

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 29, 2019

Members present: Ben Allen, Gale Askren, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, Lorraine Pratt, and Bob Stevens. **Absent:** Margaret Bolshazy. **Guest:** Richard Riger.

Meeting called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Jerry stated that we will skip the Treasurer's report, and Sheri said that was fine with her since she didn't prepare one. **Jerry said the meeting will be limited to a discussion of the Hall lighting.** He received an **email today from Betty Rohde** re her concerns with the lights and the small hall speakers. We all received that email and also Jerry's reply. He received a response from Betty thanking him for his information.

We have **two estimates for installing dimmers on the lights in small (East) hall.** Jerry obtained one from Ed Carr, who installed the LED lights, and Bob got one from KEI, an electrical contractor. Ed Carr's estimate (Electro Data) is **\$1495**, and KEI's is **\$1024.81**.

Jerry asked for each person on the Board to give their opinion re installing dimmers on the small side.

Bob has divided feelings about installing dimmers. He understands that a few people have problems (with the light levels) but the majority do not. We offer a nice building, and people know what we have coming in. Alice asked if Bob is opposed to installing any dimmers. He said he isn't actually opposed, but **questions whether we should spend ASDC money** on it. He isn't sure. The lights don't bother him or most people, but he will go along with what the Board decides. He thinks the current lights are much better than what we had before.

Lorraine asked Bob why we went with LED lights. He explained it was to save energy and money. The life expectancy on the LED's is 15 or 20 years, and that works out to a savings over replacing several bulbs a month, and the price was going up. PNM gave us a rebate. Jerry added that the old florescent light bulbs, T8's and T12's, and the ballast that we were using were being phased out. **Lorraine said if we want to save on maintenance, which would help Bob, we could use dimmers instead of maintaining the icicle lights.** You can do "mood lighting" by dimming the LED lights instead of using icicle lights and lamps. The icicle lights are uneven, getting dimmer, some brighter than others, and if we used dimmers we could have uniform lighting and not have to replace strings of icicle lights that go out. **Bob said that was a good point, and it would cost a couple of thousand dollars to replace the icicle lights.** Lorraine said the extra lamps that are being used by the social dancer clubs could be a safety or fire hazard, and if we could provide mood lighting without those extra lamps it could be a safety factor.

Sheri said she agrees with Bob about having divided feelings and is "up to here" hearing about it. She thinks we just need to **go ahead and do it (install dimmers)** since the lighting bothers some people. However, she is concerned about how much dimming there will be, and whether people will disagree about the lighting levels. Sheri repeated her concern that the round dance club needs to use **adequate lighting** so that they can see well enough to dance. She does not want any falls due to older people not being able to see. Lorraine said that if we are going to make rules re how much light the round dancers have to have, then she will have to enforce the same rules for all dance groups in their contracts to be fair. Lorraine said they usually leave some of the overhead lights on for the round dance club, which is

lopsided, but plenty of light. Sheri said she is OK with that. She is torn on the subject of installing dimmers.

Alice said everyone knows her opinion pretty well and Sheri is tired of hearing it. **We should install the dimmers.** No one ever had a problem with the old florescent lights being not bright enough. If we had dimmers, then we could lower the level of light to something more mellow, and based on our prior experience with a lower level of light, this should not be a problem. Getting dimmers would allow us to compromise and would be a kindness to people who have an actual, physical problem with bright light. **As reasonable people we ought to be able to compromise, and the expense of getting dimmers is not extreme.**

Ben stated that he has studied the issue, read the minutes from the annual meeting, read the literature on the subject, studied both sides, listened to anyone willing to tell him their opinion, and he **is prepared to vote.**

Gale agrees with Bob in what he had to say. Gale does not think the lights are bright at all, she thinks it is even a little “cloudy” in the Hall, and she wonders if she needs to have her eyes checked. However, **if even a few people are speaking up and saying they have health issues then it should become important to us to consider the dimmers.**

Lin wanted to make a motion, but Sheri objected because we need to hear from Jerry first. Lin said he can make a motion anytime, and Jerry agreed. **Lin moves that we put dimmers on the small side with whichever bid the Board decides on.**

