

IS Board Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2021

Present: George Rizor, Norma Beard, Dick Michelin, Will Hamp, Dave Blatt, Steve Demos, Ron Rumble, Guest: Bob Rhode, Tim Harper, Thom Dang

This meeting was held via teleconference (Zoom).

Approval of Minutes from 4/28/2021 – Will
The minutes were approved as corrected, unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Dick

Dave sent out a reminder to pay dues prior to June 7 the day before the annual meeting. The report was accepted as amended.

Caller Liaison Report - Mike

The workshops are going well. Discussion regarding scheduling upcoming workshops.

Motion: Authorize the caller liaison committee to schedule virtual dance for the third Tuesday in August. George moved, Steve seconded, Passed unanimously.

Publicity Chair Report - Dave

Website updated. Ted is picking up the Publicity Chair duties.

Social Committee Report - Steve

Dave did a great zoom social. Vinney and Ron are planning the July zoom social. Game night continues.

Mainstream & Plus Report - Steve

All the Mainstream class graduates supplied their names for badges.

Recruitment/ Retention committees - Steve

Held a discussion.

- We will be encouraging photos, videos, and .gifs be added to the website.
 - Discussion regarding pictures for the website.
 - Show a diverse selection people attract a wider audience.
- We are interested in starting an Instagram account.
- El Camino Reelers have a monthly open dance where half of the dance is some other form of dancing.
- Fall Schedule needs to support many different programs.
- Possibly compress time on Tuesday nights.
- Possibly hold beginner dances to attract people coming out of covid isolation.
- All levels will need review, not necessarily class or workshop of the level.

Old Business

Motion:

We accept as a member anyone who says they have passed Mainstream class and paid their dues. Steve moved, Dave seconded, passed unanimously.

Motion:

We appoint Susan Turkel as one of the judges of election. Steve moved, Norma seconded, passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting

The new chairs of the fly in committee to be introduced.

Resumption committee to announce they are working. After the city of Philadelphia makes its announcement on June 11 we will be sending out a poll.

We will require registering for the annual meeting to have a reminder to pay your annual dues.

Resumption Committee - Ron

The committee has not met since last board meeting. The report is from the chair. The community transmission rates metrics have been met for our 11 counties. We are in Philadelphia in the same category as gyms. Currently need masks, 3 feet distance and can't have more than 15 people per 1,000 square feet. On June 11 new guidelines are expected. We need to consider participating in Pride Lite.

Motion:

We will participate in Pride Lite September 4, 2021. Dave moved, Dick seconded, passed unanimously.

Volunteer of the year - Steve

Discussion several possible choices. Add the Volunteer of the Year to the website.

Motion:

Mike will be our volunteer of the year. George moved, Steve seconded, passed unanimously.

New Business - none

Declared adjourned

Caller Liaison Report

Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – May 2021

The information below is accurate as of Tuesday, May 24, 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

No additional contracts or promises have been made to any caller regarding the holding of workshops or classes, virtual or live, other than those listed below. The resumption of dances is an ongoing discussion amongst the various club members and committees, but no contracts are being offered to anyone at this time.

Dances Through December 2021

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place May 24, 2021 through December 4, 2021.

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – Mainstream/Plus – Darren Gallina 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Virtual

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – Mainstream/Plus – Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Virtual

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 – Mainstream/Plus – Mark Franks 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Virtual

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. No contracts have been signed pending the resolution as to what classes or workshops will be held in the fall or spring. Both are looking forward to calling for us once dancing resumes and have reserved Tuesday nights for us.
- 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 will need to be contacted prior to the Glitter Ball in December 2021 to ensure that all is in order with them. George Rizor was handling the paperwork during Leda's time away, so someone will need to take care of this when dancing resumes. The contract holds the space for the club but, as we found out this past year, the contract can be cancelled up to thirty days in advance with no penalty or financial obligation on the part of the club.

