

Independence Squares Board Meeting

September 10, 2018

Present: Kevin Gisi, Tim Harper, Bob Rohde, Leda Sportolari, Susan Turkel

Absent: Ted Marvel, Bruce Zangwill

Meeting was held at Tim Harper's house.

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Kris Jensen date needs to be corrected: should be November 6. Minutes approved as modified.

Discussion of availability of minutes:

We discussed whether minutes should be posted on the IS website or otherwise made publicly available. Times Squares posts their meeting minutes on their website.

The Board agreed that we would like to make our minutes available to the public via the club website beginning with the first meeting of Kevin's presidency.

We also discussed the necessity of having a centralized IS document archive, as we would like to have important documentation readily available to the Board. For example, no one on the current Board possesses a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, and this prevents us from applying for a money market bank account.

Update on Sept. 25 club night:

Format and pricing of this dance hadn't been finalized, so we discussed the details. Joe Bradshaw will call. The dance will be run as an all-skate, and admission will be free for all paid-up members. We're calling it a "Friends and Family Night," mainly to attract inactive or lapsed IS members who haven't been to a dance in a while. Admission will be free for non-dancing friends and family who want to attend and watch. Non-member dancers will have to pay the usual \$10 entry fee.

Financial report:

Bob needs to update the budget report for lines 44 and 82, Fly-In Reserve, as the Board has agreed that we don't need to add to the reserve this year. Those two lines will be removed. The \$500 that we'd originally planned to add to the reserve fund will go back into surplus.

We discussed the fact that we've spent most of room rental budget for Saturday dances for the entire year already; this is because Merion Friends and the Ethical Society are much more expensive than the Lutheran Church. The budget was written to accommodate these two special dances, so our room rental allocation should last for the entire budget year.

Progression of dancers to next program – will the Board intervene?

We discussed the mechanisms by which dancers might move from one program to the next program. We considered a number of different options.

We agreed to the following proposal: Dancers who wish to move up to the next program will be asked to check in with Leda, Ted, and/or Bob in order to maximize everyone's experience of fun and learning. These Board reps may suggest to certain dancers that they have not mastered their current level and would be better served by staying at that level for another year. These individuals will be free to choose their next steps. If they decide to move up to the next level class against Board rep recommendation and have trouble keeping up to the extent that it impinges on the progress of the class, board members (in consultation with instructors) may approach these individuals and ask them to move back down.

The culture of our dance, and consideration of etiquette:

We discussed several attitudes and behaviors we would like to encourage in our dance. The following is a summary.

DO:

- Support and help dancers who are weaker or make mistakes.
- Espouse a tolerant and friendly club culture.
- Stick with a single role each night (unless you're a very strong dancer and/or a particular square really needs someone to fill in a different role). Switching back and forth between boy and girl roles can be confusing to you and fellow dancers that cue off the other boys/girls in the square.

DON'T:

- Roll your eyes or give people dirty looks; this creates tension and makes others feel unwelcome.
- Take it personally if others express frustration.
- Have loud conversations on the sidelines during tips. Our hall is echoey, and any extra sound makes it hard for the dancers to hear the caller clearly.

We proposed that we find an existing etiquette document and update it to incorporate any of these ideas that are missing. (We did not designate this as a specific action item during the meeting.)

The Fall class program:

The following callers/classes/programs will alternate throughout the evening at 15 minute intervals, with a break for announcements from 8:00 pm till 8:15 pm.

| Front Room | Back Room |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Joe – Mainstream Class | Betsy – C1 Class |
| Dane – Advanced Class | Betsy – Plus Workshop |

Next meeting:

We agreed to hold the next meeting on November 1 in Bala Cynwyd at Leda’s office.

Possible topics (from August agenda; not discussed at August or September meetings):

- Storage locker for club equipment (Tim)
- Club social media (Kevin)
- Approving or reappointing standing committees (Kevin)

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 pm.