Jerry said that he does like the bright lights, but the main reason that he wanted the LED's installed was because we had florescent bulbs going out, and there was a problem finding replacement bulbs and ballast. **Jerry was in favor of LED lights specifically because florescent lighting is being phased out.** PNM was offering the rebate, which made replacing with LED's more affordable. Now we have even lighting – consistent lighting levels throughout. With the height of our ceilings our lighting levels are not harmful to anyone's eyes. But **everyone is different, some people cannot handle bright lights.**

Jerry asked if there is a second on Lin's motion; Alice seconded it. Jerry called for a vote, which was unanimous to install the dimmer switches on the small side of the Hall. Lorraine asked for discussion re installing dimmers on both sides of the hall. If we are having someone come out and do the work, we should consider the advantages of having both sides done. Lin said we already have a motion to vote on, and Lorraine said we could still have discussion. We already have both bids, for dimmers for the entire hall and for just the small side. Sheri said the idea was to try it on the small side. **Jerry said we have already voted on the motion to install the dimmers on the small side (only), and we need to move on to discuss which bid we will use.**

Bob said that one of the electricians he consulted was uncertain what type of dimmer switch to use; he said the lights were manufactured overseas and he had to find out more about them. Bob did not hear back from him. This was the 3rd bid Bob was trying to get, with no luck. Gale and Sheri thought it might be best to use Ed Carr, since he installed the lights and knows the most about them. Lorraine said she checked with the Better Business Bureau and they did give KEI an A+ rating. Jerry feels that the disparity in the bids is concerning, and KEI might end up increasing their charge as they go along. Ben asked whether KEI would not be bound by the bid? Alice said we would need a contract limiting the charges to the estimated amount. Jerry feels strongly that we should use Ed Carr, and he is willing to pay

the difference out of his own pocket. Sheri said no, no, no, no. Alice suggested checking for references on KEI. Jerry said Ed Carr also has an A rating with BBB; Jerry has an issue with the low bid. People bid low to get the contract and then jack up the price.

Alice asked what type of wire would be used – hopefully not copper, which is such an attraction to thieves. Jerry said no, it would not be copper. Sheri asked how many lights are on the small side; Bob said 11 on the small side and 17 on the large side. Alice was surprised the small side estimates weren't lower than they are, cost per light for 11 lights, but Ben suggested that there are probably fixed costs that affect the total. Bob said the labor for pushing up the ceiling tiles and running wire to each light would be the main cost. There would be two dimmer switches for the small side.

Lorraine made a motion to give KEI a try. Alice said we should require KEI to sign a contract to keep the cost from escalating. Sheri asked Bob if he would request a contract from KEI, and he said yes. Jerry asked for an itemized contract. Ben said if KEI refuses to give us a contract then we would have to meet again. **Alice amended the motion to say that if KEI refuses to give us a contract to limit the cost to the estimate, that we fall back on Ed Carr's estimate and go with it. There was a unanimous vote to approve the motion.**

Jerry said we need to know how far down we want to dim the lights so we know what type of switch we want. Do we want a limit on how far down the lights can go? Richard pointed out that it is already listed as “**zero to 10 volt.**”

Jerry asked Bob to contact KEI and get things going. Bob wants to get the info from KEI and meet with Jerry to check it over, then proceed. It should not be done before the Spring Fling coming up this weekend, and Bob said there was no way they would start on it before then.

Lin thanked Alice for creating the impetus to get the dimmer motion passed by being “tenacious,” (background muttering from Sheri and Bob), “passionate, doing your homework, and handling it in a professional manner with intelligence and maturity.” He advised Alice not to let this compliment go to her head. Ben said that clearly it already had. Alice thanked Lin for this kindness. Lin said that he means this sincerely. He was not in agreement in the beginning, but he came to understand that if some of our dancers have an issue with the lights, then it really doesn't matter how many dancers we are talking about. If we can resolve a health issue for even a few dancers for a thousand bucks, then that is what we should do. Jerry said “a scholar” put it that “the needs of the few outweigh the needs of the many.” Alice said that was on Star Trek. Jerry said Mr. Spock said it. Alice said she could not subscribe to that principle, and she objected to it when Spock said it. In our case the needs of the few outweigh the *convenience* of the many, not the *needs* of the many. No one paid the slightest attention to this observation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Alice thanked Richard for attending.

(Next meeting previously scheduled for June 10th at 5:00 p.m.)