



Santa Clara Valley Square Dancers Association, Inc.

General Committee (Delegates) Meeting

24 November 2013

Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Jim Davis at 12:55pm, at Mariani Square Townhouses and Lofts, in San Jose. Six out of seven member clubs were represented.

Attendance

Officers

President – Jim Davis
Vice President – Donna Bookbinder
Secretary – Joe Dehn
Treasurer – Richard Boucher

Delegates

Belle Swingers – Natalie Wahl
Bows and Beaus – Louis Bookbinder
Krazy Dazys – Mary Jane Wegener
Star Eights – Anita Chen, Dave Westerman
Sunnyvale Squares – Jane Bishop
Top Cats – Mary Gingell, Sue Lietz-Davis
(Clubs not represented: *Silver Buckles / Carnival Twirlers*)

Guests

Keith Ferguson (SCVCA), Meg Ferguson

Minutes

The minutes of the 25 August 2013 meeting were approved without objection.

Treasurer

Boucher presented a written report. In response to a question about there being two lines each for 57th Jubilee income and for 57th Jubilee expense on the full-year (Nov. 2012 to Oct. 2013) page, he explained that these were subtotals coming from another document, and that these lines added together represent the full amount for that category.

Calendar

Davis asked that everybody submit information about their events for the calendar.

Historian

Davis commented on the photo display at Jubilee, saying he has been to many festivals and the display at ours is better than others.

Insurance

Donna Bookbinder reported that she has received a first batch of certificates.

Nominating

Davis said that he will check with Bill Orrock to see if he is still willing to chair this committee.

Property

There was discussion of who gave keys to whom and who has them now.

Whing Ding

Davis reported that August Whing Ding revenue was \$515 and expenses \$235, for a net of \$280 split between SCVSDA and SCVCA, with 35 people paying the SCVSDA member price and 20 people paying the non-member price.

SCVCA Liaison

Keith Ferguson noted that there are four "5th Saturdays" in 2014, one on Labor Day weekend and one on Thanksgiving weekend.

55th Jubilee

Davis presented a check to Boucher for \$1000, saying this makes the 55th Jubilee exactly break even. He indicated that it was unlikely that he would have any additional information to report regarding this Jubilee. Boucher volunteered to examine such records as Davis could pass along to him and try to come up with some kind of report.

57th Jubilee

Donna Bookbinder provided a written financial report. Chen said she will be writing up her report and will send it by e-mail. There was discussion about how petty cash and gold rush revenue were presented in the financial report. Davis said it was good that there was a program book, even if some of the ad revenue didn't materialize. Dehn noted that it appears from the report that there were only 122 full ribbons sold, down from 146 the previous year, but that the total number of paid attendees had gone up.

58th Jubilee

Davis reported that he has appointed Donna Bookbinder and Sue Lietz-Davis as General Chair for the 58th Jubilee, and requested approval by the Delegates. Wegener moved and Chen seconded to approve this appointment; the motion passed without objection.

Bookbinder said that the most important issue is obtaining a hall, and the second most important is assembling the committee. She distributed a document outlining committee tasks and people who might do them. After some discussion of who was known to be willing to serve, she asked that Wegener, Bishop, Evie Kaefer, Sue Harris, Davis, Chen, and Westerman be appointed to the committee. Wahl moved and Westerman seconded to approve these appointments; the motion passed without objection.

Lietz-Davis reported that Gunderson High School has indicated that the school is not available for our use on our scheduled weekend (12-14 September 2014). Chen said she will try to talk to them about this. There was discussion of whether the school might be willing to accommodate us on some other weekend and whether it would make sense to change the date vs. moving to a different location.

California Square Dance Council

Davis said that a surprisingly large number of people came to Jubilee from the Council meeting that was held the same weekend. He said he is still looking for somebody who could represent SCVSDA now that he and Lietz-Davis are serving in an officer position. Bookbinder said she might be willing to do it.

SCVCA Liaison (continued)

Keith Ferguson noted that their next meeting will be 8 December, and that they now have 14 general caller members (the most recent addition being Mike Luna).