Return to Dancing Committee Report ~ 2021-05-26

Due to scheduling issues, the committee's second meeting will not occur until June 7. Therefore, the contents of this report are from the committee chair and have not been discussed yet with the full committee

- **New committee members.** Ed Wasekanes and Eileen DuBois have joined the committee since the last report.
- **Community Transmission Rates.** As agreed by the Board, we are tracking these rates on a weekly basis. Included with this report is a chart, with supporting graphs, showing the "New Cases Per 100k" and the "Positivity Rates" over the past month for the 11 counties that we agreed to monitor. All numbers are now in the "blue" zone or in the lower range of the "yellow" zone, which are the areas that we felt were comfortable to be able to resume indoor dancing.
- **Federal, State, and Local guidelines.** The CDC announced on May 16 that fully vaccinated persons no longer need to wear masks or maintain a 6' social distance from others. The State of PA adopted that recommendation and expects to allow non-vaccinated persons to follow the same guidelines once 70% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated. However, the State notes that there are currently three counties that have stricter requirements, and Philadelphia County is one of those three. The current indoor guidelines there are that masks must still be worn and that a distance of at least 3' must be maintained between all persons. Additionally, indoor activities cannot exceed 15 people per 1,000 sq ft. For outdoor activities, masks are only required for unvaccinated persons. However, 3' of distance must still be kept between all persons and there can be no more than 33 persons per 1,000 sq ft. New guidelines are expected to be announced on June 11 and this committee will report back to the Board once those guidelines are communicated.
- **Other clubs' plans.** A previous discussion was held regarding Cherry Ridge Campground in the Poconos, which plans to resume a dance schedule soon. Ron reached out to the owner who said that she wasn't really aware of what the State required and was just suggesting that the attending dancers abide by their own comfort levels. The new CDC and PA guidelines though allow for these dances to

resume. Eileen Dubois reported on her recent attendance at a “Return to Dancing” square dance that was held in Lancaster, PA. There were 4 squares and masks were not required while dancing but were required when socializing. This was a requirement put in place by the venue. Dancers were told to bring their own bottled water (although the club had a supply for anyone who had forgotten) and refreshments were not provided. A signed waiver was required for admittance. A copy of that waiver is attached to this report.

- **Church contact.** The Board previously authorized Ron to make monthly contact with our venue in order to get clear communication regarding the reopening of that facility. Ron had his first conversation with the Operations Manager, Rand McGee, on 5/3/21. Rand said that they are currently letting some very small groups in but are requesting that everyone be vaccinated. We did not yet discuss whether the church will require vaccinations of our dancers or not. Rand didn't know when we could resume dancing at their facility but thought that it might be sometime in June. Ron asked about the rumor that there was ceiling damage that could prevent us from using the facility and Rand said that there is ceiling paint chipping in the community rooms but that they are working to get that fixed. There was a water leak in the sanctuary and that affected the community rooms but that's been fixed and there doesn't seem to be any problem at this point in time. He doesn't anticipate either issue to impede our eventual return. We agreed to talk monthly and he will contact Ron if there is any important information in the interim.
- **Next meeting's agenda.** Our next meeting will be via Zoom on June 7 at 7:00 PM. Betsy Gotta and Mark Franks have agreed to be at that meeting to discuss their comfort levels regarding calling a live dance. The plan is to also discuss how to ease dancers back into dancing and what level(s) we should start at. **Current thoughts from the Board would be valuable prior to the committee's conversation.** Ron and Steve Demos plan to have a conversation soon in order to discuss the Retention Committee's thoughts regarding the startup of a new class. Those plans need to be incorporated into plans for our resumption of dancing.
- **Philadelphia Pride.** This event has been scheduled for Saturday, Sept 4 (Labor Day Saturday) at Penn's Landing and is being called “Pride Lite” since there will be no parade this year. **The Board needs to discuss our possible attendance.** An application is attached to this report.

- **Club activity.** It was recommended at the last Board meeting that the club sponsor an outdoor social activity. No further discussion has been held regarding this event. The Board should discuss any interest in pursuing this and determine who will be responsible for putting it together.