

Independence Squares Board Meeting

April 22, 2019

Present: Kevin Gisi, Tim Harper, Bob Rohde, Mike Rutkowski, Susan Turkel, Bruce Zangwill

Absent: Ted Marvel, Leda Sportolari

Meeting was held at 30th Street Station.

Approval of last meeting's minutes:

Minutes of January meeting approved with minor updates.

Treasurer's Report

We discussed the security of our bank accounts. Bob pointed out that anyone with signing privileges on the bank accounts can make unlimited withdrawals. (The other folks with signing privileges – Kevin, Tim, and Susan – pointed out that we do not know account numbers or how to get into the account! The board agreed that it would be a good idea to have more of us know that information, for purposes of backing up the Treasurer.)

Bob mentioned that some banks, not including PNC, offered email alerts every time a withdrawal occurs on the account. We thought that this would not be especially helpful as there are so many checks going out throughout the month that the alerts could easily be ignored.

Bob proposed the possibility of moving the bulk of the money into a separate account for safekeeping (and possibly to gather interest) and keeping a smaller working balance in our checking account. We decided that it would be very difficult to earn much interest given current rates, and did not think that this added complication would be warranted.

Bob suggested that we consider getting bonded as an additional layer of security; the board agreed that this could be a good idea. **Action item:** Mike will research bonding. (**Update:** Mike has begun this research; will need the final treasurer's report for the year in order to proceed.)

Fly-In Report

- We did not get a full financial report on the Fly-In, but Bob provided some highlights. Last year's Fly-In contributed \$9000 to the club coffers but this year's will contribute only \$4000. Revenue was down for the event, and will be down next year judging by pre-registrations. The income from baskets was down this year.
- Nevertheless, we agreed that we do not need to hold aside the budgeted \$3000 for the Fly-In reserve fund; we will move those funds back into the general fund.

Admission fees:

We noted that our \$10 door fee is the highest of all square dances in our area. We might consider lowering it. We noted that for the summer Open Houses, the door fee for newbies and current dancers alike will be \$5.

Board Elections

We reviewed the currently confirmed slate for the Board election that will take place at the June 11 annual meeting:

- Corresponding secretary – Susan
- Program rep for MS/Plus – Steve Demos (a member of the current MS class)
- Program rep for A/C – possibly Leda
- (President – Tim – no voting needed)

We still need candidates for Treasurer, President-Elect, and Communication Director.

Susan needs to write up the ballot and send out the Annual Meeting announcement containing the agenda for the meeting, all at least 15 days before the meeting.

We discussed possible candidates for Volunteer of the Year, and agreed on an individual. We discussed possible gifts/awards for this person, and the process by which the gift might be acquired.

Club Shirts

We discussed the possibility of offering other styles of shirts beyond the long-sleeved “uniform.” Options could include polo shirts or hoodies. **Action item:** Mike will check on possibilities. (**Update:** Mike found that polo shirts would be possible, and offered club members the option to order polo shirts with the same subsidy terms as official club long-sleeved shirts.)

In terms of subsidies, some discussion via email after the meeting concluded with the following: dancers who did not take advantage of last year’s subsidized shirt purchase will be permitted to use this year’s \$25 subsidy toward either a long-sleeved shirt or a polo shirt. In other words, during the current ordering cycle each dancer can choose to purchase either a long-sleeved club shirt, a polo shirt, or both. However, each dancer is allowed to take advantage of ONE subsidy: either the one offered last year, or the one offered this year, for a total of one shirt.

Club Equipment

We discussed the need to co-locate the club’s sound equipment and other items, ideally in a centralized and accessible storage unit. Some of this equipment is currently in the possession

the club's previous president, who has put together an excellent inventory of club- and personally-owned items and their most recent known locations.

We need the sound equipment in particular for the upcoming May 11 dance with Chris Phillips, as he is traveling by air from Florida and won't be able to bring his own. **Action item:** Susan will contact the previous president to coordinate return of the equipment in her possession. (**Update:** all equipment was returned to the club by the previous president on Tuesday, May 7.)

We also discussed storage options. The group agreed that it would be most convenient and cost-efficient to locate the equipment at a storage facility near Center City but not in the heart of the city; Columbus Boulevard seemed like a good option. **Action item:** Kevin and Mike will research storage units. (**Update:** Kevin and Mike found that affordable storage units are available on Washington Avenue and Delaware Avenue for about \$64/month [5x5 unit] or \$95/month [5x9 unit], usually with one month free. The decision about storage units will be left to the next board.)

