

## **Minutes from the Independence Squares Board Meeting Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**Board Members in Attendance:** David B., Ron, Peg, Sarah, Steve, Vinney

**Board Members Absent:** Scot

**Non-Board Members in Attendance:** Linda, Mike, Tim

### Secretary's Report – Sarah

**Steve made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 17 Board meeting. Vinney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Ron and Sarah will discuss putting together the document that PNC requested from Ron.

### Treasurer's Report – Ron

The Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes. Ron went over his report. He mentioned that the signers on the Live Oak Bank have been updated, and he is still working with PNC to get the signers changed. Steve presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee that our prepayment periods for Tuesday nights should last 11 weeks each, and the Board agreed to it. Ron made a proposal that we move our checking account away from PNC and to another bank. David B. and Vinney asked about the potential loss in interest if we move the account to another bank that has a higher minimum balance requirement and if anything could be done to mitigate that. Ron said he would do more research. David B. and Steve volunteered to take on some of the research.

**Steve made a motion for the Board to release its power to make the decision about the checking account to the Finance Committee. Ron seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### Caller Liaison Report – Mike

The Caller Liaison Report is attached to these minutes. Mike gave the report. David B. asked if he could post the dates for the dances on the web, and Mike said he could. Mike recommended, like last year, that the club not look for substitute callers on days when Mark or Betsy can't teach class. Vinney asked if class fees should be prorated for dancers who prepaid on days when Mark or Betsy couldn't teach. Linda gave her proposal that we look within the club for potential callers and pay for their CallerLab membership. She stated that the club used to pay for callers' development but has not done so recently. She proposed that the club pay for Drew's membership in CallerLab so that he would be available as a substitute caller on Tuesday nights. Drew indicated to her that he was open to it. The cost is somewhere between \$100 and \$135. David B. asked if there was a way for the club to be the license-holder, to which the answer was no. Ron asked for more specific limits on what the club would pay. Linda said she would write a more detailed proposal.

**Steve made a motion to accept the Caller Liaison's proposal to not hire substitutes for Mark and Betsy and to cancel class when they are both gone. Ron seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

The first date when Mark and Betsy are both unavailable is after the first pre-pay session. Mike said that he contacted Mark and Betsy about classes in 2025, and they are both available to teach. The first possible date would be September 23, 2025, but this needs to be discussed further at another time, possibly in January.

*Fly-In Report – Ron*

There is no written report. Ron gave updates verbally. He said that Steve and Marika have begun putting together the dance program and hope to have a shell schedule to present in September. Tim and Linda are advising. Mike said he will reach out to callers with their questions in the next week.

*Communications Coordinator Report – David B.*

David B. sent emails to DC Lambda Squares' listserv and Chesapeake Squares' email list about dinner after the Summer Splash. The website is up to date. Steve reported that our followers on Instagram have grown from 20 to over 300 thanks to the publicity from the *Inquirer* and Arin and Marika's work. The Recruitment Committee will try to encourage people that they meet at events to follow the club on Instagram.

*Mainstream and Plus Report – Vinney*

Vinney did not give a report.

*Advanced/Challenge Report – Peg*

Peg did not give a report.

*Recruitment Committee Report – Steve*

Steve discussed the report, which is attached to these minutes. The committee recommends that we not participate in the pride parade at OurFest on October 5, because anyone who expresses interest in joining the Mainstream Class at OurFest would not be able to do so until the next year. Mike asked if we could have a table if we don't participate in the parade, and Steve said that there isn't any information about tables on the OurFest website. David B. asked to discuss if the September 10 Open House should go ahead as planned, as it will be the day of the presidential debate, and the debate is in Philadelphia. There was concern about whether Betsy and the attendees would be able to make it into Center City with the traffic from the debate. Steve argued against canceling the event.

**David B. made a motion to cancel the Open House on September 10. Ron seconded. The motion passed with five votes in favor, one vote opposed.**

There was a discussion about whether the event can be moved to September 17. Mike will cancel with Betsy and ask if callers are available. Steve will cancel with the church and check if there is space available. David will update the online ads. Steve described other events the Recruitment Committee is going to in September.

#### *Health and Safety Protocols Report – Linda*

The HASP Committee proposes that Independence Squares continue the current COVID protocols into the fall of 2024. In summary:

- Recommend the use of, and provide, face masks
- Recommend the use of, and provide, hand sanitizer
- Encourage hand washing
- Provide HEPA air filter air purifiers in the classrooms
- Encourage vaccinations, as appropriate for each individual
- Stay away from class if one is ill and follow the guidelines on the STOP sign
- The HASP Committee recommends against requiring face masks at the summer 2024 open houses and at the August Summer Splash dance and at fall 2024 classes.

The Board agreed to continue the current policy without a vote.

