

IS Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021

Present: Dave Blatt, Steve Demos, Tim Harper, George Rizor, Norma Beard, Dick Michelin, Will Hamp, Ron Rumble; Caller Liaison Mike Rutkowski
guests: Vinney, Chris, Eileen

This meeting was held via teleconference (Zoom).

Approval of Minutes from 12/15/2020 – Will

Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Steve seconded by Dave & approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Dick

We discussed the report covering the month of December. Income \$125 Expense \$796. Total cash holdings are down but we are still in good shape.

Dance Tip Jar for virtual dances has paid caller expenses except for \$1.

The bank's new policy requires submitting signed & dated on letterhead a copy of the minutes of the meeting where we go from one board to another. Then the signers can go into the bank and fill out the signature cards. In our case we have the annual meeting to show the change and the minutes of the meeting where we decided who will be taken off and who will be added.

Action: Will to put on letterhead, sign, date & mail the 12-15-2020 minutes to Dick.

Will to put on letterhead & email the annual meeting minutes to Susan, asking her to print out and sign, date & mail to Dick.

Dick will then set up a meeting with the bank.

A motion was made by George and seconded by Dave to study a bylaw change for the June annual meeting. Motion passes.

Action: Steve will work up possible wordings for a bylaw change.

Caller Liaison Report - Mike

Recommended holding workshops on the 3rd Tuesday for the next 4 months. We have been financially successful with the virtual workshops.

Motion: Accept the Caller Liaison recommendations as written with the change to call these workshops and to authorize an expense for each or the next 4 workshops of \$85. Made by Dave and seconded by Steve. Passed unanimously.

Suggestion from Eileen to have to something vital around the time we normally have the fly-in. To be referred to the fly-in committee.

Social Square Dance - Mike

It has been in CallerLab for several years. It is envisioned to be a stand alone program. It does not connect to the established set of levels.

Tim; It is very good for places like assisted living facilities where you do not expect to dance with other groups.

Dave; Modern Western Square dancing is not doing very well & social square dancing does not provide a clear answer.

George; We need to keep an eye on the social square dance phenomenon.

Chris; There is no consensus to starting social square dancing. Having a committee may be a way to monitor it instead of the whole board. There is a need to have dancers having fun and let's dance together.

Tim; We can encourage any members who are interested to attend Clay Gosses' club in Delaware. They are not very far away.

George;

- It is an issue in the square dance world.
- Will anything happen until at least late 2021?
- The consensus of the board is reevaluate in future.
- Thank you Chris for your contribution.

Publicity Chair - Dave

PayPal has no two signature option.

Mainstream / Plus Rep - Steve

No activity since December. IS planning to do more outreach to assure we are working to graduate them by the next annual meeting. The class members appear to be still interested. Asked for 3 pictures for next social meeting.

Advanced / Challenge Rep - Ron

Need a list of who is in each class. Will work with the directory.

Committee assignments - Norma

In progress.

We still have the PO Box in the 30th street post office.

Zoom - Steve

- Don't let many unknown people into a meeting at a time. You can vet them one at a time.
- If you are Zoom bombed mute everybody and use the option of not letting them unmute themselves. At the bottom of the host and cohost screens is a security button that allows you to do this.
- Use the medium security that requires preregistration.

Non Discrimination - Steve

Suggestion that the recruitment committee advertise our lack of discrimination position. Steve to chair recruitment committee. A report will be forth coming.

Strategies for reopening - Dick

Not enough information yet.

Adjournment Motion David second Dick Unanimous

Caller Liaison Report

Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – January 2021

The information below is accurate as of Saturday, January 23, 2021, 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.

Opening Discussions for Board

- 1) Mark Franks held a successful workshop on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. My impression is that it was well received by all the attendees: 18 IS members/friends and 13 others (not including Mark and myself). This was a workshop/dance for the Mainstream and Plus programs.

- 2) Based on the success of the three virtual workshops that the club has sponsored thus far, we would recommend holding one dance per month at the Mainstream and Plus levels. As there are opportunities every day of the week for people to attend to work on and maintain their skills, hosting more than one a month does not seem necessary. This also assumes that the second and fourth Tuesdays will be continuing as social and game nights, respectively.

If the board decides to host the virtual dances, the committee has the following recommendations:

- a) The format should be as a dance, not as a workshop. The club members attending currently appear to be adjusting well to the virtual format and can ask questions if there are problems or concerns, even at a dance.

- b) The recommended levels for the dances would be Mainstream and Plus as there does not appear to be significant interest for the Advanced and Challenge levels at this time. The current format having the two Mainstream tips followed by a social time and then two Plus tips appears to work well but could be adjusted.

- c) The use of the tip jar for the dances should be continued. This would lessen the financial impact on the club and the caller would receive at a minimum the base amount agreed upon. After texting with Dick Michelin after the most recent workshop, it appears that the three dances have cost a total of one dollar so far.

- d) We would also recommend using our current club callers, Betsy Gotta and Mark Franks, for these dances. Some of the other callers that have been suggested to us already have a busy schedule of virtual dances and though we would strongly encourage our dancers to attend those events, we recommend that Independence Squares-supported dances continue to support the callers who will be calling for us when we dance in person again.

No additional contracts or promises have been made to any caller regarding the holding of workshops or classes, virtual or live, other than the Glitter Ball in December 2021.

Dances Through December 2021

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place January 23, 2021 through December 4, 2021.

Saturday, December 4, 2021 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Betsy Gotta 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm
The Merion Meeting House is the first choice as the site of the Glitter Ball 2021

FYI Notes

- 1) 2022 Fly-In: Callers: Mike Kellogg, Chris Phillips, Anne Uebelacker March 25-27, 2022

Items of Concern for the Caller Liaison

- 1) Discussions continue to be held with Mark Franks and Betsy Gotta about the status of the club. They understand that once dancing begins again, workshops will be held at the various levels with the completion of the Mainstream class being on the agenda. No contracts have been signed pending the resolution as to what classes or workshops will be held in the fall or spring.
- 2) The Lutheran Church is still closed, so no concerns there other than the club's onsite storage is there. The church is not renting out their space currently, so nothing to worry about unless the club begins dancing before the church is reopened. This may be more of an FYI but is something that the board should be aware of for future planning.
- 3) The Merion Meeting House contract needs to be completed for the Glitter Ball in December 2021. Leda had passed copies of the contract on to George Rizor and Mike Rutkowski but I am not sure if these have been completed yet. Signing the contract would hold the space for the club but, as we found out this year, the contract can be cancelled up to thirty days in advance with no penalty or financial obligation on the part of the club.

Upcoming Dances and Callers

No dances have been scheduled for 2021 other than the Glitter Ball in December 2021. If we are not dancing at that point, there are much larger issues to deal with besides who to hire as a caller.