

Draft I S Board Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2021

Present: Norma B., Steve D., Chris D., Will H., Bob R., Ted M., Mike R., Linda B., George R., Tim H., Rebecca B.

This meeting was held via teleconference (Zoom).

Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2021

The minutes were approved as amended, unanimously. Moved Will H., seconded Steve D..

Between Meetings By Email

On October 18, an issue was brought up regarding a member had been allowed to attend a dance without our having a record of having seen proof of vaccination. By 10-20-21 all board members agreed with our policy that we will not allow this to reoccur.

We agreed to make our January 11 Independence Squares night a Mainstream/Plus Dance with Clay Goss.

Treasurer's Report - Chris D.

Motion: Treasurer's report be accepted as amended.

Norma B. moved, Steve D. seconded, passed unanimously.

Room Mertz Hall

Discussion:

There is a cross in Mertz Hall. Some are offended by having the cross prominently displayed. Some are not offended by this type of inanimate object. The fact that we can dance in the space that we have paid for is to be celebrated. We have had a good relationship with the church over the years. The red light at the cross does not have to be on.

Motion: When we use Mertz Hall we do not turn the red light on and we leave the cross as it is.

Will H. moved, Chris D. seconded, passed one abstention.

Dance Programs attendance & hours

Discussion:

On Tuesday nights the last 1/2 hour has been poorly attended for years. The SEPTA schedule has been reduced.

Motion: We will end Tuesday evenings at 9:15 thru the end of the year. We will reassess after that.

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

Caller Liaison Report* - Mike R.

We will have Mark as the sole caller for January 11. We will not dance on April 12, 2022 as most callers will be at caller Lab. We will go forward with hiring Dale H. for the Glitter ball 22.

Communication - Ted M

We will only list neighbor clubs' events on our website. The IAGSDC website can do a better job of keeping other clubs' announcements updated than we can.

Our information on the "Where's the Dance" website is out of date. We are looking to have it deleted and start over with simple directions to our website.

Retention Committee - Steve D,

The committee has stopped meeting. The class reps are sending inquiries to members who have stopped dancing asking "Why?"

Recruitment Committee ** - Steve D.

Discussion:

We are a square dance club. The Fun Dance nights are to have a variety of easy dances to encourage non-square dancers to attend and get to know us. Howard is one of the few callers we know that can lead a variety of easy dances. We need to seek out more callers that can call a variety of dances.

We will return the part of the check from AJH that we are not using as they designated.

We will explore holding both January & March Fun Dances.

MS/Plus Rep Report - Bob R.

The MS & Plus dancers who have come at least once have been messaged. Those responding indicated they very much enjoyed it.

We are continuing, through December, the current program. In December we will reevaluate.

Return to Dancing*** - Ron R.

Report presented.

Pride**** - Ron R.

Report presented.

A/C Rep Report***** - Ron R.

Report presented.

Fly In - Mary Kay R.

There has been no feedback regarding the mandatory face mask policy. The board will need to review the situation in December possibly January.

Old business:

The storage locker search continues.

Ron R. submitted the following proposal which was not acted upon.

...we consider a policy whereby anyone who forgets their vaccination record when coming to their first IS event will be refused entrance but will be given a goodwill gesture of free admittance to the next Tuesday workshop that they attend? This might take some of the sting out of the situation.

New Business:

Ron R. submitted the following concern which was not acted upon.

...the low attendance at our events since we started dancing in person again. My concern has to do with the fact that we have lost money at every single one. I know that we have enough money in the bank to cover these losses, but it is worrisome to me that we are losing money so consistently. I'm not advocating any specific action to be taken at the present time but would suggest that we discuss this again after the Glitter Ball when we see how successful that event is or isn't. And we can get a feeling of whether or not the Glitter Ball stokes some interest in club members who haven't been attending our weekly workshops.

Adjournment:

Bob R. moved, Chris D. seconded, unanimous.

Attachments:

***Caller Liaison Report**

Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – November 2021

The information below is accurate as of Wednesday, November 3, 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 March 2023

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place October 3, 2021 through March 2023.

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 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm The Merion Meeting House.

March 2022 Fly-In: Callers: Mike Kellogg, Chris Phillips, Kris Jensen March 25-27, 2022

March 2023 Fly-In: Callers: Sandie Bryant, Dayle Hodge, Eric Henerlau March 24-26, 2023

FYI Notes

Dancing in all four programs on Tuesday nights began on October 12, 2021. Betsy Gotta is calling Mainstream and C1, while Mark Franks is calling Plus and Advanced.

