

Old Farmers Ball

“The Old Farmers Ball cultivates traditional folk and social dance in our community”

Minutes of the August 13, 2012 meeting of the Board of Directors

The meeting was called to order by President Allen Bergal at 7:13 pm with a quorum present.

PRESENT Board Members: Able Allen, Allen Bergal, David Stalnaker, Dennis Merritt, Jonathan Gilbert, Laura Lengnick, Owen Shaffer, Robyn Blakely, Stefanie Wilkins

ABSENT Board Members: Danaan Henry, Diane Silver, Heather Tinnaro, Joe Karpen, Nick Coker, Terry Doyle

GUESTS: Charles Lord

The minutes of the June 11 meeting were approved by acclamation.

Old Business

Owen moved and Robyn seconded a motion that authorized Allan to spend up to \$1500 on a defibrillator for use primarily in Bryson Hall and closely coordinate with Warren Wilson on the placement and signage. The motion passed unanimously.

The issue of the process for Board decision-making was removed from the table and no action was taken.

New Business

By consensus, doodle will be used for determining hosting duties.

The following was made (Robyn/Able) and passed unanimously: The Board authorizes the sharing of software which supports the booking process as well as a band and caller database with the Grey Eagle dance.

Laura Lengnick will lead an effort to recognize Beth Molaro for her years of service to the organization. This will likely take place at an upcoming dance.

No action was taken on the joint dance facility that was proposed by the Asheville Movement Community.

By consensus, raffle tickets will no longer be used. The use of a UV light or similar approach is referred to the Thursday Dance Committee.

It was moved by David and seconded by Robyn that the 2011-2012 membership year be extended through September. The motion carried unanimously.

By consensus, the Thursday Dance Committee is tasked with recommending a consistent procedure to use (or not use) OFB keytags as a means to validate the \$1 discount.

Joe has announced his resignation from the position of Treasurer effective at the next annual meeting. He has agreed to continue as bookkeeper and to work closely with the new Treasurer.

The following recommendation from the Board Process Committee from the annual retreat was tabled:

The committee recommends that a Governance Committee be appointed to

1. examine and make recommendations on any changes that may need to be made to the current committee structure;
2. to review the Policy Manual, the Handbook, and the relationship between them;
3. to review past meeting minutes to ensure that policy and other important decisions are correctly recorded in the Policy Manual and Handbook; and
4. to ensure there is an appropriate procedure in place to ensure that future policy and other important decisions are recorded in appropriate documents.

Danaan passed along the information that, because of another change at work, he will be able to be at the New Year's Eve Dance and, therefore, be in charge of the Committee. The New Year's Eve Dance Committee is encouraged to get an understudy who could step forward and run the dance for the following year.

Laura Lengnick announced the following information from Warren Wilson College:

1. WWC would like all communications with OFB to go through 1 person. I'll update the board on my conversation with Liz Brace about this and make a recommendation that we recognize a board member to serve in this capacity and ask all other board members to refrain from communicating with WWC directly. I'm currently doing that job informally and happy to continue in a more formal capacity.

2. WWC has removed our dance from the New Student Orientation program. We will not have the problem of 40 newbies showing up half-way through the Aug 23 dance. Instead, students will be encouraged to attend the Aug 30 dance where they will expect free admittance. WWC will pay OFB \$1 for every WWC student (w/ID) that we let in free at the door on Aug 30. We will need to keep a count, then invoice the student activities program. I can handle the invoice, someone just needs to pass the count along to me after the dance. Will someone on the Thursday Night Cmte please take responsibility for this and confirm with me?

3. WWC finds the relationship with the OFB to be valuable, but that it requires high maintenance. New students tend to find the Thursday dance unwelcoming, but long-term dancers find it to be a very important part of the college experience.

By unanimous motion (Able, David), Laura was selected to be the liaison with Warren Wilson and that no other individual is to communicate with officials concerning the college/OFB business.

By consensus, the Thursday Dance Committee is tasked with arranging and reporting the count of WWC students.

A request was made by OFB members Mark Sligh and Lisa Harris to study the issue of experienced dancers who dance inappropriately with beginners. By consensus, the Board decided to not create a committee, but to authorize the study.

Other

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Minutes submitted by Owen Shaffer, Secretary.

Appendix A - Previously-submitted Committee Reports

Splash Dance Committee

Things are moving rapidly. Schedules done, maps done, food planned, logistics planned, musicians planned, workshops planned, volunteers being coordinated, it looks like it's all coming together. 20 slots left before we declare its sold out.

Button party 8/12, everyone on the board is invited to come help make buttons, signs and t-shirts.

Membership

Mike at MAIN has laid out the books and they should be on their way to the printer soon.

The software automatically changes the season on 7/1, so we're already into the new season.

