

**Independence Squares Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 26, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**Start:** 7:00PM Eastern (approx.)

**Present:** Steve, Vinney, Will, Ron, Eileen, Mary Kay, Bob, Coco, John, Drew, Deb C., Linda, Thom Dang (Guest)

**Absent:** Dave T. and Chris

**Secretary's Report**

Annual meeting: Will revised the annual meeting minutes, based on Member feedback. MOTION (by Steve/Ron Seconded): Upload the June 2022 Annual meeting minutes to the website, which will then be presented at the June 2023 Annual meeting for approval. **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

June 2022 board meeting: Vinney revised the June 21, 2022 minutes, based on feedback from members. MOTION (by Steve/Coco seconded). Approve the minutes for the June 21, 2022 board meeting? **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

Google Groups – Board discussed if we should continue using Google Groups for storing board meeting material (e.g., minutes, committee reports, agenda, etc.)? Yes, all members on call were fine. A member not on call is not completely comfortable with Google drive.

IS Google Phone Number – do we need to keep? All members agreed we don't need it.

**Treasurer's Report**

Members reviewed treasurer's report (treasurer not in attendance). Appreciation was conveyed about tweak to report. Fund balances have increased since the beginning of the year. Member questioned the PO box and storage rental fees to see if we still need them. If not, we can save costs. Members agreed we should keep both. MOTION (by Steve, seconded by Vinney): Accept the treasurer's report? **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

**Fly-In Report**

No report, just discussion. It was announced that we now have a contract and a new hotel for the 2023 Fly-in: Sheraton of Bucks' County, Langhorne. Members discussed the benefits of having it at new location, such as the facilities beauty, the helpful hotel staff, amenities and access to many local restaurants. It was noted that we need to update the flyers to remove the Exton hotel.

**Return to Dance Committee**

No report, but we had a discussion. For the time being, we will continue to monitor current COVID trends and keep our current protocols in place. Although trends show increasing COVID numbers, we also don't want to stop dancing. For the time being, none of the scheduled dances will be cancelled. We will continue to carefully consider the advice from our infectious disease contact, Joe Iser. One member brought up that there is an Omicron-specific vaccine in the making and that, when it becomes available, the club should consider adding that as a required vaccination. It was also discussed that the current Chair of the RTD committee is stepping down and a replacement will be sought. Since nobody had volunteered to resume the position of Chair of RTD, Vinney agreed to send out an email seeking interested members. It was suggested that Ron create instructions on how to put together his weekly COVID trends report and Ron agreed he would. Motion (by Steve; Seconded by Ron): IS tries to recruit a Chair for the RTD committee. Vinney will send out recruitment letter. If we find a chair by the next board meeting, we will rely on them to continue the work of the former Chair. If we do not recruit a Chair by the next Board meeting, we will return to the discussion about replacing the Chair at the August meeting. **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

### **Caller Liaison Report – Mike (not on call)**

Steve requested that, in addition to Mike's minutes, to add that we will not be dancing the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (10/22/22) and the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year (12/27/22). Also, Mark Franks will not be able to call on 10/4/22 and a replacement is unlikely. Mike had sent out contracts to the 2024 callers, and we are still waiting for one 2023 caller to return their signed contract. It was discussed that more attempts will be made to get the caller to sign the contract. It was mentioned that we may want to consider something like Docusign to make signing easier for our callers.

### **Recruitment Committee Report**

No report, but the group discussed upcoming Open Houses, the August 13<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup> dances, Cherry Hill Pride, and a possible radio plug. Members agreed that \$5 for all dancers who attend the open houses. Steve needs help getting the word out for the open houses and not many people have stepped up. Members discussed bringing adverts to various places or events. Help will be needed setting up for the July 29 fun dance. Steve will also need help with the August 13<sup>th</sup> dance (Steve, Mary Kay, and Bob are available to set up). Steve asked if we could have someone serve as his back-up, in the event he can't make it to set things up. Eileen and Melissa will serve as back-up. It was discussed that we need to chat with DC Lambda to merge our safety protocols. Regarding Cherry Hill Pride, Vinney and George coordinating. However, we were warned that we need to be careful of playing music by someone who is not part ASCAP and BMI. Ron stated that he will turn the music on/off, since he is licensed.

### **Publicity Chair Report**

Ron started the discussion that he will monitor the IS Gmail account regularly and clean it out to make sure we're not missing anything. Ron has also been cleaning up the website and it looks good. Steve discussed his thoughts that we should purchase an ad (he created and will edit) to be placed in the Federation newsletter, which will hopefully attract members from neighboring clubs. MOTION (by Steve, seconded by Ron): Place ad in Federation newsletter with IS club offerings, with an approved budget of \$50. **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0**

### **Mainstream & Plus Report**

No report, but John and Coco have been working on an outreach letter that would go out to the neighboring clubs. Steve will send the names of possible plus members to attend the August 13<sup>th</sup> dance as well as the upcoming fall classes.

### **Advanced & Challenge Report**

No report and Dave not at the meeting. No further discussion.

### **IS Storage Unit and Club Inventory**

Steve, Mary Kay, and Bob cleaned out the church closet of our stored inventory. We discussed the possibility of removing our inventory at the Yardley, PA storage site and instead keeping it at the church, if they have the space.

### **Old & New Business**

Steve will appoint a committee to investigate dancing in the summer of 2023 and suggested he will ask Leda to be on it. He also asked Drew, who said he'd be on the committee if Leda is chair. Steve will continue to seek recruits. Vinney agreed to send out an email looking for recruits for the summer of 2023 committee. President spoke of the success of the Phillie's Pride Night and hopes that we will do again in the future. Also discussed was an agreement that George Rizer's church will allow us to dance there for free. It was brought up that we need to discuss the October dance in more detail. In addition to our Tuesday club nights, president suggested we have about 5 or 6 dances a year including the fly-in and the Glitter Ball. Linda will look into the possibility of having a dance in February.

