

# I S Board Meeting Minutes

## August 2, 2021

Present: Norma B., Steve D., Chris D., Will H., Bob R., Ron R., Ted M., Guests: Mike R., Tim H., Dick M.  
This meeting was held via teleconference (Zoom).

Approval of Minutes from July 14, 2021

The minutes were approved as corrected, unanimously. Moved Steve D., seconded Norma B..

**Treasurer's Report** - Chris D.

**Motion:** Treasurer's report be accepted as written.

Bob R. moved, Steve D. seconded, passed unanimously.

**Return to Dancing\*** - Ron R.

The indicating numbers are mixed. Five counties have gone into the lower yellow range.

The recommendations of the committee\*\* were reviewed.

Housekeeping decisions:

- Key to church - Lou P.
- Masks, Sanitizing wipes & Sprays - Ron R.
- Cups & sharpie - The closet
- Sign in & donation jar - Chris D.
- Health attestation & waivers - Ron R.
- Wiping down before & after - Attending board members.
  - Door handles
  - Tables
  - Chairs
- Checking Photo ID & vaccination records - Chris D., Norma B.
- Reminder to use hand sanitizer
  - At door - Norma B.
  - Board member makes an announcement.
  - Caller at the end of each tip.
- Remind people to properly wear mask.
  - Signs at doors - Ron R.
  - All board members.
- Website update - Ted

**Motion:** We change the Covid-19 Health Screening to read: Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours beyond normal.

Ron R. moved, Steve D. seconded, passed unanimously.

**Recruitment Committee\*\*** - Steve D.

Discussion:

Independence Squares welcomes all to our inclusive square dance community. We are an LGBTQ+ organization. Language to this affect will be included in our print and electronic messages.

## Caller Liaison Report\*\*\* - Mike R.

The callers are set to go for the fall. Agreed Betsy will call MS & C1, Mark will call Plus & Advanced.

**Motion:** Tuesday night calling schedule will be option #1.  
Norma B. moved, Steve seconded, passed, one against.

Agreed:

No dancing on Nov. 23 or Dec. 28, 2021(unanimous). We will dance on Dec. 21, 2021 (4 yes/ 3 no). The last Tuesday night class will be May 24, 2022(unanimous).

## Communications Coordinator Report - Ted M.

Our website was updated. With the resumption of dancing we will have more events on our website. Send content to be added to the website to Ted M. Steve D. will send an email to the club's members announcing the Instagram account. It will encourage everyone to follow instagram and like our posts. Members are empowered to post to instagram and make events for Facebook. When members see facebook events they can support the club by clicking they are interested on the event. It raises the event in the feed thus more people will see it.

## MS/Plus Report - Bob R.

Bob R. will poll the MS graduates: Do they want to receive their diplomas in August or September?

## Financial Aid - Tim H.

Discussion:

We are reviewing the inadequacies of our current financial aid policy. Some members believe a totally new policy is needed.

## Fly-in Report - Bob R.

A confirmation email will be sent out giving notice that those people who have been having their registration carried over from previous years must use it at the 2022 Fly-in. No further carry overs.

## Announcements:

The storage locker needs to be reviewed.

## Adjournment

Bob R. moved, Ted M. seconded, unanimous.

## Attachments:

## **\*Return To Dancing Committee Committee Report August 2, 2021**

A follow up meeting of the Return to Dancing committee has not been held since the last Zoom meeting on July 12, 2021. This report was reviewed and commented upon by the committee members via email. The next RTD committee Zoom meeting will be held after the August 17, 2021 in-person dance, with the intention of discussing the effectiveness of the safety protocols of that event and any changes that might be needed.

### **Infection rate tracking update**

Updated tracking will be provided to the Board along with this report

### **Church update**

Ron had a conversation with Ian on Thursday, July 29, during which the follow items were discussed regarding the August 17 dance:

- Merz Hall will be setup for us ahead of time
- The built-in a/c units will be turned on ahead of time for us. We should turn on the cross-breeze fans that are in the corners (2 units)
- We need to turn the a/c units off when we leave. The right unit has a reset switch on the plug. The left unit has a normal on/off switch on the unit itself
- There might be some decorations in the hall, but they won't be in our way. We can move anything that we need to except for the alter and the keyboard
- I have to call him back on Tuesday with our start time (Norma already discussed this with him but he lost the information)
- When we leave, we are to prop open the door that leads to the hallway

