

**Independence Squares
Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2022**

Attendees: Steve Demos, Drew Allen, Chris Deephouse, Vinney Finlay, Ron Rumble, Dave Tavani

Absent: Coco Wiedmer-Symer and John Symer

Guests: Norma B., Ellen Y., Will H., George R., Eileen D., Dick M., Betsy G., Ed G., Mike R., Tim H., Deb C.

Meeting Start: approx. 8:11 PM Eastern

Note: *a meeting was called by Steve Demos (President), held immediately after the June 7, 2022 Annual Meeting to discuss Summer Fun Dances.*

Steve Demos welcomed the new Board and thanked them for stepping up to the plate. He has 3 requests of new members (applicable to all members):

1. Read, understand, and follow the IS by-laws
2. Attend meetings
3. Respond in timely manner to correspondence between meetings when input is sought

Fun Dance Discussion

Steve – stated he’s comfortable having a Fun Dance in July (preferably the 29th or 30th) with current COVID numbers and feels reassured that our stringent safety protocols would make transmission unlikely. He feels other activities where folks don’t wear masks are more likely to transmit COVID than our Fun Dances. He would like to hire Zip again as caller.

Ron – stated that COVID numbers are plateauing and going down, with fewer hospitalizations and deaths. Vaccinations and protocols are working and there’ve been no reported incidents of transmission at OUR events. Ron’s conversation with Joe Iser (Medical consultant) reassured him that a July Fun Dance should be safe. His only concern is that we need to hold the venue at a place that is sufficiently air conditioned.

Vinney – expressed concern about the heat, too, but is also concerned about the COVID numbers, if Fun Dance is held in early July. He mentioned that, historically, COVID numbers increased significantly after the July 4th holiday.

Tim – also expressed concern about COVID numbers, nothing that, without hospitalization data, it’s hard to have a complete picture. He noted our current meeting space is hot in the summer, which indicates poor air circulation/quality. If the Board moves forward with a Summer Fun Dance, he said we need to accept the risks.

Chris – stated he’s very confident that our protocols are sufficient to keep everyone safe. He wants to keep dancing. He gave recent examples of people he came in close contact with who did not get COVID, even though they were in close contact - and even danced with - someone who had an active COVID infection. His belief is that the masks protected against the transmission.

George – enjoys the Fun Dances and wants to see them continue. In terms of recruitment motive: is it better that it’s summer and people are looking for activities?

Dave T – feels that, if we are using the Fun Dances as a recruitment tool, then we need to do them during the summer months (July, Aug, Sep), before our September classes start. He suggested potentially holding 2 Fun Dances.

Deb C – asked about hosting a dance outside. Steve responded that it is a good idea and maybe something to consider in the future, but logistically we don't have time to coordinate all that would be needed to make it happen. Deb also asked about holding at the Ethical Society, but Steve mentioned that - even though the space is good and nicely air conditioned - that there may be a problem with accessing the room for those with physical handicaps. Deb then suggested William Way, but Steve raised concerns about the room price.

Will H – stated he's fiscally frugal, but feels that if we're going to hold Summer dances, it's worth the investment to find an air conditioned space. He believes that dancers are more likely to want to come back if the temperature was comfortable.

Eileen – agrees with Will re: air conditioned space, but she also feels we should wait until the end of July/early August, since early July is too close to the holiday. This will give us time to judge the COVID numbers.

Norma – suggested Steve look at the church across the street from our current meeting space. It's more expensive, but the rooms are larger and better air conditioned. Others agreed that we should look into it.

Mike – all for new recruitment efforts but he is opposed to holding a Fun Dance too close to the July 4th holiday, especially with the COVID numbers where they are now. He feels more comfortable holding a dance in August. He also wanted to address an email that went out from Club President, that he isn't trying to avoid hiring a caller, but wants to wait until the Board gives the green light to hold a dance. He will reach out to Zip.

Motion

The new Board of IS affirms our desire to have a Fun Dance in an air conditioned space at the end of July - preferably the 29th or 30th - with Zip as caller. The Board will revisit this decision if COVID numbers go up significantly.

Ron seconded.

In favor: 6. (John and Coco not available to vote)

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Closing:

Will – what about open houses, leading into the September classes?

Steve – open houses should probably be held on Tuesdays and are not a replacement for the Fun Dances.

Betsy (club caller) – expressed she would like to know now when and how many open houses we are planning before mainstream classes begin so that she can plan accordingly.

Meeting adjourned 9:47 PM Eastern (approx.).

Respectfully Submitted,
Vincent Finlay (Independence Squares, Secretary)