

**Chattahoochee Country Dancers  
Steering Committee February Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: February 21, 2010 - 6:45pm-9:11pm

Host: Janet Shepherd

Attending:

SC members: Margie Cooper, Jim Crawford, Jennifer Horrocks, Dave Marcus, Robert McGregor, Robbin Ryan, Janet Shepherd, Tim Timmer (after item 2).

Guests: Sally Walker, Kimbi Hagen,

Absent: Sherry Kilpatrick

Actions:

1. Meeting called to order at 6:46 by Robbin Ryan.
2. Motion by Margie to approve the minutes of the Jan; Robert second. Passed 7-0-0.
3. Margie noted that the 'inappropriate behavior' issue discussed in January has been resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant.
4. Margie suggested that in conjunction with the 3/27 Stone Mountain event [see previous minutes and note that support for the event was approved via a quorum in email exchanges between the January and the February meeting] we have a potluck picnic for CCD members. Margie offered to pursue this and by acclaim was given the go-ahead as a low-key unfunded event.
5. Dave moved that "***we spend up to \$200 to purchase the same insurance coverage for our sound equipment while in transit that it has whilst being stored and used at off-site locations.***" Second: Janet. Approved: 8-0-0.

Dave will chat with Doug to ask him to do this.

6. Jennifer distributed the binders that will hold Steering Committee procedures and there was discussion about what will be added to the binders. [Post-meeting request from Jim: All SC members have a CD which contains the opening and closing procedures. Please place your disk in your binder for your ready reference.]

7. Tim recommended that the Steering Committee use Google Wave for communications and discussions, including voting on motions. This was accepted by the SC and Tim will set it up.
8. Dave moved that ***“When there is the need to cancel a dance, the President will have the authority to cancel the dance and the Vice-President will have that authority in her or his absence.”*** Robbin seconded. Approved 8-0-0.

There was discussion that we lost \$700 on the dance when we had the recent snowstorm (about 20 dancers showed up).

There was discussion that part of the reason for not cancelling was that our talent contracts require us to pay the full agreed-upon travel and fees in case of cancellation. There was the suggestion made that this policy be the subject of a future meeting.

There was discussion on methods for notifying dancers of cancellations. It was agreed at the Web site, mailing list, and a new Facebook group would be used for this. Margie has set up the Facebook group.

9. Tim moved that ***“Changes to or setting of policy or procedure and approval of expenditures should be made only by a formal motion of the Steering Committee. All others issues may be handled by consensus or motion as desired by the attendees at any meeting. When consensus cannot be agreed, then an issue can be decided only by a formal motion. All items whether decided by consensus or formal motion shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.”*** Robert seconded. Approved: 8-0-0.
10. Jay Unger and Molly Mason have asked, for the May 14<sup>th</sup> dance, that they be paid a percentage of the gate if the gate is above a certain amount. By consensus, the Steering Committee decided to postpone any decision.

There was also discussion of the general fee structure and amounts for bands, callers, and sound personnel in light that (a) Friday dances often lose money; (b) the contributions of each of these may impact attendance and thus revenue; and (c) the practices of other communities.

The Steering Committee decided to discuss this at a future meeting. In preparation for this:

- Tim will prepare a summary of information that the Band Committee has made vis-à-vis other practices.
- Dave will prepare an Excel model that can be easily used to model the financial impact of different decisions that Steering Committee may make.

It was noted by Dave that this decision should be part of the 2010 budget process.

11. ECD has requested that we increase the Friday night admission from \$12 to as much as \$15 for Fandango. By consensus, the Steering Committee decided that:

(a) we do not like the idea [note there was discussion and many members felt that the charge should not be more than the standard out-of-town band charge]; and members of the Steering Committee are not entirely comfortable with the current relationship and finances for the Friday night of Fandango;

(b) we feel that the execution of opening and closing CCC with trained and experienced openers/closers has not been what we wanted;

(c) we would like a written proposal;

(d) we would like ECD leadership to come to a Steering Committee meeting to educate and discuss.

There was discussion of the CCD's purpose or mission, as per the by-laws, which does include the promotion of traditional dances of the United Kingdom.

[The full text of the ECD request was: *"I'm wrapping up our CCD proposal for Fandango to send to you for CCD steering committee approval. Question: We charged \$12.00 last year for Friday night. Any chance to increase that amount to \$13 \$14 or \$15? Do you think people would not attend at \$15. We fly 4 people from around the country for this weekend - 3 musicians from Philadelphia area and also our caller this year will be coming from NYC. If we could it would help ECD Atlanta finances. Before I shoot you off the proposal I wanted to know what you thought. Thanks."*

There was also mention that if CCD has a special financial relationship with ECD for the Friday that of that weekend, other organizers (Insta-Dance, Doug Singleton, Contra-Quad) will likely ask the same financial concessions.

12. Robbin volunteered to coordinate the host schedule using one host per dance. Also, we agreed to have individuals make their own announcements (not necessarily a SC member) make (short) announcements at the dance. Stage and mic use needs to be worked out..
13. Tim noted that Seth Tepfer has resigned from the band committee and we hope to replace Seth with Rob Harper. Rob is currently considering this and he will let us know in the near future if he can commit to this duty..

Tim also noted that the Band Committee may have recommendations for the next Steering Committee meeting; that recommendations will have the sup-

port of at least 6 of the committee members; and that they will be sent to the Steering Committee in advance of the Steering Committee meeting.

14. Next meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Dave and Robbin Marcus (6501 Rockland Road, Lithonia, 30038) at 6:30 will be preceded at 5:30 by a 60-minute pot luck.
15. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 via motion from Tim and second from Robbin, voted 8-0-0.