### **Misc items to discuss with the Board**

- Who will bring the key to the church for each dance?
- Who will be responsible for purchasing and bringing the following items?
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Masks
  - Sanitizing materials (wipes, sprays)
  - Cups
  - Sharpie for dancers to mark their cups
  - Pens for signing health attestation/waivers
  - Donation jar
  - Health attestations/waivers to be signed at the door by each attendee
- Who will be responsible for wiping down common surfaces before and after each dance?
- Who will be responsible for checking photo ID and vaccination records at the front door? This person should also be responsible for creating a master list of checked ID and vax records. Two people might be needed in order to speed up entry
- How will dancers be encouraged to use hand sanitizer? Announcements by callers? By club officer? If by club officer, who will it be?
- Need permission to get back to Ian to confirm startup of every-Tuesday dancing on October 5, in the two halls that we normally use

- Need to reconfirm in-person dancing with the callers, as follows, and notify them of all safety protocols (Note: Mike has confirmed that he has already done this):
  - August 17, Betsy
  - Sept 14, both
  - Sept 21, Mark
  - Sept 28, Betsy
  - Oct 5 startup of regular programs
- Need to coordinate review schedule with callers for the August 17, and the three September dances (Note: Mike has confirmed that he has already done this)
- Which officers will be at the August 17 dance?
- Who will handle situations where attendees are failing to properly wear a mask? How will the situation be handled?
- Should there be a sign at the front door indicating that masks are to be worn at all times? If so, who will make and bring it/them? And if so, then someone needs to bring adhesive tape to attach to front door and/or other places.
- If there is not going to be another Board meeting before the September dances, then some of these issues need to be addressed for those dances as well.
- Website needs to be updated with our in-person schedule

### **Item for Ron's follow up**

- Re-confirm Oct 5 startup date with Ian
- Will the church still have the discount parking stamp available for us to use?

### **Pride update**

Cancelled. No updates at this time. Ron continues to monitor the situation and has asked Bob Rohde to help keep an eye on new updates.

## **\*\*Recruitment Committee Note**

The Recruitment Committee has not met since our last board meeting. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 4 via Zoom.

The Committee decided via email to call our series of promotional dances “Fun Dances”.

Steve received a signed copy of our contract with William Way including a specification for a 6 PM set up time and 10 PM break down time for our October 1 event. The \$200 has been paid.

Steve and Ted posted the following on Instagram.

Ron Smith has been given the same information to make a better version of a flyer.

At the Feb. 24, 2021 Board Meeting the board voted to describe our community as “LGTBQ+” or “LGBTQ and our allies” or “LGBTQ and our friends” where appropriate. In addition the board voted to mandate that all Independence Squares flyers and announcements will include the statement; “Independence Squares welcomes all to our inclusive square dance community.” Does the current board need to reaffirm this mandate?

Howard has been hired for the November 12 Fun Night which will take place in Merz Hall at the Lutheran Church.

### **\*\*\*Caller Liaison Report**

#### **Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – August 2021**

The information below is accurate as of Saturday, July 31, 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 July 31, 2021 through December 4, 2021.

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 – Mainstream/Plus – Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm In-person in Merz Hall at the Lutheran Church.

Friday, October 1, 2021 – Community Fun Night – Howard Richman 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm William Way Community Center. Details to be determined by Stephen Demos and the Recruitment committee.

Friday, November 12, 2021 – Community Fun Night – Howard Richman 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Merz Hall at the Lutheran Church. Details to be determined by Stephen Demos and the Recruitment committee.

Saturday, December 4, 2021 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Betsy Gotta 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Merion Meeting House.

##### **FYI Notes**

Mainstream and Plus in-person dancing is scheduled to resume on Tuesday nights in September 2021. Mainstream and Plus will alternate. Star tips may be offered for other programs depending on who shows up to dance. These dances/reviews will take place in Merz Hall at the Lutheran Church (the larger carpeted room).

- 1) The schedule for September 2021 is as follows:
  - a. September 14 – Betsy Gotta and Mark Franks jointly call a “Welcome Back” dance with all dancing taking place in one room.
  - b. September 21 – Mark Franks will be calling.
  - c. September 28 – Betsy Gotta will be calling.
  
- 2) October 5 is the scheduled date to begin dancing all four programs in the two rooms at the Lutheran Church. A schedule has been worked out and has been sent to the board along with this report so that it can be discussed at the August 2 board meeting. A decision as to who is calling which programs needs to be decided so that a

substitute caller can be hired for October 2021 as well as other dates in 2022. Betsy Gotta and Mark Franks will be the callers.

