

Minutes

Chicago Barn Dance Co
Board Meeting Aug 12, 2009, 7pm
Livingroom Realty, 1530 W Superior, Chicago IL

This is the first meeting of the new CBDC Board of Directors duly elected by members on July 6, 2009, at Bethany Church dance. Elected officials present as follows: Meg Dedolph—President; Lezlee Crawford—Secretary; Ruth Runeborg—Treasurer; and four members-at-large: Elizabeth Albert, Abraham McClurg, Rachel Shapiro, Aviva Tauman. Also attending the meeting were Paul Watkins, Lynn Garren, Christina Krumsee.

1.

Meg called the meeting to order, and suggested first item discussed should be Shari's concerns by email and phone, about whether the board wants to be involved in **BUT**, (Breaking Up Thanksgiving) and how the BUT committee could, more efficiently than last year, access money needed for event. There is also the question of whether BUT should split off completely from CBDC. We decided that was too big an issue to solve immediately, so in the short-term we should add a person from BUT committee, probably Diane who purchases the food, as a co-signer on the BUT checking account. This person will go with Ruth to Chase bank to be added to account. Contracts will still need to be signed by Meg. Paul volunteered to set up access to BUT flyer from CBDC website.

There was some discussion about whether eventual BUT split-off was a good idea. Some felt it was in essence a CBDC event and should remain so, in order for CBDC to be able to use the profits from BUT to help the organization throughout the year. Meg pointed out that we can't expect them to do all the work and then we take a cut. We also wondered if they actually wanted our involvement, or not, and decided we would probably need a joint meeting with them to find out. Another issue with a split in the long-term is transfer of any BUT money. Meg suggested if that occurs, they could just spend down the current balance and start their new account with surplus funds after that. Meg also pointed out that a split may be more complicated than they had anticipated.

2.

Ruth handed out current **financial statements**, a copy of which is included in these Minutes, and explained the entries, giving us details on how much bands, callers and halls are costing now. The Abbey still refuses to guarantee reserved dates to us—if they get a higher-paying offer, we're cancelled.

She also asked if we should continue to support Fox Valley by purchasing a \$50 ad for CBDC as we've done in years past. Board agreed to buy the ad.

She notified us of the necessary address change of CBDC post office box. We agreed to keep the mailbox in Evanston for one more year.

3.

Meeting attendees debated whether the printed 2-month **calendar** should continue to be mailed out to the mailing list of approx 500. Aviva suggested we discontinue the bulk mailing now. After discussion, all agreed that it was not cost effective. Rachel will make up a postcard to send notifying those on the mailing list that they will no longer receive the calendar by mail. Paul will try to set up a

PDF for a one-page one-month printable calendar giving venue addresses, caller and band info, all on one side. He will send to us so we can try printing it. More extensive info such as weekend dances will still be on the CBDC website with links. All agreed to continue to include other contra dances such as Oak Pk, U of C, Fermilab & English Country on our calendar. We will continue to print out approx 100 copies to set out at the dances. Lezlee will research best deal for this printing. Abraham volunteered to find the best deal on the 500 postcards online. It was pointed out that because of the success of the annual fundraising letter started last year by Aviva and Elizabeth, we should continue to collect email and home addresses at the door. Meg will notify Bill Sudkamp, Ruth will notify Gayle, of the calendar mailing discontinuation. Jerry Corrigan who compiles all the calendar info also needs to be notified.

4.

The two **email lists** were discussed: CBDC is announcement only; contrafriends are notices of possible interest to members; we should be on both. Lezlee initially agreed to Meg's request that she take over these web lists, but subsequently had to back out because of time constraints

5.

Miscellaneous:

Paul will send board members a copy of the new **Bylaws**.
Each board member should make a list of their sole **duties**.

6.

Big issues that are still on the table were identified by Meg:

CBDC is losing money—what can we do about it?

There is dissatisfaction with sound quality and heat at Bethany; costs and scheduling at SPACE and Abbey need to be addressed. Lezlee will contact Shari and Jo for their venue lists so we can pursue other hall options.

How can we reach out to more people to get them in to dances?

How can we keep people coming back?

The "Free Next Dance" card for first-timers has been working, need to keep that up, print out a supply of cards.

Need to discuss who books the bands and callers.

Board agreed to meet again next week, Tu, Aug 18, 2009, 7pm, 1530 W Superior.

Board agreed to quarterly meetings: Aug, Jan, Apr, Jun

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Minutes submitted by Lezlee Crawford, Secretary