



Board Meeting Minutes (Approved 3/4/25 by the FSGW Board of Directors)

BOARD MEETING – February 4, 2025

Lucia Schaefer called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM as an online Zoom meeting. Quorum (at least 8) was established.

Attendees Present:

Lucia Schaefer, *President*
Charlie Pilzer, *Past President (8:20 on)*
Jamie Platt, *Vice President*
Alyssa Hemler, *Secretary*
Jackie Hoglund, *Treasurer*
Laura Robertson, *Dance*
Ingrid Gorman, *Publicity*
Paul Lieberman, *Publications*
David Shewmaker, *Membership (9:00 on)*
Betsy Platt, *Program*
Ayan Kishore, *At-Large*
Tim Livengood, *At-Large*

Absent:

Lynn Bayer, *At-Large*

Guests:

Mo Brachfeld (office staff)
Will Strang
Charlie Baum
Milo Pierick (office staff)
Fred Stollnitz
Linda Zeebooker
Liz Donaldson

Approval of Minutes:

- MOTION: To approve Minutes from the January 7, 2025, Board Meeting.
 - Vote: Laura Robertson moved; Tim Livengood seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Resolved: The minutes of the January 7, 2025, meeting are approved and entered into the Society records as amended.

REPORTS:

President's Report:

- Lucia has been busy with many of the items that will be discussed during the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- The account balances remain very stable.
- Jackie has been working on clearing out the credits in Wild Apricot and the old checks in QuickBooks to prepare for doing taxes.
- Jackie is working on adding the new signatories to the bank accounts.

Dance Report:

- Past Events:
 - Jan barn dance and Silver Spring Contra went well.
 - ECD Wed per usual.
- Feb Plans:
 - Feb 9, Barn Dance Kim Forry calling to Jacob Howley and David Coltun. Last minute location change back to the BCP.
 - Feb 13, Silver Spring contra. Kim Forry calling to Wombat Crossing in the civic center great hall.
 - Feb 23, Dancing Planet contra at Glen Echo
- Looking ahead, special events:
 - Mar 22, Mid-winter festival: Laura has booked morris teams and is working on filling out the schedule
 - Mar 29-30, #dance, registrations incoming
 - May 17, ECD Ball, registrations incoming
- Issues:
 - Laura and Charlie Pilzer met tieh Busy Graham to discuss cost cutting and organizational issues for the Silver Spring Contra. Lucia will follow-up with Busy to make sure she knows there is only money budgeted for two-person bands.
 - Laura received an inquiry from Capitol Hillbillies to start a contra/square series in DC, with FSGW help if possible.
 - Laura had a preliminary conversation with the Friday Night Dancers about the Glen Echo Park's plans for a mandatory new ticketing system. FND is interested in coordinating a response.

Office Report:

- Milo started calling lapsed members and left many voicemails. They will continue to track renewals.
- Milo has been working with Will Strang to identify contacts in our database who have had minimal contact with FSGW. They are working to archive these records to reduce our total number of contacts (and therefore the price of the database).

Webmaster Report:

- Will updated the Find Payments Credit tool to help Jackie with clearing credits.

Program/Concert Report:

- Upcoming scheduled events include:
 - Feb 19 Matthew Olwell house concert (cosponsored)
 - April 4 house concert at Kathie Mack's
 - April 27 Brian Bowers at Glen Echo Town Hall
 - May 10 Trio Sephardi at Washington Ethical Society
 - May 30 Janie Meneally & Rob Van Sant house concert at Kathie Mack's

ACTION ITEMS:

Review and edit Refund Policy, Privacy Policy, Terms of Use:

- The board reviewed the existing policies and determined no updates are needed at this time.

Washington Folk Festival:

- Ayan and Ingrid have been working to fill out the committees and teams for the festival.
- They reviewed past budgets and created a budget for this year accounting for inflation. The goal is to fundraise enough that the festival breaks even.
- Venue space is being optimized for programming so there will be no craft vendors (a past income source).
- **MOTION:** *Jackie Hoglund moves, Laura Robertson seconds to allocate \$10,000 from the Eberhart Fund to be used for the 2025 Washington Folk Festival.*
 - **Discussion:**
 - According to Quickbooks, there is 39,500 in the Eberhart fund and no money in the Clifford fund.
 - Jackie and Leslie (FSGW bookkeeper) are both comfortable with this motion.
 - Jackie will work with Ingrid and Ayan to figure out the details of how payments will be made and money will flow.
 - **VOTE:** *Motion passes unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**Board elections 2025:**

- The February free membership meeting is next Thursday at the Silver Spring dance.
- The March free membership meeting will be during the mid-winter festival at Browne Academy.

Mid-Winter Festival:

- Lucia and Laura provided an update on programming for the festival. Inquiries are out on additional programming. Tim is booking storytellers.
- Lucia is arranging food trucks for the festival and will pre-order some meals at \$13 a meal. These will help reach minimum spend requirements. Performers and volunteers will receive meal tickets. There will also be a green room with snacks and drinks for performers and volunteers.
- Browne Academy is donating the venue and encouraging Browne families to attend. Therefore, FSGW will not charge admission. There will be a membership table and attendees will be encouraged to donate to FSGW.

Charging for newsletter advertisements:

- There is an ad policy printed in each of our newsletters that states that we charge groups to place ads. The board discussed how to best execute this policy- whether it should be membership based or based on the ticket price of the event. We do not want to create more work for the Publications Chair.
- Charlie Pilzer clarified that historically, this ad policy has only applied to display ads. Anyone could request to have an event listed, but if they wanted an accompanying visual, it would cost them a small fee. There are not currently any display ads in the newsletter.

- The board agreed to enforce the ad policy only for display ads moving forward. No changes are needed to the policy.

Talent Directory:

- Lucia created a draft form to collect submissions from bands and callers. Board members have provided feedback. The form will be posted on the FSGW website and Milo will review submissions. Mo and Milo will coordinate on getting submissions posted on the website.

NYE contra 2025:

- No one has stepped up to lead a 2025 event and no one has done research on potential new venues.
- Mo will email registered attendees from the past few years to put out a call for volunteers/leaders.
- The most time-critical task is hiring a sound person.

FSGW picnic:

- The Cuddle-up, back room, and bumper car pavilion at Glen Echo are all reserved for the picnic. The picnic aligns with the October barn dance.

Song Circle sponsorship:

- Fred Stollnitz submitted a fiscal sponsorship application for the song circle.
- Per the updated sponsorship policy, a fiscal sponsorship proposal needs to be worked out with a board member in advance of a board meeting. Jackie and Lucia would like to work with Fred offline on this request to come up with a plan that will work for all parties. There will be no action tonight regarding a fiscal sponsorship.
- *Consensus of the board to grandfather the event as a nonfiscal co-sponsorship and provide advertising support.*

Meeting Adjourned at 10:15pm

- Tim Livengood moved; David Shewmaker seconded.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, at 8pm on Zoom.