Linda spoke about her concern about the air conditioning at the church where the Summer Splash will be held. She believed we should not continue dancing there if they did not provide adequate air conditioning. Steve responded that if the church does not do so this year, we will ask for our money back and not continue to do business with them. The church assured Steve they can remotely set the air conditioning to the desired temperature at 10 am. There was a discussion about potential problems with the air conditioning, and Steve said he would discuss this with his contact at the church.

#### *Old Business and New Business*

Linda spoke about her proposal that we create a Facilities Committee that would be responsible for finding spaces to dance in, communicating with the managers of those spaces, opening and closing spaces, keeping track of fees, and other tasks. The club by-laws require us to have a Facilities Committee. It was agreed that this was a good idea. There was a discussion about who should be part of the committee. The committee members themselves will decide what the committee's duties should be and who the chair should be. David B. will email the entire club asking for volunteers.

Peg gave an update about the proposals for new tee shirt designs. She will send out a poll after the deadline on August 30. Mike will put together information about what the subsidy was in the past, and we will discuss the subsidy at a later date.

Steve gave updates about Summer Splash 2024 and 2025. The Board of Chesapeake Squares discussed the possibility of hiring Dale for Summer Splash 2025 and also asking Cameron, a newer caller, to come. Multiple people spoke in favor of letting Chesapeake Squares make the decision. Mark H. and Steve viewed a potential location in Abingdon. No date has been set. Steve will ask Chesapeake Squares to make a detailed proposal for the caller and the location.

Arin made a suggestion via email that Independence Squares formalize the options that we offer for financial assistance and to put some information about it on the website. Steve suggested the Finance Committee discuss this separately. Tim asked to also be involved. They will discuss the suggestion and give their recommendation to the Board.

At this point, Linda, Mike, and Tim left.

This is the second Board meeting at which Scot has been absent, and Scot has not been in contact with any Board members. Ron has made multiple attempts to contact him by phone and by email. Steve sent him an email to let him know that people were concerned for his wellbeing and that the Board would have to assume that he resigned if he did not come to the next meeting and did not say when he would resume his duties. Scot did not respond. The Board agreed that the by-laws state that he should be considered to have resigned from the Board. The by-laws do not state that the President-Elect will automatically become the President in this situation. David B. told the Board that he was willing to take the position of President through June, leaving Steve the President-Elect this year and the President next year. David B. suggested asking Arin or Marika if they would take his role as Communications Coordinator, either separately or as co-Officers. Everyone supported the proposal.

**Steve made a motion that Independence Squares appoint David B. to be the President. Ron seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Steve will ask Arin and Marika if they will accept, separately or together, the position of Communications Officer. Steve suggested Chris as an alternative. David B. will email the club to announce that Scot has resigned, without giving a reason, and that David B. has been appointed President. He will send a draft to the Board for their input.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:12 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Paulos  
Secretary, Independence Squares

# Independence Squares Treasurer's Report

## August 21, 2024

July's month-end accounting reports were sent to the board of directors on August 12, 2024. Copies of the balance sheet and profit-and-loss spreadsheet are included with this report.

Along with the link to the above referenced reports, the following two notes were provided to the board on July 2:

- "Other income" received of \$60.00 represents reimbursement made to IS for badges that we ordered for existing club members who requested new badges.
- "Misc expenses" increased in July by \$33.00 due to the cost of a stop payment on a check that was issued to the IAGSDC. This was a donation from the banner dance at the Fly-In. The IAGSDC lost the check, and we had to reissue it.
- Our club membership increased by one unit when Mitch B paid dues at our Open House.

As reported at the June meeting, Ron & Vinney will not be in attendance at the August 24 Summer Splash. Steve has offered to handle the Treasurer's responsibilities and aid has been offered by both Chesapeake Squares and DC Lambda Squares. Chesapeake Squares has sent us a membership roster (which Ron forwarded to Steve) and DC Lambda Squares has promised to bring one to the dance. The rent for the venue is prepaid and a check for the caller fee has been given to Steve.

The Finance Committee has been established to include Ron, Steve, Peg, and Dave B. The signers have been updated on our Live Oak Bank accounts and access has been granted to these individuals to the PayPal account. Ron continues to work to get the PNC Bank account updated and anticipates having this done by the September board meeting.

Two new Certificates of Deposit were authorized by the Finance Committee. These were opened at Live Oak Bank on 8/13/24 and include a \$15,000 six-month CD and a \$10,000 nine-month CD. At maturity, the balances of these accounts are set to transfer back to the Live Oak Bank Savings account.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron R, Independence Squares' Treasurer

## Caller Liaison Report

### Independence Squares Board of Directors Meeting – August 21, 2024

The information below is accurate as of Monday, August 19, 2024, 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 2026

Callers have been contracted and confirmed for the following dances taking place April 2024 through March 2026.