Items of Concern for the Caller Liaison

- 1) Feedback has been received from both Betsy and Mark and here is a summary of their observations and concerns: Other than Mainstream, all of the programs have trouble attracting more than one square on a regular basis, especially after 9:00 pm. C1 has yet to attract a full square, so as Betsy has reviewed all possible calls for 2-couple squares, she is writing out choreography for 2-couple squares at C1. Mark was a bit distressed at people leaving at 9:00 and thought it was him. I reassured him that this was an ongoing problem for many years, not just this year or was due to him. Mike will continue all communications with them on any new items that have an effect on the status of the club and the programs that they have been contracted to call.
- 2) We are currently looking for a caller to fill in for January 11, 2022, when Betsy is unavailable. Mark will gladly fill in for Betsy that evening, so we are looking for a caller at the Plus and Advanced programs.
- 3) Both Mark and Betsy are unavailable on April 12, 2022 as they will be at CallerLab as it is meeting in Pittsburgh in 2022. The committee is recommending the cancellation of classes that

evening as any local callers who meet our calling standards will be at the CallerLab meeting as well.

****Recruitment Committee**

The Recruitment Committee met on October 14 and October 28, 2021.

The November 12 Fun Dance will be at the Lutheran Church in Mertz Hall.

1. We will probably set up the Red Cross Room for socializing. We will decorate Mertz Hall as we did for the October 1 dance. We will distribute leis again. We will reorient the room so that the caller is at the other end of the room from where Betsy calls. We will ask Mike and Linda to communicate some directives to Howard.

Mike and Linda,

Would you please communicate to Howard how much we enjoyed dancing under his direction on October 1? We look forward to dancing with him again on November 12 and hopefully many more times as we continue our Fun Dance series.

Would you please ask Howard to include three easy non-square dances in the program? Last time he taught us a line dance, which we think was too challenging for this crowd, and a barn dance which was awesome. Some of us on the committee think it would be helpful to mention the Cupid Shuffle as an example of an easy, fun dance. Others of us think that suggestion is overstepping. We'll leave it up to you two to decide whether you think that example is helpful or not.

Howard's challenge will be to maintain the excitement of the first dance without it being just a do over. As one of the participants at a recent planning meeting said, "We have only seen the tip of the iceberg of Howard's talents."

Hugs,
Steve (for the board)

Chris set up a Mail Chimp account for Fun Dance Attendees.

1. Reminders were sent out to that list about the November 12 Fun Dance. We sent a four week out email and a two week out email.

We would like to have Fun Dances in January and March of 2022.

1. We would like to get Howard again for the January Fun Dance at least.
2. Steve and some others would like to use a different location other than the Lutheran Church.

We are thinking about the idea of having a dedicated Fun Dance Committee separate from the Recruitment Committee.

We received the \$1000 check from IAGSDC.

The following letter came with the check. It incorrectly assumes that we will rent from the Community Center on November 12.

*****Return To Dancing Committee**

We have not had a formal meeting recently since it has been my feeling that a meeting wasn't required at the present time. We fulfilled our responsibility of getting the club back to dancing in a relatively safe environment and, with the transmission rates at a somewhat level place, I felt that we could put our meetings on hold for the time being. I would like to have the committee meet again before the December board meeting to reassess things and make sure that the committee members are still onboard with our weekly dancing and with our current protocols. I have been disappointed by the failure of our COVID numbers to drop in any large measure. The good news is that the numbers are stable and aren't going up. But I am uneasy with the fact that the numbers haven't been going down in any significant way. I continue to discuss the situation with Joe Iser and he has expressed the same concern and encourages us to continue with our current safety measures if we are to continue dancing right now.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron R

******Pride**

There is a new entity that will be taking over the Philly Pride event. Their website is [PHL Pride Collective | Philly Pride Reimagined](#). I'm having trouble opening that link at the moment, but if you do a Google search for "PHL Pride Collective" you should be able to find the website. I am uncomfortable with their statement regarding the police, which states "We will not communicate, collaborate, or coordinate with the police". I understand their anger toward the hostility that the police have had in the past toward queer individuals, but I feel that there are better ways of resolving this important issue. Not allowing the police to attend the event is, in my mind, a potential public safety risk. I will likely not support our club's attendance at Pride if this group maintains their current position regarding the police.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron R

*****Advanced and Challenge Programs

I reached out to most of the Advanced and Challenge dancers via email prior to our first dance in September, inviting them to come and join us. I especially implored the Challenge dancers to attend, since I knew that their numbers would be low. Mike, I didn't send any of these emails to you and Tim, since I already knew of your reluctance to dance in person at this time and opted not to clutter your inbox with emails that weren't relevant. After seeing how few Challenge dancers we have had at each of our workshops, I sent another email to them prior to this week's dance. I reminded them of our safety protocols but assured them that we were respectful of their decision to stay home if they were uncomfortable. I also asked that they discuss with me any other issues that they had that might be keeping them from attending the workshops. I received the following replies:

Casey B. She's away in Florida but plans to return around Thanksgiving and looks forward to dancing with us upon her return

Elaine & Ed W. She said that she will not dance with a face mask

Patrice H. She has no transportation because Casey is away, but also stated that she won't dance with a face mask and feels that it is not our business to know whether she is vaccinated or not

In the case of Elaine & Ed, and Patrice, I replied, thanking them for their responses and saying that we respect their concerns. I told them that we look forward to having them join us again when we can relax our protocols. I also told Patrice that I was willing to give her a ride to the workshops until I learned that she lives in Delaware, which is too far out of my way. She very much appreciated the offer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron R