

**Chattahoochee Country Dancers
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes - Approved
October 11, 2009**

Start Time: 6:30 PM
Adjourn Time: 8:30 PM

Much Appreciated Host: Janet Shepherd

Attendees:

Steering Committee: Jim Crawford, David Digby, Rob Harper, Robert McGregor, Angelika Pohl, Robbin Ryan

Honored Guests: Janet Shepherd

Meeting was called to order at 6:45p by Rob Harper, President. The meeting considered the minutes of August for approval.

Motion: Approve the August 30, 2009 minutes as presented. (Made by Robbin Ryan. Seconded by Robert McGregor. Passed by voice vote with none opposed.)

The next two meetings are scheduled for November 8, hosted by Angelika Pohl, and December 13 with host to be determined.

Committee Reports:

Band Policies and Procedures: Tim was not in attendance but Rob gave a brief summary that the committee is now up and running and is scheduled to meet at the Clarkston Community Center (CCC) on 10/22.

Finance: Rob reported that the advanced dance on 10/4 lost \$400 and only 47 dancers attended. Reasons for relatively low attendance were discussed. Advanced Dances are treasured by many dancers and are considered a “gift to the community.”

Even though attendance and revenues have been good since moving to CCC, recent Friday night dances have been losing money. Angelika made a formal request: At each SC meeting, attendance figures of recent dances should be presented. Since the SC is very focused on increasing attendance, members need some ideas what attendance trends actually are. This is also important for our sense of financial well-being. Generally speaking, our break-even point is about 110 dancers.

Discussion and clarification: “hybrid bands” – when bands consist of local and out-of-town (OOT) musicians. The BPPC will touch on this as part of their recommendations. Until then, the general policy will be to follow the current OOT band payment rate if 50% or more of the musicians are OOT.

Nominating Committee. Bill Porter will chair and is in process of assembling the NC to develop the slate of candidates for the 2010 Steering Committee.

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November Festival: Christin Whittington has chaired past November festivals and stepped up to co-chair the dance weekend with Kimbi. We still need to find someone willing to learn the ropes and eventually take over full responsibilities in the future.

Most of the committee chair positions have been filled by our wonderful volunteers:

- Button Design – Moe Cairns
- Clean-Up – Larry Mosblech
- Beverages – Lilian Bryan
- Decorations – Jolie Fainberg
- Equipment Transportation – Roger McClain
- Graphics and Signage – Christin Whittington
- Housing – Ann Robinson and Jane Schindler
- On-Site Registration\Front Desk – Robbin Ryan
- Registrar – Rachel Duys
- Friday Set-Up – Doug Singleton
- Skit – Andrea Nettleton
- Snacks – Doug Singleton
- Sunday Breakfast – Jennifer Horrocks
- Talent Liaison – George Snyder

Open positions still needing someone to step up include:

- Late-Night Party Set-Up
- Late-Night Party Clean Up
- Quilts
- Volunteer Party (tentatively to be hosted by Angelika and Stven)

Angelika cannot serve on any committees because she will be out of town at a professional meeting during the November Dance weekend. To compensate, Angelika indicated tentative willingness to host the Volunteer Reward Party.

A suggestion was made to have birds (e.g., parrots) at Dec Rec during the festival. CCD's current policy is to not have any animals at dances, but because this is a special occasion maybe there could be an exception with conditions.

Motion: Have parrots for Pirates of the Contrabeau only in cages in the lobby at the dance. (Made by Jim Crawford. Seconded by Robert McGregor. Motion failed with 2 affirmative votes, 3 opposed, and one abstaining.) Intention was that there should be no live birds anywhere at the dance at any time.

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Other Business:

Sound: Rob reported that one of the Sabine EQs is broken and cannot be repaired. Physical assets of CCD (such as electronic equipment) were discussed. Robert volunteered to create a binder in which such assets are listed so we know what we own and when each major item was acquired.

The group discussed the process of acquiring needed expensive equipment and the general census was that efforts should always be made to balance quality and expense wisely and to try to find the best deal. Rob will talk to Tim Cape about exploring options\risks\costs of purchasing equipment used (e.g., E-bay like service) instead of new. The replacement cost of the Sabine EQ is around \$1,000-\$1,200.

Motion: Authorize Tim Cape to replace/purchase a Sabine equalizer. (Made by Jim Crawford. Seconded by David Digby. Passed by voice vote with none opposed.)

Sound Technicians: Chris Haynes has finished his doctoral work and will be less available in the future to run sound on Fridays. Starting Q4 2009, we moved to a schedule equally split between Chris, John Maschinot and Larry English. This will work as long as the sound techs can work with this schedule. Should they become less available in the future, we should keep an eye out for skilled people who understand the needs of a contra dance.

Equipment: Larry Enlow and Instadance Productions (Larry, Dave Marcus, Robbin Marcus) has asked to borrow CCD's Yamaha keyboard for their upcoming dance at Horizon School. Each year we beg\borrow\rent equipment from Larry Enlow for our November Festival. We've agreed to exchange gear to meet both our needs. As a rule CCD does not lend equipment out, but this is a different/special case.

Upcoming Special Dances:

Halloween dance (regular Friday dance): Dancers are once again invited to wear costumes; there will be prizes (basically T-shirts from previous November dances); this needs to be announced

New Year's weekend: there will be dances on Dec. 31 (Thursday), Jan.1 (Friday), and Jan. 2 (Saturday) Several different bands will play.

Christmas: It is not yet clear whether we will have a dance on Christmas Day, which falls on a Friday this year. We need band, caller, sound person, etc.

Safety concerns: For safety, dancers should leave dance in groups or pairs. Ladies should feel free to ask gentlemen to accompany them to their car. Jim will ask the Clarkston Police Department about coming to a dance and sharing their tips.

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Christmas Charity effort: Angelika Pohl will work with Linda Graves on this.

Fandango Feedback: Jim requested feedback regarding the Fandango English Country Dance Atlanta (ECDA) weekend to provide to the organizers. The only comments he received regarded making sure their opening\closing volunteers help with Friday night opening\closing prior to the ECD weekend so they were experienced with performing the duties during the actual event. Jim will provide this feedback to Christine McKay and the other ECD organizers.

Volunteering: Jim gave an overview of principles of successful volunteering (recruitment, retention, etc.) based on a book he had read. He also distributed a summary hand-out. His remarks were well received and the group thanked him.

Motion to adjourn made by Robbin Ryan. Seconded by Angelika Pohl. Passed by voice vote with none opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Angelika Pohl.

These minutes were approved by the CCD Steering Committee at the November 8, 2009 meeting by voice vote with all in favor and none opposed.