Philly Pride 2019

We need to register for this year's Pride parade and festival. We have confirmed that Howard Richman and Zip Warmerdam can call for the dancers in the parade. Someone needs to coordinate logistics for our participation in the parade itself. Mike will coordinate our tent and table at the festival at Penn's Landing. **Action items:** Kevin will recruit someone to coordinate our parade group. Bob will reach out to Pride people to register our group for the parade and a table at the festival. (**Update:** Leda and Stephen will coordinate the parade group. Bob has registered us for the parade and the festival.)

Caller Liaison Report

The caller liaison report is accurate through December 2019. Mike will start working on dances for 2020.

The Chris Phillips dance will be organized as previously announced: the pre-event will include only C1 and C2 if there's a square, and the 4-7:30 portion will include MS-A with C1 star tip(s) if there's a square. (There had been an idea of having the pre-event include Advanced dancing as well.)

Future Board Meetings

We will have a May meeting, which will be Kevin's last as President. Tim will decide if we will have a June board meeting.

Fall Class Schedule

We approved the fall class schedule as stated in the last meeting minutes. We can start announcing these plans to the club. **Action item:** Mike will confirm the September start dates with the “not Betsy” caller(s). (**Update:** Mike has confirmed that September 10 will be the start date for MS and other non-Betsy dancing.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Caller Liaison Report

Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – April 22, 2019

The information below is accurate as of Saturday, April 20, 2019 and may not reflect any updates received after this report's preparation. Please note that all dances are at the Lutheran Church unless otherwise noted.

Open Houses – Summer 2019

Contracts for Howard Richman have been finalized and the space is secured for the open houses on the following pre-approved dates: June 18, July 16 and August 20.

Dances Through Summer 2019

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place May 1 through August 31, 2019

Saturday, May 11, 2019 Chris Phillips Double Header with no potluck (Arrangements have been made for his transportation and lodging.)

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm C1 and C2

4:00 pm – 7:30 pm Mainstream through Advanced with C1 Star Tip

Saturday, June 8, 2019 Advanced/ Challenge 1 with C2 Star Tip – Dayle Hodge 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, July 27, 2019 Plus/Advanced – Joe Bradshaw 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Tuesday, August 6, 2019 Mainstream/Plus – Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturday, August 10, 2019 Joint Dance with DC Lambda Squares This is customarily arranged by the DC club. Ongoing arrangements with a caller located and now working on the other details. I will update the board as this develops.

Fall Dances 2019 Forward

The following dances are being contracted as noted for the period September 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 (Items marked TBD have not had a caller finalized):

Saturday, September 7, 2019 – Todd Fellegly Double Header with Potluck (Arrangements have been made for his lodging on the night of September 7.)

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Advanced through C2

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm Mainstream through Plus with Advanced Star Tip

Saturday, October 5, 2019 Mainstream/Plus with Advanced Star Tip – Mark Franks 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Saturday, October 19, 2019 – Advanced/C1 with C2 Star Tip – Brian Jarvis 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, November 23, 2019 – Mainstream/Plus with Advanced Star Tip – Howard Richman 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, December 7, 2019 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C2 – Dayle Hodge 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Merion Meeting House will once again be the site of the Glitter Ball with paper work and checks to be finalized.

Saturday, September 12, 2020 – Barry Clasper Double Header with Potluck

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm Advanced through Challenge 1 with C2 Star Tip

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Potluck

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Mainstream through Plus with Advanced Star Tip

FYI Notes

- 1) I will begin hiring callers for January 2020 through May of 2020 shortly.
- 2) 2020 Fly-In Callers: Sandra Bryant, Todd Felleggy, Dayle Hodge March 27-29, 2020.
- 3) 2021 Fly-In Callers: Bill Harrison, Eric Henerlau, Kris Jensen March 12-14, 2021
- 4) Peg Wilsbach and Linda Bourdet have agreed to join the caller liaison committee. Casey Bradshaw is already an advisor to the committee.

Items of Concern for the Caller Liaison – To Be Discussed by the Board

- 1) Upcoming Fall Classes – What, when and who.
- 2) Challenge Workshops – Continue or Not in Fall 2019 (So that the space can be secured. This can be reversed if the board decides later not to continue the workshops.)
- 3) Approving dances further out on the calendar. While the board is still trying new things and times, this may seem like it shouldn't be done, however, most times and dances can be changed at a later if there appears to be a real problem. Please see the caller's contract where cancellation policies are spelled out. Dates are currently approved through May 2020. I would recommend approving dates through at least December 2020, ideally through May 2021. The open houses for the 2020 and 2021 summer sessions are a different topic.

Upcoming Callers

Please let me know of any callers that you would like to have call for our dances and I will do my best to bring a variety of callers to our dance halls.