Member Discounts at Dances

Davis introduced a suggestion that had been made to give a discount to the member clubs rather than to the member dancers. Dehn said that he was interested in using this approach for the proposed General Dances. He noted that we already have a dancer discount mechanism in place for Whing Dings, and that the Jubilee Committee could consider the question and come up with something for Jubilee also if they think it would be useful. He said that for the General Dances he would want to count membership according to the club rosters, rather than basing it on what the dancer wrote on the sign-in sheet, and that in cases where a dancer belonged to more than one SCVSDA club the credit would be shared. He said that while it made sense for the Delegates to address the general concept of member discounts, he thinks it would be better to leave the task of working out the details to the respective dance management committees (Jubilee, Whing Ding, General Dance Program). Davis said the purpose of a discount isn't just to encourage attendance, but also to show clubs a concrete benefit of membership.

In response to a question about the location of the Buckskin, Davis said that the old one is full and he is looking into getting a new one.

General Dance Program

Dehn presented a report from the planning committee set up at the last meeting and reviewed the main points, including a proposed standing rule setting up a new General Dance Program Committee to run the dances.

Ferguson said that SCVCA has been made aware of the proposal but he cannot speak for them as an

organization on this. He said his personal opinion is that SCVSDA is the right organization to take on something like this; that the planning committee (of which he was a member) had the right kind of membership, including callers and people who work with new dancers; that in his experience teaching classes he always finds some people who can't get through to Plus the way we have been doing things; that Jim Osborne has frequently commented on the number of new people who never come to Plus hoedowns; that these dances can also serve as a fun place to dance for Plus dancers when there is no other dance that night; and that he is 100% behind trying this.

In response to a question about having Plus classes teach the GDP calls first, Dehn said he didn't think it would work to pressure clubs on this but this option would certainly be explained to them.

In response to concerns about finances and a suggestion that the schedule of dances be reduced to only every other month, Dehn said that it was hard to come up with a real budget at this point because no arrangements for halls or callers can be made until the project is approved, and because we don't really know what level of attendance to expect. He said that having these dances about once per month was an essential part of the plan to make this a useful dance level.

In response to a question about classes teaching the GDP level, Dehn said that people will be learning GDP as part of learning Plus but that his real hope is that this will inspire new kinds of classes.

Louis Bookbinder said that even though Bows and Beaus has a very successful class, many people drop out before finishing and that GDP has the potential to serve as a bridge level where people who don't get all the way to Plus can rejoin a class when they are ready.

In response to a question about insurance given that some people attending these dances won't be members of any club, Dehn said that he doesn't see this as an issue specific to this proposal since Whing Dings, Jubilee, and many club-sponsored events already admit dancers who are not covered by any club.

Gingell moved to amend the proposed standing rule by adding a new section at the end: "To allow this program to begin the committee is authorized to run a cumulative deficit of no more than \$500 for the first six months of dances." The amendment passed. The main motion, to adopt the standing rule as amended, passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Location of 30 August Whing Ding

Davis reported that SCVCA has recommended that a Whing Ding be held on 30 August 2014 (even though it is Labor Day weekend) and that it be held locally, rather than at the Slab. He noted that the Whing Ding this past Labor Day weekend had the biggest surplus we have had in a while.

Bishop moved and Westerman seconded to have the dance and to have it locally.

In response to a question about how Lucky Steppers would feel about this, Ferguson explained that the city requires that Lucky Steppers book five Saturdays, that his impression is that they won't be concerned if we don't make use of that one, and that they have said if we don't use it they may hold a newer dancer hoedown instead.

The motion to have the dance and to have it locally was approved.

Budget

Boucher presented a budget for the year (Nov. 2013 to Oct. 2014). In response to a question from Gingell about including the General Dance Program, Boucher proposed adding a \$1000 income line and a \$1000 expense line for this. Chen moved and Gingell seconded to adopt the budget with this amendment; the motion passed.

Future Meetings

The following dates were selected for Delegates meetings during 2014: 16 February, 27 April, 8 June, 20 July, 24 August, 23 November.

Announcements

Various upcoming events were announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Dehn, Secretary