



Teachers' Committee Minutes

Meeting

Saturday 9 May 2020
Zoom Online Meeting

Present

Alan Twigg, Armin Busse, Bradley Hobbs, Dilip Sequeira, Don MacQueen, Fred DeMarse, Kathy Allen, Juliet Davoren, Kathy Jorgensen, Lin Pettengill, Linda Henderson, Marianna Harvey, Paula Jacobson, Rachel Pusey, Rebecca Davis, Sandee Schultz, Sara Gratiot, Sheena MacQueen, Trina Merriman

Regrets

Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace, Sarah MacQueen

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by Armin Busse, Chair.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Lin proposed that we accept the minutes. Rebecca seconded. Carried 79% (21% abstained)¹

Report on Party Program Committees

Done: May/June, Kim McGarrity, Jean Patrick

Next: Oct/Nov, Valentines

Q: what happens to the programs for dances that weren't held? It was generally considered that we could pick up where we left off, using the programs we have, so that we continue to have 5 new dances each time.

Q: does that happen for the Balls as well? Each ball is an independent event, but designed for its type (Valentine, KM, JP) so we could reuse for that ball next year.

Suggestions:

- the first dance back, we might want to go for a "welcome back" program of old favorites.
- we might want to account for dancers being out of shape
- we might want to modify existing programs for when beginners start coming in.

Teachers who have input should provide it to the coordinators for monthly parties (Bruce) and balls (Paula), who will work with the board to drive discussion and resolve these questions.

¹ Zoom records as abstentions those who do not vote by the time the poll closes, as well as those voting 'abstain'.

New Business

Approve TC-BC Liaison

Armin proposed that Bradley continue in the role. Sara Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Report TAC

TAC conference & summer school are canceled. They expect to hold them in Calgary again in 2021. The AGM will be held online, and all paid members will be able to attend (7/25, 11am PST). This would be an opportunity for those who have not been able to travel to the AGM in years past.

Report Board

Dues remain the same (\$55/single adult.)

We have a new R&S editor, Dan Moen.

The board is still working on revitalizing the web site, and the Jordan Hill stage repairs. Alameda County Fair (June 19 – July 12) is canceled, so there might be more opportunity to address the issues with the stage. Pleasanton Games is still undecided.

Future Teachers' Workshops

Trina reached out to Robert Britton for another Alexander Technique workshop. When things settle, we will try and figure out how to schedule something.

Guidance and Courtesy of Dancers

As new classes start, please remind the class of the expectations for participants (both teachers and dancers). A writeup is posted on the teachers' web site.

Next Exam Course

There is a reset by year: The TAC 2020 course will be pushed to 2021, and the next exam tour will be in 2022. Going forward, exams at TAC will take place on odd-numbered years, and the exam tour on even-numbered years.

Special Topics for Future Meetings

Dancing in the era of Coronavirus - we could potentially take help from non-teachers who have expertise.

Other Business

AB-5

Assembly Bill 5 tightens up who is considered an independent contractor: the default is that someone is an employee (costs, unemployment insurance, breaks etc) unless the business can demonstrate otherwise. The law has been in effect since Jan 1 2020.

We pay musicians, sound people, and teachers. A proposed amendment will exempt musicians, but we would not be able to meet the required conditions for teachers, since contractors are required to be "outside the normal course of business".

This is heavily impacting community arts, and the board is currently uncertain of the impact on us. We don't have anyone with the knowledge to put in place the necessary administrative structure.

Legally the easiest path is simply to not pay anyone, but that still doesn't address the issue for guest teachers (workshops, Asilomar etc.) If we pursue this direction, we will need feedback from the teachers who are getting paid. If we continue to have employees, we might need to have a payroll agency do the administration.

DAA Course

The January Intermediate course was held and was great - everyone passed. Classes are exhausting for the teachers as they must watch the dancers closely the entire time. However, both Laura & Lin are very enthusiastic about teaching another one at the Advanced level.

New Starter Jig

Miss Bennett's Jig (Book 20).

Other Announcements

Covid-19 question from Don: when might we be able to resume classes?

Much discussion (without any conclusion on the question.)

- It may depend on class size vs permitted size of social gatherings, facilities (city-managed locations may be closed due to budget deficits.)
- Even if classes are open, people will likely be fearful.
- Dancing with masks on is hard, and heavy exercise with a mask may be medically not recommended.

- Our dancing would likely qualify as a California Phase 3 activity for reopening:
- Enclosed space, continued exposure, being inside are all factors that increase risk.
- While we'll be adhering to the local standards, we should also have best practices for minimizing risk for SCD - something we would hope to get from the RSCDS.
- This is an opportunity to devise dances that don't require touch!
- We'll want hand sanitizer. By the bucketload.

Date & Location for the next meeting.

September 19th, Alan's & Trina's are potential locations but TBD.

Suggestions initially from the further-flung participants that we could make online meetings the new normal had significant support. Possibly multiple locations each with multiple folks, electronically connected.

Or maybe we should schedule the meeting before a dance party, in the same way as the board meetings and the class manager meetings.

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned (P: Paula/S: Bradley) at 3:57pm. Accepted unanimously.

Ever so 'umbly submitted
Dilip Sequeira
Recording Secretary