

## October 24, 2012 Steering Committee (SC) Minutes

### SC Members Present:

Janet Shepherd (VP)  
Dave Marcus  
Amy Krafchick  
Doug Singleton (Treas)  
Margie Cooper (Sec)  
Sally Walker  
Jane Schindler (Acting Sec)  
Joseph Steinhauser

### Guests:

Carole Bennett  
Kimbi Hagen  
Christin Whittington  
Verley Spivey  
Karen Hudlow  
Susan Davis  
Jim Crawford  
Deborah Bates  
Scott Barnaby

Janet called the meeting to order @ 6:40 PM at Sally's House  
Next SC Meeting: **Mon, Nov 19, 2012** 6:30 PM @ Janet's: 1410 McLendon Dr, Decatur  
Dec meeting **Sat, Dec 15, 2012**; SC meet @ 4:30PM, place TBD; followed by  
**Volunteer Appreciation Party!** @ 6PM – all CCD Volunteers Welcome!  
Further details TBD @ Nov meeting

### Guest Items:

**Carole Bennett** requested the SC reevaluate the August decision to brand the Atlanta November Weekend dance ("**Allemande**")

Discussion followed including: Keep the common usage name from years ago "Atlanta Dance Weekend" because that name indicates where it takes place; and history;

A *consistent* name for the weekend has not been used, and a concise, descriptive name would be useful when referring to the weekend;

The process of choosing a branding is important as a *community* decision, open to all CCD members; request public posting of the recommendation to come up with a new name and a community vote, just like the theme; many want a redo.

In light of the marketing details including "Allemande" already being used (flyers, buttons, Tshirts) for 2012, Jane made a motion to table further discussion and decision of "Allemande" branding until the Jan 2013 SC meeting, to include the newly elected SC members. Doug seconded. 5 yeas, 2 abstentions (Joseph not present for this vote) Motion passed

Janet requested buttons for Once Upon a Contra read "CCD's Allemande"

**Susan Davis** emphasized the serious nature of **SAFETY** on the dance floor, especially concerning deep dipping, aerials, and jerked/aggressive spins/twirls.

Debra admitted being afraid of being kicked in the head (during deep dips);

Callers are consistently including safety in their instruction and during dances, sometimes requests for no dipping/wide flourishes are ignored;

CCD could lose its insurance if safety policies regarding known, potentially unsafe, risky practices are not enforced, and injuries occur;

CCD's reputation as a safe dance experience is at risk when dancers see aggressive behaviors;

**Action suggestions** include: Contain "showboats" to a middle "hot-dog" line;

Offer "no hot-dog" line-s";

Display FlowChart showing when it's OK to twirl, dip, spin someone;

Restrict dipping to the ends of contra lines, since dipping takes up more space and is more risky within the line, especially if crowded;

Newcomers should be made aware of dancers that flourish aggressively;

New Host duties could include policing risky behavior during dances;

Callers announce to the dancers if/when an injury has occurred and reaffirm dancing safely;

Have dancers sign a Waiver of Liability when they arrive at the dance – Dave is researching the potential effectiveness **DONE**;

Videotape Safe Flourishing; possibly also showing the dangers of risky moves;

Workshops teaching *safe* flourishes; advanced workshop @ breaks;

Since Safety has been a topic for much discussion recently, Margie offered to notify the CCD membership about the above concerns, and encourage attendance and participation at the Nov 19 meeting, when policies, enforcement, and consequences of non-compliance will be discussed and secured.

**Jim Crawford** presented his review on **New Dancers** returning to Fri dances, and suggested two subcommittees : 1. Study New Dancers that *do* come back (1/3 of new dancers)– get information on what makes them come back - including regular follow-ups via phone, email... Much time and money is spent on New Dancers

2. Study those that don't return (why?)

Long-term (months/not days), come up with some recommendations as to how better retain more of the new dancers.