Marketing Committee

We divided responsibilities between members:

Dennis- web

Heather- Newsletter, Facebook

David- additional publicity possibilities

Jonathan- conceptualization and development of new ideas and approaches

Owen- facilitator (Chair)

There are introductory videos of many of the dances on the Web site. Other projects, such as Drupal and a performer database haven't progressed.

Dance Development Committee

meeting summary– July 7, 2012

Diane Silver, Laura Lengnick, Robin Blakely, Mark Sligh, Owen Shaffer (visiting)

1) The Great Divide:

a. issues regarding the “side line,” flourishes, disruption of the dance, injury to others, and how to foster a welcoming atmosphere at our dance for a) beginners and b) experienced guests. Diane emphasized the need to separate issues of age and style (lots of flourishes) from attitude, elitism, and cliquishness. The problem is not young dancers, or dancers who do lots of flourishes. The problem is dancers of any age and any style who are unwelcoming and rude.

2) older men who dance exclusively with young girls

3) booking ahead

4) intoxicated dancers

It was decided that these issues all fall under dance etiquette and culture. These are very important issues that need to be addressed, but the Dance Development committee is about developing skills in dancing, music and calling. These issues will be referred to the full board. Perhaps an ad hoc committee will be created to work on them.

5) Y dance - what can we do to make it more viable; is it meeting our goals; is it worth continuing?

a) We reviewed the history of the Y dance: they asked us to partner with them as an added program for their members.

The dance is aimed at Y members and other new dancers (not existing dancers). Publicity is their responsibility. We will discuss with them the low attendance and the need for better publicity (there is a new staff rep). Mark will contact her to set up a meeting.

b) Laura discussed the great difficulty she is having getting local musicians to volunteer to play. It is part of a larger issue of local musicians feeling disrespected by the OFB as a result of the celebrity culture that has developed. Laura is not available for the July 14 dance and no one is scheduled yet; we may need to use recorded music. (Diane and Laura will discuss details separately). Diane echoed similar non-participation for calling. Neither Laura nor Diane will be there for August.

It was decided that if necessary, we will use the \$250 budgeted for sound for December to pay 3 people (2 musicians + a caller) to do the August dance. We will give the Y a deadline that attendance must pick up by November, or we will discontinue the dance. Minimum goal: 20 dancers for the family dance; 40 for the contra dance. If there is great turnout by November, and we think we can pay for sound from the gate receipts, then we could have a Dec. dance. Otherwise we will cancel December, and evaluate in Nov. whether or not to continue in January. There is hope that it may still grow.

Several dancers have said they are trying to gather friends from their neighborhoods to come, and one is planning a pot-luck to try to gather regular dancers.

c) It was also agreed that we will publicize the change in admission for this dance – no set charge; recommended donation of \$5.00. Diane will post that on Facebook.

6) Dance skills development

a) Robyn discussed the need to educate dancers about spatial awareness, especially consciously pulling the lines toward the stage, to prevent crowding at the back of the hall. It was agreed to propose to the board that Robyn prepare a short announcement about this, and deliver it for 1 month, at the same time as the welcome announcement (before the 2nd dance of the evening). After one month we will evaluate. This may set the stage for a similar strategy for other issues – we can pick an “awareness idea of the month” and designate someone to make an announcement about it each week for that month. It is good for this to come from a dancer and not the caller.

b) Short teaching tidbits during the break. It was agreed that it would be difficult to get dancers to come to dance workshops (especially those who really need it); the break is the best opportunity to do skill development. We agreed to propose to the board that we scheduled teaching tidbits at the break, organized something like this: At the end of the first half, following the waltz by the band, is a 10 min skills demo lead by local dancers or callers. The skills demo could be scheduled every dance, or at some regular interval. We discussed the possibility of playing additional recorded waltzes during the break or at the end of the dance. We propose to start this after the Swannanoa Gathering is over. Robyn will take the lead on choosing topics and recruiting individuals to do the teaching. This is an opportunity to work with young “hot-shot” dancers who are admired by many, to teach technique, in concert with one of us adding comments about WHEN to do flourishes (not disrupting the dance, etc.). Diane will send Robyn the list of topics that were developed several years ago for the Beyond Beginners workshops.

c) There was discussion of possibly doing a 1 hour dance skills workshop from 7-8, in lieu of a beginner’s lesson, once per year. Laura shared that Seth Tepfer did a good skills workshop at Spring Dance Romance, and he is on our schedule for

September. It was agreed to propose to the board that we pursue planning this program and invite Seth to kick-off this initiative (we propose that we kickoff item b above at this dance as well). Laura is willing to take the lead on this event and Seth is open to the idea.

Issues tabled for a future meeting:

Dance buddies – we made buttons, but what does it really mean?

Recommend to the board that the Dance Buddy concept be considered as part of the solution to the Great Divide.

Community Care team – discussed several years ago as part of a strategy to address issues of harassment or other discomfort. Never implemented. Is it still needed?

Musician and Caller development.

Meeting Adjourned.