

OLD FARMERS BALL

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

Minutes of the September 12th meeting of the Board of Directors

The meeting began with informal discussions at 6:45 due to the lack of a quorum.

The meeting was called to order by president Bergal at 7:07 pm with a quorum present

PRESENT Board Members: Allen Bergal, David Stalnaker, Jonathan Gilbert, Owen Shaffer, Able Allen, Holly Hixson, Dennis Merritt, and Laura Lengnick.

ABSENT Board Members: Diane Silver, Joe Karpen, Danaan Henry, Terry Doyle, Taija Tevia Clark, Genevieve Vesely, Crawford Rizer,

The minutes of the August 8th meeting were approved by acclamation.

Old Business:

New Business:

Dennis moved to support Splash Dance next year and pay the deposit to reserve Camp Merrimac with a budgetary attempt to break even. Able seconded the motion and it was approved.

Dennis moved and Owen seconded a motion to approve the Dance Development committee's proposal (attached) and move forward in implementing it. This motion was approved.

Able moved and Owen seconded a motion to remove Taija from the Board. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports: Various committee reports were given and discussed.

Ticket sales for the New Years dance will go on sale around the first week of Oct.

A Volunteer/ Board gathering is tentatively scheduled for Sunday Sept. 19th. Details will be forthcoming.

Marketing is working on business cards for the Board.

The advanced dance survey is out with about 70 responses so far.

Dance hosting was scheduled thru October 6th and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55

Minutes submitted by David Stalnaker, secretary

B) Here is a Dance Development Committee report, with a request at the end for a motion at tonight's meeting:

Dance Development committee is moving along. We (that is, Adry!) made the Dance Buddy buttons, and I believe they are being used now at the Thursday dances, and so far have been helpful. I will write a newsletter article, that could also stand alone as a small 1/4-page handout, on what it means to be a Dance Buddy! I will run a draft past the Dance Development committee for review before printing, so if you want to be on that review list, just let me know.

I believe we got approval last month to start having a family dance before the Y dances. That is moving forward, with the first one likely taking place on Oct 8, pending approval from Laura that music can be organized in time. If it's too short notice, then we'll look to a future date.

We are also discussing starting a series of development workshops for callers, musicians, and dancers:

1) a "caller's collective" like they have in other cities, that would be a forum for aspiring callers to get started and experienced callers to pilot test new dances, or delve into squares or other formations they've not done before, etc. This would also be a forum for local callers to discuss issues in our community and work to provide some consistency from the mic week to week, to be more intentional in shaping our community atmosphere (things like reminding dancers to "read" their neighbor's skill and not disorient the beginners with twirls and such).

2) a more active open band, with actual rehearsals, or workshops, or whatever we want to call it, for developing musicians to learn more "musicianship," including skills for working as a band, rather than just an individual player, skills for playing for the dancers, rather than just jamming, and perhaps advice and nurturing for interested players to find each other to actually form a new band or two. (I hope I got this right -- Laura can comment more on the vision for this).

3) dance workshops for developing intermediate and advanced dance skills. Basically, a 2nd effort at the "beyond beginners" idea that we started in 2009.

Our plan is to hold these workshops in conjunction with J'boro and River Falls, if they are willing, and to have them on Saturday afternoons prior to scheduled Saturday dances, in all 3 locations (J'boro, Asheville Y, River Falls). They would be led by volunteers, so there would be no cost involved, and thus no budget impact.

Request for motion: Would somebody please offer a motion at tonight's meeting to approve the above described workshop plan, and to authorize the Dance Development Committee to move forward in implementing it.

Next steps would be: 1) contact J'boro and River Falls and see if they are interested in collaborating; 2) develop the content details for the workshops (e.g., what exactly would we offer in the dance workshops - this still needs to be fleshed out); and 3) based on response from #1, seek leaders and start setting dates and locations for workshops.

If this turns out to be controversial, then I would ask that the motion be tabled until next month so that we can work at the committee level to address whatever the concerns are.

THANKS!