

Swing'n'Country Board Meeting

Minutes

September 10, 2007

Present: Bob Bohl, Rich Cooper, Alfred Dahma, Julie Hein, Amy Kaawa, Susie Kaplan, Leah Noparstak, Tobi Oberman, Roger Peterson, Tina Reitz
Absent: Chris Peterson
Guests: Jim Becker, Don Bright, Jerry Kieras, Stephanie Kusibab, Nancy Tuzzolino

The meeting (Spaghetti Warehouse, Busse Hwy, Mt. Prospect) was called to order by Vice President, Leah Noparstak, at 7:05 pm.

Guests were invited to make their statements:

Don Bright

- notified the Board that he has requested a statement from the attorney general's office regarding whether a not-for-profit club is obligated to abide by the Open Meetings Act. A copy of Don's letter was submitted to Leah. Don will let us know of the response.
- Don will send a copy of the By-Laws (revised portions as well as old by-laws) to Roger, Rich, and Julie. They need to be typed in a complete format.

Jerry Kieras

- spoke as a representative of 40+ concerned dancers
- presented a petition outlining concerns that SNC might be changing its dance format
- offered written comments on specific things that SNC needs to improve will receive a general reply, via Happenings, thanking the dancers for their communication and concern
- Board Response
 - Committee formed Roger, Tobi, Julie, Susie, Leah to group concerns under a limited number of headings in preparation for Board consideration.
 - Consider member-at-large (non-voting) at Board meetings
 - Post item in Happenings, thanking Jerry for representing selected members and expressing their concerns Julie
 - Consider holding an Open Forum/general meeting before a 2nd Friday dance
 - Detailed response spearheaded by Alfred, Amy, Julie
 - Logo update will be addressed in general. Amy will draft a response.

Jim Becker/Nancy Tuzzolino

- reiterated their offer of support for Dance Camp
- acknowledged that they would likely receive a reply by the end of October/beginning of November

Treasurer's Report

Rich submitted his report via e-mail. It was moved (Amy) and seconded (Roger) that we accept the report. Vote was unanimous. **Motion passed.** Details are available on request.

Secretary's Report

The minutes were approved with the addition of the vote counts in the appointment of two replacement Board members:

Roger: 8

Alfred: 6

Don: 2

Motion (Rich) to approve the corrected minutes was seconded (Susie) and passed unanimously. **Motion passed.**

Committee Reports

Dance Camp

The event is on track:

- Headliner instructors are on board; other instructors will be invited as their skills fit the needs of DDC workshops
- Decorations are being developed; some items will be put up only on Saturday night
- Floor: Bob Bahrs can run the floor between both rooms
- Banners (except for DDC banner) will be on mirrors in hallway, due to difficulty getting/keeping them up
- Competition schedule will probably be different this year; concern noted about amount of time spent on WCS on Friday
- **Rich** will see if Jim Becker got a \$50 check last year; if not, Rich will write one to him.
- Stephanie reviewed financial issues regarding DDC.

Education

What should we do about second Friday dances and 5th Wednesday lessons? **Tabled**

Operations

- Center at North Park has agreed to let us in at 7 pm instead of 7:30 for an additional \$25. It was moved (Tina) and seconded (all) that we accept this timetable and price. Vote was unanimous. **Motion Passed.** **Tobi, Leah and Susie** will work on a schedule and advertising.
- Dance Angels:
 - **Susie, Tobi, and Leah** will review policy
- Bob suggested have a board show photographs of the Board at dances (**tabled**)

Marketing

- Report included in written materials
- **Leah** will do flyers for the October 5 dance
- **Tina** will try to locate additional clothing racks
- Should we allow members to use volunteer points to “buy” gift certificates? **Tabled**
- Gift certificates
 - Will be available for the Holiday Dinner Dance, monthly lessons, etc
 - We will keep track of who and when bought. **Amy** will create field in the database.
 - Will be good for any amount: SNC Bucks
 - Moved (Tina) and seconded (Tobi) that we issue SNC bucks to be purchased in an amount no more than \$50 for attendees to purchase SNC goods and services. Vote was unanimous. **Motion passed.**
 - **Amy** will create fields for SNC database.

