

Independence Squares Board Meeting

August 30, 2018

Attending: Deb Cassel, Kevin Gisi, Tim Harper, Ted Marvel, Bob Rohde, Leda Sportolari, Susan Turkel, Bruce Zangwill

Meeting held via conference call.

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Minutes approved unanimously.

Classes

Wednesday nights:

These classes will run for 15 Wednesdays (2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month), between Oct. 10, 2018 and May 22, 2019 inclusive. We will contract with the caller for the full year, with a kick-out clause stating if there are three nights with less than eight dancers in attendance, the class will be subject to review by the Board which may decide to cancel future classes or redesign the program.

We pay for the space in advance. Last year we aligned the contract for the space with the contract for the caller, Drew Allen. Norma negotiates with the church; Bob says she should make semester commitments: October through end of January, and February through May.

We discussed options for the time frame. We'd considered running the sessions from 7:00-9:00, alternating C1/C2, then C2 only between 9:00-9:30.

Considerations:

- If the session were only two hours, this limits the amount of time C2 dancers can be exposed to new material. This may make it impossible for C2 class members to be done with the entire program in time for the IAGSDC Convention in July.
- Leda reported that Dave Tavani had emailed the C2 group to ask about time preferences; the majority response is to end at 9:00. Very few people were willing to commit to staying until 9:30 (not enough for a square).
- Motion: 7:00-9:00, with option to renegotiate Drew's contract if there's enough interest in extending to 9:30. This puts the decision in the hands of those involved: they can let us know if they'd prefer the extra time. Leda will stay in touch with Dave T. to monitor this. The board agreed to this motion.

Tuesday nights:

The callers will be contracted through May 21; addenda can be made if necessary.

MS class: Joe.

- This class will be run with the intention that the dancers will be able to participate in the IS Fly-In.

Plus DBD workshop: Betsy.

- We are open to Betsy deciding to do something special with this workshop, like the Concepts class she offered last year.
- Betsy will not be available on three dates: Nov. 6, Jan. 15, and April 16.
- Kris Jensen will be in town on Nov. 6 and is willing to sub; Betsy has agreed and the board concurred that Deb can put together that contract. We discussed other potential substitutes.
- It was suggested that dancers be alerted the previous week if there will be a substitute caller.

Advanced class: Dane.

- It is possible that Dane will be unavailable for two dates; at this point, he is contracted for the entire year.

C1 class: Betsy

- (Note from after meeting: Leda is surveying dancers via the email list to find out who is interested in taking Advanced and C1.)

End of Summer Planning Updates

9/4: Daryl Murphy will not need to borrow our equipment.

9/11: Open House with Dane. Deb is working with Dane to decide on the unique calls to include this time, beyond the core list that were taught at every open house, and the unique set of additional calls that were included in each of the first three open houses. (This is known as an ABCD program – the core list plus the A list one time, the core plus the B list another time, and so forth.)

9/18: The contracted caller had a family health situation arise and asked to be released from the contract if possible. Howard Richman is available; we agreed to have Deb confirm a contract with him.

9/8: Possible demo at SisterSpace women's camp: Norma has not heard back from organizers. We discussed approving the expense of the caller (Zip). It was suggested that we pay \$75, which was the fee for each caller at the Philly Pride parade. The majority agreed to pay \$75. (Note: the demo was never confirmed by the organizers so it did not happen.)

Dances

Note: After July meeting, Caller Liaison consulted several of the contracted callers about possible alterations to the program (e.g., running two two-hour sessions split into MS/Plus and A/C rather than a single 4:30-7 pm free skate, possibly separated by a dinner break). Response was mixed. Result: we will try this split program as an evening dance with no dinner break on January 26.

Saturday 9/22/2018	MS, Plus, A2, C1 (per contract; this means 3 tips at each level, 15 minutes each) Regular dance, 4-7:30, no potluck.	Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion	Mark Franks
Saturday 10/13/2018	Halloween Dance MS, Plus, A2 w/C1 star tip(s) Regular dance, 4-7:30, no potluck. People should bring snacks. Costumes encouraged.	Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion	Ett McAtee
Saturday 12/1/2018	Glitter Ball MS, Plus, Advanced, C1 w/C2 star tip(s) 4:00-8:00, special potluck event. All is confirmed. Deb planned to give Merion Friends a deposit check in early September. (Note: the meeting was cancelled by Merion Friends and has yet to be rescheduled.)	Merion Friends - Activities Building Merion Station, PA	Betsy Gotta
Saturday 1/26/2019	MS and Plus 6:00 – 8:00 pm A2 and C1 8:00-10:00 pm \$10 flat entry fee, regardless of how long one stays.	Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion	Kent Forrester

	Majority of board approved this plan; one disapproved. (Note: Deb has contacted Kent and he agreed to the proposal.)		
Saturday 2/23/2019	Love (...and Chocolate!) MS, Plus, A2, C1 Regular dance, 4-7:30. We would like to have a C1/C2 pre-event. Board agreed to offer Bill the opportunity to call the pre-event for the standard fee; if he won't do it, we agreed that she should find another caller so that we can have the pre-event. Deb will let us know if Bill objects to sharing the billing with another caller for some reason.	Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion	Bill Harrison
3/29- 31/2019	Independence Squares Fly-in Load The Minnow! Cast Back to Gilligan's Island Dancing MS-C2 All Weekend!	Clarion Hotel at Exton	Betsy Gotta John Marshall Ken Ritucci
Saturday 4/13/2019	MS, Plus, A2 w/ C1 star tip(s) Regular dance, 4-7:30 We agreed to have Eric call a C1/C2 pre-event from 1:30-3:30.	Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion	Eric Henerlau
Saturday 5/11/2019	Tim announced that Chris Phillips will be in town from Florida. We discussed options for getting him more calling time during this trip. Options discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have two dances that weekend in Philadelphia (Saturday MS-A and Sunday A-C?). Problems: church might not be available on Sunday, and May 12 is Mother's Day. 	Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion	TBA

- Coordinate with NY Times Squares so that they might hire Chris for Friday night or Sunday afternoon, either on the May 11th weekend or the May 18th weekend.

Proposal: We can tell NY that we're willing to do a Saturday dance either week (MS-A2, C1/2 star tips.) They can do what they want – a Friday or Sunday – and we will pick the Saturday that fits.

We will consider offering a pre- or post-event to our dance, partly depending on what Times Squares decides to do.

Result: Four approve, one disapproves, one abstains. So, we will move forward with this plan.

(Note: Deb has reached out to Times Squares; they will add this to the agenda for their 9/10/18 board meeting and will get back to us.)

NB: We usually have prom in May.

Next month:

Last board meeting before classes start. We will talk about holding people back from advancing.

Agenda items? Email Kevin ahead of time.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.