Saturday, August 24, 2024 – Summer Splash All-level dance Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek – Joint Dance with DC Lambda Squares and Chesapeake Squares

Saturday, October 19, 2024 – Mainstream and Plus with Advanced Star Tip Dan Koft 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, December 7, 2024 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Dayle Hodge – Merion Friends Meeting House 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Saturday, January 4, 2025 – Advanced and C1 Mark Franks 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Saturday, February 15, 2025 – Mainstream and Plus Kent Forrester 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, March 15, 2025 – Advanced and C1 Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

April 2025 Fly-in: Callers: Jeremy Butler, Vic Ceder, Don Moger April 4-6, 2025 Sheraton Bucks County

Saturday, April 19, 2025 – 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm Mainstream and Plus; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner (Social?); 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm Advanced and C1 Dayle Hodge

Saturday, May 31, 2025 – Mainstream and Plus with Advanced Star Tip Wheel Around NJ II Dan Koft 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm People Care Center, Bridgewater, NJ Joint dance with Times Squares

Saturday, June 7, 2025 – Mainstream and Plus Pride Dance Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, October 11, 2025 - 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm Mainstream and Plus; 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner (Social?); 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm Advanced and C1 John Hawley

Saturday, December 6, 2025 – Glitter Ball Mainstream through C1 – Mark Franks – Merion Friends Meeting House 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

March 2026 Fly-in: Callers: Sandie Bryant, Ted Lizotte, Chris Phillips March 13-15, 2026 Sheraton Bucks County

#### Open Houses and Classes

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 – Open House Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 – Open House Betsy Gotta 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

## FYI Notes

- 1) Discussions were held with the callers and members of the Caller Liaison Committee and then with the board at a previous meeting and the following recommendations were made and approved for classes beginning in September 2024.
  - A) Classes will begin on September 24, 2024, two weeks after the last Open House as the callers are unavailable until that date due to existing travel plans.
  - B) Betsy will call the Mainstream class and a C1 workshop. There are insufficient numbers of dancers to begin a new C1 class.
  - C) Mark will call a Mainstream workshop and an Advanced workshop. The Mainstream workshop will provide the newly graduated Mainstream class members an opportunity to hone their skills. The Advanced workshop will provide the newly graduated Advanced dancers an opportunity to hone their skills as well.
  - D) In January 2025, the Mainstream workshop will become a Plus class if there is sufficient interest to do so. If not, the Mainstream workshop would continue. Mark Franks has brought up the idea of starting the Plus class in December as there is then the possibility of the dancers having completed the Plus program prior to the fly-in.
- 2) Saturday, August 2025 Summer Splash – Details to be worked out by which club?
- 3) Similar to last year, after some feedback, we are recommending not hiring another caller on nights when only one of the callers is out that evening. The programs to be called those nights would be the Mainstream class and the Advanced workshop. Mark recommended this combination be taught as the Advanced class had no real chance to work on honing their skills last year as the Advanced class ran right up until the end of the class year.
- 4) As of this writing, Mark Franks will be out on October 15, 2024 and April 15, 2025. Betsy Gotta will be out on January 7, 2025 and April 15, 2025. Please note that they will both be out on April 15, 2025 as they will be attending CallerLab. The board should consider going dark that night unless a reasonable substitute can be found.

## **Report from IS Recruitment Committee for the August 21, 2024 Board Meeting**

**Our committee: Arin, Chris, Coco, George, Marika, Steve, Vinney, Will**

### **Open Houses 2024**

Our first open house was very successful and we look forward to two more good ones.

### **Pride Events 2025**

We agreed to keep our calendars open as much as possible for the first few weekends of June 2025.

Steve confirmed that Delco Pride will be on Saturday, June 14. We do not know when Philly Pride 365 will take place but presumably either Sunday, June 1 or Sunday, June 8.

### **Capitalizing on our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance**

Steve will write a note to the entire list of invitees to our 35th Anniversary Party about coming to our Mainstream Workshop starting on September 24. He will send a rough draft to the committee for their input and then give it to Dave Blatt to send out.

### **Participating in the Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference on September 7**

Marika has everything organized to staff the table on September 7.

### **Participating in South New Jersey Pride on September 8**

Coco negotiated for Independence Squares to participate in the event for free. Steve and George agreed to coordinate the event and will work to get a demo square together.

### **Final decision about the Philadelphia Pride Parade on October 5**

We decided to recommend to the board that we not participate in the pride parade at Ourfest. One factor supporting our decision is that people who express interest in joining our Mainstream Class at the parade would not be able to start a class for almost a year. Will suggested that the board might consider starting classes later in future years to allow for us to use the pride parade as a recruiting tool.

### **Outreach to medical professionals**

This is still a goal of our committee. Marika and others who staff the table at the Trans Wellness Conference may be able to have some success with this goal.