

Grand River Squares Board Meeting - August 21, 2014

1. Board meeting called to order at 6:04PM at Wealthy Street Bakery

Present: Dave Fallen - President

Kim Wood - Vice President

Birthe Johannesen - Treasurer

Chuck Novak - Caller

Jim Molloy - Caller

2. Additions and/or changes to the Agenda: Jim added two items: Club Culture and Caller Mentoring
3. Minutes from July Board Meeting approved
4. Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of June 30, 2014	\$7,081.12
Income	\$246.00
Expenses	\$305.85
Balance as of July 31, 2014	\$7,021.27

5. Old Business

- a. Monthly Dance Schedule Update

October dance will be held at Faith United Methodist Church.

Caller for the November dance is Jason Raleigh. Afternoon will be all Advanced Level and then MS and Plus in the Evening.

Callers for January and February 2015 not yet decided. Chuck suggested that we use one of those dances to have a Hex Squares Dance Night with Wayne Palmear. The Board thought this was a good idea and asked Chuck to pursue lining up Wayne for calling.

Caller for the March 2015 dance is Michael Maltenfort from Chicago.

Chuck also suggested that we consider using a caller from Cincinnati (who called for the Michigan State Convention the past weekend). Her name is Pam Courts. She charges \$150 Plus Mileage. Chuck suggested that we try to coordinate with other area clubs to have her call a couple of dances, thus splitting the mileage costs. Chuck will contact Pam to get some initial feedback and then turn the information over to Kim.

- b. Fly-In 2015 - No report.
- c. Location of classes during Art Prize 2014 (9-24 thru 10-12). Dave Fallen spoke with Lisa at Park Church and confirmed that we are on the schedule for all of our monthly dances, as well as our normal Tuesday night dancing. We have the church booked on Tuesdays from 6:00PM to 9:30PM to accommodate the added classes at A1 and C1. During Art Prize, we will have the Dining Room and either the Basement or Choir Room. After Art Prize, we will have Miriam Hall and either the Basement or Choir Room. Jim suggested that the Advanced and Challenge classes use the larger room due to the larger turn out for those levels. The Board and Chuck agreed.
- d. The Nest Program - Chuck gave an overview of the Nest Program. In brief, this is a program for Basic/MS beginners. The first section of class (about 45 minutes) is set up to teach any and all calls that can be done with only two couples. In each nest of 2 couples there are 2 new dancers and 2 angels. There is a 5th person who reads the call definitions for the couples. In each nest, the dancers learn as many calls as they are capable of learning. The dancers who catch on quickly will work in nests designed to keep them moving, while those that need more assistance will be in nests designed to support this need. In the second section of the class, the caller teaches the calls that require a full square, while reviewing the calls learned while in two couples. With the Nest program, new dancers can begin at any time. Chuck is going to attend a session being taught by the Flutterbys to get some first-hand experience. Then, in the fall, Chuck is planning on using the Nest Program. Also in the fall, Chuck is going to run an accelerated Plus Class for a couple of new students that are coming out of the Flutterbys' Nest Program.

6. New Business

- a. Fly-In On-Line Manual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 6:00PM at Wealthy Street Bakery. Dave Fallen will send an E-Mail to all that need to attend.
- b. Club Culture - Jim asked to discuss how we can maintain the “gayness” (for lack of a better word) of our club. Over the past few years, we have welcomed many new dancers, a good number of whom are straight square dancers. We are thrilled to have these new members and appreciate the contribution they have made to the continued success of our club. Jim’s only concern was that we not lose sight of the fact that we were founded and exist as a “gay” club and that we find ways to not lose sight of this critical foundation of our club. It was suggested by those present that we pursue the following avenues.

Continue to teach the “gay fluff” that we have always taught, explaining to all present that we teach the fluff because a. it is fun, b. it can help to complete the call successfully, and c. when our members go to other gay clubs’ Fly-Ins and to the IAGSDC Convention, they need to know this fluff as it will be danced by the other dancers.

Help reinforce the freedom that gay square dancer have to dance as either gender and with different partners by calling at least one dance per night where the dancers in the square do NOT dance with the partner that they came with.

- c. Caller Mentoring - Chuck, Dale and Jim have been in contact with Sandy Bryant and she has agreed (tentatively) to mentor these three club callers. The specifics have yet to be worked out with Sandy, but Chuck had thought that we would attempt to set up about 10 3-hour sessions with her. It was suggested that we offer to pay her \$75 or \$100 dollars per 3-hour session. The Board agreed to have the club pay this expense. It was hoped that the first session might occur at the Chicago Fly-In the weekend of October 10-12, 2014. Jim will contact Sandy to discuss the fee structure and the possibility of meeting that weekend.

7. Next Scheduled Board Meeting to be held Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 6:00PM at Wealthy Street Bakery.

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:28PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jim Molloy - Fill in Secretary