- 3) March 2022 Fly-In: Callers: Mike Kellogg, Chris Phillips, Kris Jensen 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 have been part of the talks with the Return to Dancing Committee and the Caller Liaison committee as to the resumption of dancing. Both callers have been notified of the safety protocols. Mike will reach out to each of them again before dancing commences
- 2) Ron Rumble has been in touch with the Lutheran Church, and they are ready for us to come back beginning in August. We will need to follow whatever safety protocols that the church puts in place as well as the ones put in place by the board. The callers have agreed to follow whatever protocols are required.
- 3) George Rizer has confirmed that the Merion Meeting House space has been reserved for the Glitter Ball in December 2021. Someone will need to take care of this responsibility when dancing resumes. Perhaps the board will assign this to the Facilities committee? 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.

Do we want to dance on the following Tuesday nights:

- 1) November 23, 2021 - This is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.
- 2) December 21, 2021 - This is the Tuesday before Christmas (Christmas Eve is Friday).
- 3) December 28, 2021 - This is the Tuesday between Christmas and New Years.

I would recommend not dancing any of them. The Tuesdays before the holidays are usually very sparsely attended as people are getting ready for the holidays or are already traveling. The Tuesday between the holidays has not been danced in many years.

Also, I am recommending that the final day of dancing for the 2021-2022 season be May 24, 2022. This is the Tuesday before Memorial Day.

I would like to have these addressed during tonight's board meeting and can be a part of my report and recommendations for dancing this fall. I am asking these questions now also so that the dates can be included

in the contracts for the callers that will be going out after tonight's meeting. The callers like to be aware of these dates so that they can adjust their schedules as well and are not surprised at the last minute.

## **Basic parameters for Tuesday scheduling:**

**To the best of our ability, provide equal amounts of dance time for each of the four programs Independence Squares currently supports (Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and C1).**

Rationale: For our December 2020 directory, dancers were asked to indicate their highest preferred dance program. The breakdown was as follows:

Mainstream: 12 dancers (17%)

Plus: 12 dancers (17%)

Advanced: 24 dancers (33%)

C1 and above: 24 dancers (33%)

Although over half of our dancers identify as dancing Advanced or above, we need to keep all of our dancers involved and active at their preferred levels in order to maintain their interest.

**Challenge and Advanced dancing should not be scheduled at the same time.**

Rationale: By keeping our Challenge dancers available to fill in Advanced tips if needed, we minimize the risk of not having full squares for Advanced. This is less of a concern for Plus since both Challenge and Advanced dancers could help fill those squares.

**Challenge will be called by Betsy.**

Rationale: Mark has indicated that he is less comfortable calling C1 on a regular basis, although he is willing to fill in when needed if given advanced notice to prepare.

Although not directly applicable now since Mark is new to us, it is good practice for future schedules to have programs that were taught by one caller be workshopped by a different caller in order to expose dancers to different calling styles.

**Start with MS to maximize dance time at that level.**

Rationale: With typical club nights running from 7:00 to 9:30, the callers are able to manage a maximum of nine 15-minute tips. If programs alternate, the first programs danced will have 5 tips per night compared to 4 tips for the programs they are alternating with. Historically we have always over-programmed the lower programs.

**Proposed Program by Caller**

**#1**

	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Betsy</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Room 1</b>	<b>Room2</b>
<b>7:00 - 7:15</b>	Adv	MS
<b>7:15 - 7:30</b>	Plus	C1
<b>7:30 - 7:45</b>	Adv	MS
<b>7:45 - 8:00</b>	Plus	C1
<b>8:00 - 8:15</b>	Announcements	
<b>8:15 - 8:30</b>	Adv	MS
<b>8:30 - 8:45</b>	Plus	C1
<b>8:45 - 9:00</b>	Adv	MS
<b>9:00 - 9:15</b>	Plus	C1
<b>9:15 - 9:30</b>	Adv	MS

**OR**

**#2**

	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Betsy</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>Room 1</b>	<b>Room2</b>
<b>7:00 - 7:15</b>	MS	C1
<b>7:15 - 7:30</b>	Adv	Plus
<b>7:30 - 7:45</b>	MS	C1
<b>7:45 - 8:00</b>	Adv	Plus
<b>8:00 - 8:15</b>	Announcements	
<b>8:15 - 8:30</b>	MS	C1
<b>8:30 - 8:45</b>	Adv	Plus
<b>8:45 - 9:00</b>	MS	C1
<b>9:00 - 9:15</b>	Adv	Plus
<b>9:15 - 9:30</b>	MS	C1