



Santa Clara Valley Square Dancers Association, Inc.

General Committee Meeting

25 June 2016
(draft) Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Mary Gingell at 11:13am, at her home in Sunnyvale, with four clubs represented, and Joe Dehn taking the minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

Attendance

Officers

President – Mary Gingell

Vice President – Joe Dehn

Delegates

Bows and Beaus – Bryce Perry

Krazy Dazys – Mary Jane Wegener, Richard Wegener (*came in during Bylaws discussion*)

Star Eights – Anita Chen, David Westerman

Sunnyvale Squares – Jane Bishop

Top Cats – Sue Lietz-Davis

Others

Keith Ferguson

Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were considered. A correction was made to a typo in the Nominating Committee section ("ased" should be "asked"). Jane Bishop moved and Sue Lietz-Davis moved to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion passed.

President

Mary Gingell referred to her written report, and said the main topic mentioned there that we need to address at this meeting is whether we should continue the Whing Ding contract.

Treasurer

The Treasurer provided a written report. Sue Lietz-Davis moved and David Westerman seconded to submit the report to audit; the motion passed.

Directors

Nikki Hensley sent a written report. Mary Jane Wegener was not present. Jane Bishop mentioned many activities in which she has been involved.

In response to a question from Sue Lietz-Davis, Jane Bishop and Keith Ferguson indicated that Dancing at the Fair would be class level.

Advanced/Challenge Hoedown Committee

Mary Gingell provided a written report, and described the two-session C-1 dance coming up on 6 August.

Bylaws Committee

Joe Dehn reviewed the two proposals from the last meeting, along with possible amended language for the proposal regarding payments. He said he would be happy to see the proposal adopted either as originally presented or with this amendment.

[Mary Jane Wegener and Richard Wegener joined the meeting.]

Sue Lietz-Davis moved and Jane Bishop seconded to amend the proposal regarding payments as suggested. The motion to amend passed. The main motion passed without objection.

The proposal regarding committee appointments passed unanimously.

Dancing at the Fair

Doris Livezey sent a written report. Jane Bishop mentioned that she has sign-up sheets, to encourage people to commit to participating, and noted that Katydid's would be going dark that Friday. Mary Gingell pointed out that the Advanced/Challenge Hoedown committee had also chosen a different date to avoid conflict with this activity.

GDP Committee

Joe Dehn reported that there were three General Dances since the last meeting, and that attendance at the May dance had been extremely low because another dance was scheduled against it. He said he has been switching the dates of these dances to avoid conflicts whenever an alternative is available, but that hasn't always been possible when other groups schedule a lot of dances or when we have a caller scheduled for a particular date for a special reason. In this case we had hired an out of town caller well in advance, and now another group has scheduled a dance for the date we were going to have that same caller next year. He said if there were three times as many dancers overall then these kinds of conflicts would not be a problem, but that if we want to continue having these dances every month there will always be conflicts.

Jubilee

Sue Lietz-Davis reported on plans for the 61st Jubilee, including confirmation of Hoover Middle School as the location and Sandie Bryant and Ted Lizotte as featured callers. She said she was excited that we would now be able to start publicizing this event. She said she was also looking for suggestions for callers for future years.

Mary Gingell passed around a draft program, noting that this year we will be able to use the cafeteria on Sunday. She said that this program had been designed to be as inclusive as possible of people who

dance either GDP or Mainstream, rather than excluding one group or the other, and that the term "Easy/Fun Level" was being used for sessions accessible to both.

Joe Dehn elaborated on the concept of "Easy/Fun Level", which is based on the idea of a common set of calls but without strict enforcement; he said the idea is just to maximize the set of people who can participate. He said that these sessions also would, like GDP, emphasize "standard applications". He said that these sessions would be very similar in both respects to a "newer dancer hoedown", but we aren't using that as the name because we want people who have been dancing for longer to also feel it is for them. He noted that some higher-level dancers were offended at the use of the word "fun" for this, but they aren't the people we are trying to reach with it.

There was a discussion of what terms should be used to describe the Saturday evening session that is planned to include Easy/Fun, GDP, and Mainstream tips. There was discussion of terms that might be used in publicizing Jubilee more generally to dancers who are not really up to full Plus.

There was discussion of when we would start offering single-day ribbons. Joe Dehn said he could add "tracks" to the online schedule to help various categories of dancers understand which sessions might be appropriate for them, as he did in 2008.

Mary Gingell reported that Sue and Phil Harris have agreed to serve as Round Dance Chair; this appointment was approved without objection.

Nominating Committee

Mary Jane Wegener reported that the committee consists of herself, Richard Wegener, and Jim Davis. There are supposed to be five members but none of the other people mentioned earlier agreed to serve.

Whing Ding Committee

It was reported that the July and October dances will be held at Hoover Middle School, and that the callers/cuers are listed on the calendar.

Joint Whing Ding Committee

Joe Dehn reported that the joint committee met in person on 17 May. He said that they discussed the existing language in the contract about an annual meeting and concluded that it really meant there should be an in-person meeting, but that based on recollection of long-time members there had not been any in-person meeting at all, other than possibly shortly after the contract was originally adopted. The committee agreed to meet in person at least annually in the future and agreed on rules for voting when not meeting in person. He said it was his opinion that the Joint Committee was not the appropriate group to address the kinds of fundamental questions that Mary Gingell was posing about the future of Whing Dings, because the answers to such questions depend on the larger goals of the two associations and the committee is not set up to be representative of the associations in that way.

Future of Whing Ding Contract

Mary Gingell said that the question she wants considered is, given the points that she outlined in her report, whether we should continue with the contract with the SCVCA for jointly sponsoring the Whing Dings. She said that SCVCA has a proposal to be voted on by their members to drop the contract and

run their own dances instead. She suggested that it would make sense for us to talk about this and make plans for what we will do if they decide to drop out.

Keith Ferguson elaborated on the state of the discussion within SCVCA; a motion to drop the contract was made but because of low attendance at that meeting the actual vote was postponed to a future meeting. He said that it would be a big loss to the local square dance community if Whing Dings don't continue, citing their role as a mechanism for allowing local callers to call hoedowns for local dancers. He said that it was not clear that this proposal has support beyond a few SCVCA members.

Various comments were made to the effect that many members of both associations are in favor of cooperation. Joe Dehn said that cooperation is good, but that there are real problems with the Whings Dings that need to be addresses if they are going to be worth the effort to keep putting them on. There was dicussion of what it means for a dance to be "successful".

SCVCA Liaison

Keith Ferguson reported that the SCVCA Vice President will start working soon on the balloting for Whing Ding callers for next year.

Miscellaneous Discussion

In response to a question about the role of Delegates, Mary Gingell said this was defined in the Bylaws.

There was discussion of Eric Henerlau's announcement that he will no longer be calling for Outlaws, and the possibility that somebody else might try to continue it as a caller-run club or that the dancers would try to re-organize it as a dancer-run club.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42pm.