

Folknet Meeting Minutes 28 January 2015

In attendance: Tom Ball, Bill Schilling, Charlie Mosbrook, Mike Harris, Rick Szekelyi, Bob Sammon, Becca Rhoades, Red Chrosniak, Bob Wrobel, Larry Bruner, Joanne Laessig, Alma Houston

Called to order at 7:06pm

1. **Opening Remarks:** Charlie Mosbrook
 - a. Great thanks extended to Bob Sammon for his work as outgoing president of Folknet.
 - b. Desire to see more membership involvement in the coming year
 - i. possibly having a volunteer coordinator to help engage our membership more in the activities that we do
2. **November Minutes:** Red Chrosniak/Charlie Mosbrook
 - a. Motion to accept the minutes: Mike Harris; second Bob Sammon. Passed unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's report:** Bill Schilling
 - a. Bill submitted balance sheets both for the end of the year 2014 as well as the current balance sheet
 - b. Update on 501(c)3 status: According to discussions with the IRS we should be reinstated. Forms have been submitted and we are waiting to hear from them.
 - i. Our status as a 501(c)3 had never been revoked, it simply lapsed.
 - ii. We are still listed as a not-for profit here in the state of Ohio.
4. **Membership:** Mike Harris
 - a. Current membership is at 154 members, which should increase this month just based on renewals (roughly seven renewals made at the meeting)
 - b. We would need around 43 new members to help cover current budget projections and end in the black.
 - c. Desire to increase organizational memberships
 - i. possibly reduce the rate to help entice local businesses to sponsor
 - ii. benefits to organizational members
 1. possibly advertising on website, facebook, etc.
 - d. Other membership issues to look forward
 - i. membership cards
 - ii. new benefits to members
 1. discounts for folknet events, local retailers, etc.
 - e. Need to make sure that we're notifying members when their membership is expiring.
5. **Website/Facebook:** Charlie Mosbrook
 - a. Facebook is being used and posts are being made by several different board members
 - b. Need to update list of performers on the website

- i. Joanne noted that she would be willing to go through the list to make suggestions
- 6. **Calendar:** Larry Bruner
 - a. The calendar is moving along as usual
 - b. Larry noted that he has been exploring some other formatting options to make the calendar more usable for a larger group of people
 - i. noted that we have an incredible amount of information contained within the calendar
- 7. **Budget:** Bill Schilling
 - a. Budget worksheet submitted for review (it was emailed out in advance to the board members)
 - b. The idea was mentioned of doing some sort of campaign soliciting donations/gifts
 - c. In the future look for grant money to help make programming possible (Grant Space was mentioned as a place to locate grant offerings)
 - d. Add to next month's agenda: revisit the donation to Just Plain Folk. Tom Ball provided audience/hit data to be reviewed by the board.
 - e. Motion to accept the budget: Rick Szekelyi; second
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Add \$100 to the Miscellaneous Office
 - ii. Vote: Unanimously accepted by voting board members
- 8. **Board Elections:** Bill Schilling
 - a. Up for board election: Kate Kooser and Rick Feinberg
 - i. Brief introductions were given for both of them on behalf of current board members
 - ii. Motion for Kate and Rick: Mike, second Rick; Vote unanimous
 - b. Note made that board members can still submit their interest to be part of the executive committee - simply contact one of the officers for more information
- 9. **Seeger Community Sing:** Scott Wachter/Charlie Mosbrook
 - a. Scott will be heading up the Seeger Sing Committee
 - i. He's been putting together a group of people to work with
 - ii. Pilgrim Congregational in Tremont is the possible location
 - iii. Target day is Sunday May 3rd (Seeger's Birthday)
- 10. **Board Retreat**
 - a. Idea behind the Board Retreat is a day long event to gather together to brainstorm direction and ideas. Possible add in some time to play music together as well.
 - b. Projected date would be a Saturday in spring
 - c. Location is still being determined (two primary locations would be a library (Mike is checking in to that) and a church hall (Joanne is checking in to that))
- 11. **Dance:** Red Chrosniak/Becca Rhoades
 - a. Becca noted that several prospective dates are being looked at. In process of contacting callers and bands to see about their availability.

- i. Look to draw on callers that are coming in to the local area for another dance (possibly booking someone for our dance who is also calling nearby - Columbus, Pittsburgh, Ann Arbor)
- b. Location is still up in the air a bit. The Avon Lake location was good, but there could be better locations out there.
- c. Need to double check dates from Oberlin College to make sure there isn't a conflict - one of the reasons we're doing this dance is to draw a younger crowd and Oberlin College has a fairly healthy contra dance presence on campus.
- d. Look into CDSS (Country Dance and Song Society) for possible grant funding and opportunities
- e. Joanne suggested exploring a Sunday daytime dance

12. House Concerts

- a. Money has been set aside in the budget for house/small venue concerts and we had had some conversations about it last year.
- b. Idea would be to spread the concerts to different places - have an eastside, westside, etc.
- c. Discussion occurred as to whether or not we should be in the business of doing house/small venue concerts
 - i. it was generally accepted to pursue the idea further
- d. Charlie proposed the formation of a committee to explore possibilities, which was generally accepted
 - i. Rich Szekelyi mentioned that he would be willing to be part of that group

13. Other business/FARM one day event

- a. Bob Wrobel: suggestions for down the road.
 - i. look at the possibility of having a lawyer, CPA, or auditor on retainer
 - ii. would love to see some kind of a Folknet folk festival with jams and workshops and showcases
- b. Bob Sammon
 - i. Joanne has offered to do the post office box pickup
 - ii. Bob mentioned that he is available as needed to help with communications
 - iii. There is a Folk Net quilt that was donated to be part of some sort of raffle or fundraiser (check with the Stones to see who the maker of the quilt is)
- c. FARMette - which is FARM's one day event occurring on Saturday May 2nd. Publicise this to membership as it would be great to have a strong presence there.
- d. May day celebration?

14. Add to the agenda for next month:

- a. Look forward to making a new Folknet CD
- b. Revisit the donation to Just Plain Folk

Motion to adjourn at 9:06pm

Minutes submitted by Red Chrosniak