

BSCD yearly meeting – 5/22/21

Meeting was held on Zoom.

In attendance: Phil Cichanowicz, Patricia Goerman, Harold Cheney, Marilyn Fais, Richard Ades, Jan & Frank Phillips, Dave Notman, Richard Reichard, Keith & Jan Bednarczuk, Ellie Nowels

Agenda:

Board member election: the board ran unopposed so board members remain the same. Voting was done prior to the meeting via a Google survey.

No discussion was made of last year's minutes because we forgot. But 2020 minutes were posted to the website after corrections were made based on attendee input.

Discussion centered on when and how to return to dancing, and all the things that need to be considered as part of that process.

Ellie and Richard Ades shared some of the content of the 5/19 CDSS webchat on reentry which included presentations by a lawyer, the CDSS insurance coordinator, CDSS president, and others. Ellie also shared the recent survey done by Facebook group Organizers of Contra Dances, which measured dancers' comfort levels with returning to dancing across a number of different options (indoor vs outdoor, sooner rather than later, small groups vs larger). We will look to that as a guide for reaching out to our own dancers.

Concerning holding Winter WarmUp in 2021: we considered surveying previous WWU dancers about their comfort levels. Considering our financial situation (we made no money at the 2019 dance), and the need for WWU to generate a base amount of income to support local dances, we concluded it might be too big a risk. Of our talent slated for 2020, only Gaye has responded to Marilyn with affirmation of her intent to call for the weekend if and when we hold it. Richard Ades suggested we convene the WWU committee and the rest of the board to discuss further. While Gaye is a big draw, Worthington Community Center might not permit us to hold the event as usual. They have held our 2020 deposit to be used for 2021, so if we decide not to hold the event we will ask if they can keep our deposit for 2022.

Jan Phillips suggested a "mini" Winter WarmUp to perhaps be held at the 1st Congregational Church, with only Fri. & Sat. nights. Attendance would have to be limited. Sat. daytime events would not have to be dancing (winter hiking, tours of local attractions, yoga, etc.). It would help bring the community together. Dave Notman suggested people might not want to carpool for long distances, limiting out of town attendance.

We discussed resuming local dances, but only once a month to prevent draining our bank account due to losses from each dance with the high rent we pay at the church. We agreed doing open mic for callers would work but we lack a large enough pool of musicians to have an open band at this time.

Dave Notman suggested an experimental dance – starting small, by renting the Clinton Heights church. The space is inexpensive, ventilation is good, and sound setup is easy. Due to space limitations, dancers would need to sign up ahead of time.

Trish shared Cincinnati's current status. They are preparing a survey and planning an outside dance. She suggested any survey we create include some "myth-busting" info on topics such as sharing of food not being a COVID vector.

Phil suggested an outdoor event with no dancing like a potluck just so we can all see each other again. We are pursuing that. Richard Reichard looked up availability of shelter houses at some of the metro parks. The soonest we can get is 4-9 on August 7, and we have reserved it. There is a cancellation policy that allows for almost all money to be returned up to a certain date. We discussed having a contribution jar to offset the rental cost, if all board members don't agree to have Big Scioty pay. There is also willingness on the part of some of the meeting attendees to chip in. That is the weekend of the Dublin Irish festival, which is a hybrid this year, so there is a small possibility of a conflict with the yearly festival contra dance.

We discussed how to limit attendance at the event, and/or how to ensure attendees are vaccinated. For this event we will use the honor system, and frame it as a covenant, with the board in charge of keeping everyone safe, and dancers doing their part by being honest. We will ask those who have not been vaccinated to wear a mask. Since it's an outside event, limiting attendance would be difficult. We don't want to add barriers to restoring community but also want people to feel safe.

We discussed how to invite people -send an email to the general list asking for those who want to attend a party to respond, and then we will send info to that smaller list?

Concerning indoor events and requiring proof of vaccination: Marilyn is willing to gather proof from all dancers and make a list that can be kept at the door. Dancers would be asked to send photos of their cards prior to the dance, and can cover or edit out birth date and patient number to maintain privacy. We think people will feel safer knowing we are asking for this proof. Phil mentioned setting up encryption or other security. At indoor events, we will need to be prepared to be strict. Those without vaccines will have to wear a mask or go home. We can create a waiver form and ask all to sign it, but we can still be sued, so we need to be aware of that.

Since the outside event won't be until August, we want to do the survey prior to announcing the party. The survey will ask about interest in the experimental dance as one of the questions. Richard Ades will work on that content.

Marilyn thought it might not be loyal to First Congregational to dance elsewhere but agreed that the experimental dance Dave suggested would be a good first step to gauge interest. Dave mentioned that all the weddings postponed by COVID-19 might make many dates there unavailable, if the church is booking those events already.