**Scott Barnaby** made several points to negotiate with CCC regarding **AC @ CCC**:

AC fixes are not complete, one problem unit remaining;

AC may produce enough chill, but both thermostats re-set during the dance and occasionally turn off completely;

Dancers have left the dance early due to the heat;

Our rent is scheduled to go up, but the AC has not been fixed to fully functioning;

**Action suggestions:** Doug will include AC in his negotiations with McKenzie @ CCC;

A closed hall remains cooler; effort will be made to keep all doors to hall closed except for the two doors near the Admission Table (effective 10-26)

Margie appealed for consideration as we negotiate with CCC, also a nonprofit with financial challenges, due support of their charitable vision.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** In the 2012 Operating Budget/Projection Doug reported an optimistic financial standing for 2012, including the 2012 Allemande. It was pointed out the Fri dances still don't break even, so diligence is called for.

Jane moved to accept the 2012 Budget/Projection; Margie seconded  
Vote: 7 yeas, one abstention; motion passed.

Doug has a meeting scheduled with McKenzie Wren @ CCC regarding security-payment/rent-reduction negotiations, (other groups that meet @ CCC on Fri could share the security cost) (**Outcome shared w SC Nov 1**);

Dave will report update summary to the CCD list-serv; **DONE** (10-29)

Regarding increased price of dance: A senior discount was suggested by Jane with LOL response;

On CCD Schedule, the Dance Basics Workshop is now indicated as included with paid admission to dance;

Hand Stamp: Jane and Sally will research use of a hand stamp to show payment at Fri dances;

Dave requested that Doug project the January admission increase on the 2013 Financial Outlook;

Caller Pay/Out of Town Caller Travel Pay: "Review and possibly revise pay scales for talent (callers, musicians)" Tabled until 2013 Financial Projection

**SC/BSC Elections:** Janet reported about 40 people had voted as of Oct 24, not including email and snail-mail votes.

Procedures to prevent voting fraud proving successful

**Update:** Votes were counted Nov 7 – New SC members are Carole Bennett, Scott Russell, and Christin Whittington; new BSC member is Mary Ellen Doughty

**Allemande:** All Chairs filled

Costume Contest: accepted, advertising to go out to out-of-towners, website

## **Other Business:**

**Security:** In view of some reports of thefts at Fri dances, a recommendation was made to post a notice on the website reminding folks that whatever they bring in to the dance is at their own risk, since the CCC is a public facility;

A particular individual that often comes to Fri dances, and doesn't pay, has caused some safety/security concerns – Doug will include this issue with McKenzie @ CCC

**New Year's Eve:** Sound Budget (TBD ASAP)–**Done via email** (10-31)

**New Year's Day:** No Volunteers have come forward

**Amy:** Reggie Strange is in contact with Kimbi re Webmaster role

**Kimbi:** NYE Caller will be Susan Kevra

**ASCAP:** Dave reported fee was waived

**Jane:** Volunteer Role List was sent to CCD members, included in Dropbox; Kimbi is formatting for the web, will present to volunteers for their approval, then post

**Halloween Dance:** Oct 26 – Jane is in charge of inexpensive prizes; Jim to provide a variety of DVD's

**Meeting adjourned about 9:30PM** Whew!

**Old ACTION ITEMS – Not Yet Completed, but reaffirmed:**

**Joseph** send Meet Up group link to SC members

**Amy** connect her Meet Up group to ours

**Safety Policy:** **Janet** and **Kimbi** draft safety standards policy for website;

**Janet** make NO TWIRL/ NO DIPPING buttons

**Doug:** Talk to McKenzie Wren and Linda (at CCC) regarding security-payment/rent-reduction negotiations (**DONE**), (other groups that meet @ CCC on Fri could share the security cost) (Shared outcome Nov 1); added issues (Oct 24): AC repairs, questionable person attending Fri dances; New Year's Eve contract.

**New Action Items:**

**Margie:** Notify CCD members of Nov 19 meeting discussion of Safety Policies

**Doug:** Project admission increase on financial outcome for 2013

**Dave:** Report summary update of Finances to CCD membership **DONE**

Research use of Waiver of Liability to promote safety **DONE**

**Jane and Sally:** Research use of a hand stamp to show payment at Fri dances

**ALL:** Consider volunteers for New Dancer Retention subcommittees, suggestions for regular processing of New Dancer data, and ways to retain the Newbies.

**Kimbi:** Post a notice on the website reminding folks that whatever they bring in to the dance is at their own risk **DONE**; Present Volunteer Role List to volunteers for their approval, then post