

## Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, August 26, 2015

Called to Order: 7:06pm

In attendance: Becca Rhoades, Rick Feinberg, Mike Harris, Larry Bruner, Joanne Laessig, Charlie Mosbrook, Red Chrosniak

1. Opening Remarks: Charlie (What can we do to get folks involved again?)
  - a. Publicly thanking Mike Harris and Bill Schilling for all their work with Music in the Valley (MITV) and the finances, respectively, this summer.
    - i. Note by Mike that he does it, both Folknet and MITV, because he loves it.
  - b. There is a great need for more folks to get involved. We saved Folknet from going under two years, but we've gone back to a position of maintaining. We need to be active in finding and retaining new board members and getting the membership more involved in activities.
  - c. Meeting location was brought up as a reason why people have not gotten involved. The idea was floated of having a rotated meeting location. Having a place with wifi available would be incredibly helpful. Wifi would also enable folks to video conference in. Look at public libraries (Highland Library where we had the board retreat, Beachwood Library).
2. July Minutes: NA
3. Treasurer's report: Bill via email
  - a. Bill emailed the report to all the board members earlier in the week.
  - b. We approved the email report from Bill.
4. Membership: Mike
  - a. Joanne has updated a survey for the membership so that we can update our membership list to reflect current information. The survey looks good and we talked about some of the ways to facilitate it well.
  - b. Membership is holding firm.
5. Website/Facebook: Charlie
  - a. Everything is working well and being kept up to date.
  - b. One issue is sustainability - right now the only person who is able to update the website is Charlie. While this works fine most times, it makes a lot of sense from a sustainability standpoint that other people on the board are able to update things when need be.
  - c. Tech meeting was proposed to go over information regarding the website updates, sending out group emails, facilitating surveys, listserv, and other tech related things. Meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 20th at 1pm at the Beachwood branch of the Cuyahoga Public Library (we need to call to confirm the location with the Library).
6. Calendar: Larry
  - a. In the calendar we are publicizing close to 600 events each month.

- b. Burdened with a recurring list of items that may or may not be current - it is an incredible amount of work to call to double check with venues. Becca volunteered to call the venues in question to make sure things are current.
  - c. Sustainability is brought up: Larry is the one who does the calendar and if for some reason he is not able to then we run into a wall. This is something we will need to explore.
- 7. Workshops: Kate
  - a. Kate was not in attendance at the meeting.
- 8. Member benefits
  - a. Discussed things like listing on the performer's page on the website.
  - b. Discount on Folknet events - dances, FARM private showcases, house concerts.
  - c. A means of support for promotion of events.
  - d. Means of networking.
    - i. idea of a listserv was floated - it would need to be moderated
    - ii. message board - would also need to be moderated
  - e. Sustain the efforts of Folknet.
- 9. Seeger community sing: Charlie
  - a. Currently in limbo. We have not heard from Scott about it. There have been date and venue locations.
- 10. Rise Up Singing tour (Amy Sheone from Oberlin)
  - a. Interested in organizing singalong concert that celebrate the release of Rise Again.
    - i. In most cases these will include passing out copies of the new songbook to the audience and leading songs from it. A wonderful array of performers who have songs in the new book will be joining us for one or more of these concerts including: Lou & Peter Berryman, Tom Chapin, emma's revolution, Bev Grant, Bill Harley, Kim & Reggie Harris, Joe Jencks, Charlie King, Magpie, John McCutcheon and more
  - b. Sounds like a good idea. We need to get more information about it from them - requirements, information, venue possibilities, etc.
    - i. Charlie will respond to the email from Amy to inquire.
  - c. Would probably be April of 2016
- 11. Folknet merch
  - a. Something that we should do during the winter.
    - i. hats, t-shirts, coozies
- 12. MITV: Mike
  - a. Great showing from the musicians - thirty more than last year
    - i. This is great for obvious reasons, but also because this is the first year that we did not do the physical mailing (that was a savings of \$300-\$400 from last year)
  - b. We got a number of donations and a number of memberships from the event.
  - c. Paid attendance from Hale Farm was around 1,200 people.
- 13. House concerts: Joanne

- a. February Sky is up for doing a house cover in October - still need to secure a venue.
- b. We've had an offer from a local couple with a backyard stage to do future concerts there.

14. FARM

- a. We have secured a room for private showcases, which is very good. We are looking to do a similar setup for it that we did last year. The showcase room will be for all three nights.
- b. Charlie is working on having a "Folknet presents" spot as part of the DJ and presenters showcase on Thursday night.
- c. Publicizing for the FARM Conference will begin soon.

15. Dance: Becca & Red

- a. There is a local dance meeting on Sunday exploring new venues for dances - Red will be attending the meeting, will report back, and will also try to get some dancers interested in joining Folknet
- b. Looking at a dance potentially in November
- c. Potentially look at the the Dobama Theatre building

16. Other business

- a. Folknet Open Mic at Loganberry. Discussion was brought up to possibly change the format of the open mic. Before anything is decided more exploration and conversations need to happen. This will be added to the agenda for next month.
- b. Becca and Red will start exploring the idea of Folksgiving for this year.

Adjourned: 9:16pm