President made a motion to adjourn (John seconded): **Yes: 5. No: 0. Abstain: 0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:53PM Eastern (approx.).

Respectfully submitted,  
Vincent Finlay, Secretary

Agenda for the Independence Squares Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022.

Secretary's Report – Will and Vinney

Two sets of minutes

Procedures for using the Independence Squares Google Drive for documents for board meetings and as a repository for board meeting minutes.

Ron and Steve removed the mention of an Independence Squares telephone number from the website.

Treasurer's Report – Chris will not be at the meeting but he did send a report.

Fly-In Report – Vinney and Ron

Return to Dance Committee – No report

We will have a discussion about Covid protocols and the future of the Return to Dance Committee.

Caller Liaison Report – Mike (Mike may or may not be at the meeting but he did send a report.)

Logistics for August 13 Dance (Steve)

Recruitment Committee Report – Steve

Discussion of Open Houses and July 29 Fun Dance

Publicity Chair Report – Ron

Proposal to buy an ad in the Federation newsletter (Steve).

Mainstream & Plus Report – Coco and John

Advanced & Challenge Report – Dave will not be at the meeting

Storage Unit and Club Inventory Report – Steve and Ron

Old & New Business

Steve has not yet appointed a committee to investigate dancing in the summer of 2023.

Adjourn

# Independence Squares Publicity Chair Report July 26, 2022

Worked with DC Lambda Squares to put together a flyer for our joint dance in August (Summer Splash).

Working on continuing to get comfortable with updating the website.

Website updates completed:

- Fixing or eliminating links that didn't work
- Updating some wording on the website
- Created postings for the following (some created by Ron, some by Steve):
  - Summer Splash
  - July Fun Dance
  - August and September Open Houses
  - September classes
- Updated expense voucher to new online form

Google Groups. Several emails have been approved and released to the membership.

Hotmail account. The hundreds of old emails have been cleaned up. The account is now monitored on an almost daily basis.

Other areas that Steve has updated include the Philly Fun Calendar website, Instagram, and MeetUp.

# Independence Squares Communications Director Report July 26, 2022

Worked with DC Lambda Squares to put together a flyer for our joint dance in August (Summer Splash).

Working on continuing to get comfortable with updating the website.

Website updates completed:

- Fixing or eliminating links that didn't work
- Updating some wording on the website
- Created postings for the following (some created by Ron, some by Steve):
  - Summer Splash
  - July Fun Dance
  - August and September Open Houses
  - September classes
- Updated expense voucher to new online form

Google Groups. Several emails have been approved and released to the membership.

Hotmail account. The hundreds of old emails have been cleaned up. The account is now monitored on an almost daily basis.

Other areas that Steve has updated include the Philly Fun Calendar website, Instagram, and MeetUp.

## Caller Liaison Report

### Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – July 2022

The information below is accurate as of Monday, July 25, 2022, 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/Notes 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.

#### Dances Through April 2024

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place July 2022 through April 2024.

Friday, July 29, 2022 Fun Dance Howard Richman 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm William Way Center

Saturday, August 13, 2022 – All-level dance Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek in Newark, Delaware Joint Dance with DC Lambda Squares

Saturday, October 8, 2022 – Double Header with Betsy Gotta

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm Mainstream and Plus

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Dinner Break – Nothing formalized. Social hour.

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Advanced through C1. Possible C2 star tip.

Saturday, December 3, 2022 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
The Merion Meeting House

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

Saturday, December 2, 2023 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Betsy Gotta 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Merion Meeting House (Meeting House needs to be confirmed but probably not until later this year.)

April 2024 Fly-In: Callers: Darren Gallina, Betsy Gotta, Bill Harrison April 5-7, 2024

#### Open Houses and Classes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022 Open House for New Mainstream Mark Franks 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, August 30, 2022 Open House for New Mainstream Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 Start of Fall Session 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Mainstream and C1 Class with Betsy Gotta

Plus Class and Advanced Workshop with Mark Franks

## **FYI Notes**

The August 13, 2022 dance was arranged by Independence Squares. Co-sponsorship has been confirmed with the DC Lambda Squares. They are sending a check to Chris Deephouse for their share of the expenses (caller and rental). All proceeds collected at the dance (door charge and 50/50) should be divided equally at that time and passed on to a member of the DC Lambda Squares board, most likely Lisa but not necessarily so.

## **Items of Concern for the Caller Liaison**

- 1) Based on the safety protocols that are now in place (proof of vaccination has been extended to require a booster when eligible), each caller is notified of this when they are hired.
- 2) The callers have been contracted for the fall and have been notified of the teaching schedule. Betsy Gotta will be doing a Mainstream class and a C1 class. Mark Franks will be doing a Plus class and an Advanced workshop. As noted in an earlier email to the board, Betsy requested a return to the 9:30 pm ending time to provide sufficient time for the Mainstream class. This was approved by the board at the last meeting.
- 3) Mark Franks will be unavailable on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 for the Plus class and the Advanced workshop. The committee has thus far been unable to find a replacement for Mark for the evening due to many factors, the most important of which is a caller able to call both Plus and Advanced. The committee is recommending not having a Plus class and Advanced workshop that evening if we are unable to locate a caller who is available that evening. This should not place an undue burden on the participants as the Plus class is of a shorter duration than other classes and the Advanced workshop has no set schedule. We will continue to look for a caller, so if you have any ideas, please let us know.
- 4) As to contracts for the 2022-2023 classes, the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week and the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year's will be dark with no classes being held those weeks. This is in keeping with the practices of previous years.