Special Programs

- Holiday Dinner Dance: Adrienne is running with the theme: Winter Wonderland

Music

- Some music is confusing as to what dance is intended; how should we clarify this?
- DJ should note (on mic) that progressive dances should be done on the outside of the floor and stationary dances on the inside
- DJ has been instructed (by Leah) not to end the evening with WCS
- Beats/minute may be unrealistic if we use UCWDC standards. The music committee **Leah, Alfred, Ken, Mike K, Tobi** will determine what they should be.
- **Tobi and Leah** will review DJ guidelines. Then they will be voted on and publicized.

- Ken is liaison with all DJs; Leah (as Operations Chair) is head of the Music Committee
- It was moved (Leah) and seconded (Julie) that SNC pay DJs \$100/night, per DJ guidelines, beginning 9/21. Vote was unanimous. **Motion passed.**
 - Contact Leah if there are any concerns
 - DJ is authorized to purchase music that people are requesting
 - **Leah** will get a list of “approved” DJs to Rich
 - DJs will switch off dances. If they cannot do the dance assigned, they will make their own arrangements and notify Leah

Membership

- T-shirts
 - 22 t-shirts were given out for new/renewed memberships
 - Some people inquired about purchasing them. They are not for sale.
 - It is permissible to renew early in order to get a t-shirt.
- Survey (Alfred)
 - Questions should not be open-ended; **Alfred** will modify as needed.
 - Survey will provide feedback on a regular basis.
 - Consider an exit survey for those who no longer attend SNC activities.
 - Set up an e-mail address at SNC for replies to survey, but make hard copies available
 - Moved (Leah) and seconded (Susie) that we go with Survey Monkey @ \$20 for one month and send out survey to all names on Happenings list. We will leave the survey open for one month.
- Renewals
 - **Amy** is working on the database (in Access)
 - She is getting the forms from Liz
 - Will send out renewals quarterly, hopefully by next meeting
 - **Roger and Amy** will talk about online membership/renewal, DDC, etc.

Happenings

- Hard copies of the most recent Happenings will be available at lessons and at dances
- Include request to be included on Happenings mailing list at bottom of lesson registration sheet; tear off and send to Judi.

Old Business

Chicagoland

- Rich gave a check for Chicagoland to Jennifer
- Observations
 - There were few division I couples.
 - There weren't many in the audience.
- Jennifer Jeffries would like to address the board on this issue
 - Julie will make arrangements for her to attend.

Swing City

- SNC will purchase tables as needed

New Business

Laptop

Moved (Amy) and seconded (Tina) that we authorize purchase of a second laptop for administrative purposes, not to exceed \$1000. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- Music laptop stays with the music committee
- Alfred will investigate the purchase
- New laptop will be stored at Centre at North Park
- Leah owns Microsoft Office and will put it onto the new laptop
- Will Ken be offered the opportunity to "purchase" the music laptop? (Tabled)

Calendar

- Alfred suggested creating a calendar which will reflect Board meetings, preparation of DDC, dates of Holiday Dinner-Dance, etc.
- Calendar events can be linked to Happenings and the website
- Amy will look into FTP site

Enticements

- 50-50 raffle: half to winner/half to a charity (1st October dance); Tobi will buy tickets
- Halloween decorations (2nd October dance)
- Moved (Tobi) and seconded (Roger) that we budget up to \$50 for the 1st October dance and buy a birthday cake (normal cost) and decorations for the 2nd October dance. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

ChiTown Swing

- Needs dates of our activities asap.

For the Good of the Club

- A woman took a train from DALLAS to attend our dance! Now how about that?!?!
- Tina was many new SNC t-shirts recently at Cadillac Ranch.