Vogt; Susan Vogt; Jodi Sena; Sandy Jennings; Darlene Underwood; Bob Frankenhoff; Mary Judge

Jim and Eileen passed out the recommendations for the decision making process. Jim feels it is important to get the community together to propose new ideas, make recommendations, etc. Let's not get bogged down in exchanging e-mails and opinions and then not make clear decisions. Small decisions can be made in e-mails. It was decided we would add these to the recommendations: let the community know about decisions concerning purchases via announcements at dance. Jodi felt we need to clarify communication as much as possible. Susan asked how do we measure what is a big and what is a small decision? Should we put limits on what can be decided by the board and what needs the community's vote? Darlene felt all decisions being made should go out over the e-mail and be put in our Notebook. Eileen agreed to redo this decision making proposal.

Discussion continued on how we invest money in our dance hall and how we spend money in general. Karen pointed out purchases and spending money are a sensitive subject. John (as Treasurer) feels all financial information should be put in the notebook and shared with the community.

Communication - Jim suggested an official e-mail list of those people wanting dance communication - be created for the purpose of sharing information. This would be the official dance communication list. Everyone who wants to be on this list will be and then everyone sees the same information. Jodi felt there should be guidelines. Lucy did these guidelines awhile ago. They need to be shared and put into the Notebook. These also include exactly what the processes for scheduling the Monday and Saturday dances.

UPDATE on ST. MARK'S - Corryville Catholic will not be moving to St., Marks. The church is negotiating with 2 charter schools. One school has indicated they are interested in leasing the building with no outside tenants using the facility. There is a distinct possibility that we will not be here in September. We will know where we stand in April.

NEW HALLS - Places to check: Scottish Dancers Hall and Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian and Norwood Rec. Center. Jim asked that everyone keep looking and keep everyone informed and updated. Call Jim and he will communicate with everyone.

PIANO - the piano committee will get into gear after we know where we will be dancing in a permanent hall. Question for the community: Do we want an electric or acoustical piano? Most bands prefer acoustical. We recommended that the committee keep looking and if the right piano at the right price comes along to communicate this to Jim.

ARTS FESTIVAL - John McCain received a letter from Jim Tarbell about the contra community possibly being part of this in Sept. and October. This led to a discussion about our recent decline in dancers coming to the dances, the many new dancers we have, our lack of a permanent hall, etc. It was decided that even though this could be good publicity and exposure...at this time we are not able to be part of this.

DANCE CONCERNS - open discussion

- 1, Darlene is concerned about the level of calling.
- 2, How can we grow as a community?
3. How can we enhance the dance experience?
- 4, Panhandlers - we are having problems with them at our dances. Jim has talked to the pastor and also told him we would call the police. Some dancers are giving them food others are not. This sends mixed messages, What do we want to do? Mary said that at Music Hall (Over the Rhine) the policy is to not give any money or food at anytime. Dancers feel uncomfortable. Darlene feels it is not our mission (dance) to take care of these people.
- 5, Changing the Dance Night - we agreed to discuss this as a separate issue from the Harmony Hall place as we go about looking for a new hall,
6. Concern about our declining size. We agreed to discuss this when we have more time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Judge