

FolkNet Meeting - Thursday, 21 August 2014
Start time: 7:07pm

In attendance: Mal SanMarco, Bob Sammon, Joanne Laessio, Mike Harris, Bill Schilling, Larry Bruner, Bob Wrobel, Becca Rhoades, Red Chrosniak

Minutes:

- Minutes accepted as read by Bill Schilling. Some slight changes were noted that will be forwarded to Charlie Mosbrook to make on the official minutes. Bill will email Charlie the amendments.

Treasurer Report:

- Monthly balance sheet submitted by Bill Schilling
- Note that we are under the \$5,000 but that the \$12 fee was reversed by Chase (should appear on next month's statement).
- Rough monthly income of \$200. Right now, the regular monthly expenses (calendar and mail box) are slightly above the income, thus we're running at a bit of a deficit. It's not something that is terribly worrisome, but is something to keep in mind.
- It was again confirmed that the credit card associated with the Chase account is Bill Schilling's and not FolkNet's. There was no issue with this, just a point of clarification.
- Statutory agent needs to be changed.
- Other tax forms will be filed later this month.

Website/Facebook report:

- No major issues or problems to report.
- Everything seems to be working fine.

Membership Update:

- Up to 169 members
- Seem to be adding more members each month than we are losing due to lapse in memberships.
- Pointed out that one of our major sources of income are memberships and as such it would be good to look forward to adding new members.
- Larry Bruner noted that it was a welcome change and very convenient that Bob Sammon's emails reminding folks about renewals were very helpful.

Calendar Update

- Calendar deadline this month was pushed up slightly
- Noted that several festivals (Raccoon County and WRUW) were not on the calendar.
 - It's difficult to add events to the calendar that we don't know about. Many of the groups putting these things on are not submitting their information to us.
Discussion on how we can make sure that we get this information.
- List of performers and venues for Kent Around Town cannot be found.

Dance update:

- Becca Rhoades reported that the August 22nd dance had to be canceled because the caller had to back out of the dance and Becca was unable to find a substitute for the dance. It was noted that there were no negative repercussions from the band or the venue for the cancellation.
- The October 17th dance is still on and the musicians and caller have all been confirmed. Discussion that we should have checks for the musicians and caller on hand rather than pay out of the cash box (\$75 for the caller and \$125 each for the two musicians). Those checks will be written at the Oct. 16th FolkNet Meeting.

Folger House Status Report:

- There were email discussions about the event. Many of the questions revolve around the expense of the proposed lineup for the first house concert - is it really a house concert? do we need to people on the bill? should we be spending this much for one house concert?
 - Concern with the amount for the musicians and the size of the room would limit the amount that we could make on the event and possibly set up a precedent for going big with these events.
 - Possibly to look at some sort of split for compensation for musicians (ie. 80/20 split)
 - Could be a big risk for a new venue - maybe start smaller to test the waters. Possibly start with a local artist instead of bringing someone else in. Is the venue right for what we'd like to do? - parking, notoriety, etc.
 - Agreed that the duel show that was being planned should be canceled as planned and tabling the discussion for another month.
- Joanne noted that we should definitely pursue house concerts in general as there are musicians, local and not, who are interested in playing for them.

FARM Update:

- Charlie was absent for the meeting, but seems to have the FARM stuff well in hand.

Newsletter

- Newsletter is off the table for right now - the volunteers who originally stepped forward to help with this have had to back out of it. Reason for them backing out was lack of interest from other people in supporting the endeavor by submitting content.

Avon Lake Folk Fest Report:

- Avon Lake Folk Fest went well - there was a much better crowd than last year and the crowd seemed to stay from the beginning to the end. Approximately 35-45 people were in the audience (compared to approximately 20 people last year).
- This event was sponsored by and paid for by the city of Avon Lake.

- Is there an audience connection that can be made between this event and a potential concert at Folger House.

Meeting day/time/location

- Bob Sammon discussed with the folks from Munroe Falls about the availability of the current meeting space on different days. There is the potential that a Wednesday might be available.
- Bob will forward any information he gets to the folks via email.

Retreat

- Bob Wrobel and Bob Sammon met a few weeks back and Wrobel brought up the idea of coming with some sort of retreat/brainstorming event for the board.
 - Initial places that Bob Wrobel explored to host something like this resulted in finding that most venues were looking for around \$200 to rent the spaces.
 - This would be something on a weekend and be extended time to brainstorm future things, ideas, and directions.
 - This would be open to any FolkNet members who would like to attend - not just something for the board or executive committee.
 - great opportunity to tap other people for their ideas and input.
 - Possible breakout sessions
 - Folks could bring instruments to jam or do song circles afterward.
 - Some Sunday in the afternoon would be good.
 - Noted that some sort of follow up soon after the retreat day would be needed by the board to go through and begin to act on some of the ideas.
 - publicize the results on facebook/website to let people know what happened.
 - refreshments/food might be a good idea.

Storage requirements

- Initial look at a storage unit was \$40 for a 5x5 unit - this idea was tabled.
 - rationale was that it would be a great idea to have pertinent backup materials in a centralized location that was accessible to multiple people.
- Question was “what do we need to keep?”
 - accountant recommended that financial documents be kept for the last 5 years.
 - Other than financial documents what needs to be kept? Do we need to keep things for posterity sake?
 - Joanne has agreed to go through the back issues of Continuum to archive them and possibly bind them as a volume.
 - Currently the current membership records are kept in three places and all are up to date.
 - Question of digitizing the records - there are a lot of records which would require a great deal of time and work to scan in.

Elections

- Should be scheduled for the last meeting of the year. It would be a good idea to begin to look at this sooner.
- A new member submitted an application for the board.
- Everyone encouraged to reflect on their positions in FolkNet to make sure they would like to continue them.

Picnic/Meeting

- Combined with the retreat. See above.

Closing remarks:

- Look at forming some committees like a communications committee, possibly an ethics committee,

Adjourn:

- Motioned and seconded. 8:33pm.

Minutes submitted by Red Chrosniak