

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 5, 2019

Board Members present: Ben Allen, Margaret Bolshazy, Gale Askren, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, and Lorraine Pratt. **Absent:** Bob Stevens. **Guests:** John Arnold, Penelope Becker, Karen Clements, Jack Denver, Phillip Frank, Shirley Frank, Holly Gilster, Turtle-Bear Guillermo, Glenn Ingram, Wendy Ingram, Kris Jensen, Sal LaCelle, Marijane Marks, Carolyn McDowell, Cathy McKenna, Susan Moore, Joy Nelson, Ron Peterson, Abigail Pratt, Randy Pratt, George Sewell, Rick Weber.

Meeting **called to order at 5:00 pm.** President Jerry Gilbreath welcomed guests and thanked them for attending.

Review of Minutes: Minutes of the June 10, 2019 meeting unanimously approved.

Jerry invited the guests to present their comments re the Lighting:

- **Carolyn McDowell** said that the first meeting she attended where the lights were discussed was the Annual Meeting in January where **Richard Riger made an excellent presentation discussing the new lights** and said that, based on his research, prolonged use would have an effect on the eyes. The Board had promised to take his concerns under consideration. Richard was unable to be here for this meeting, but Carolyn wanted to remind the Board about the LED lighting being considered a problem by some ASDC members for some time. Some people are at the Hall three or four nights a week, getting a great deal of exposure to these high levels of light.
- **Rick Weber** said that there have been rumors going around about problems with the lights ever since the update of the Hall lighting last year, and also rumors that dimmers would be installed, then that dimmers would not be installed. He acknowledges that saving electricity with LED lights is a very worthwhile cause. But **a number of the members of the Wilde Bunch and other clubs as well are bothered by the brightness of the LED lights in the East Hall, and Rick is requesting the Board to take corrective action.** Possibly the smaller size of the East Hall contributes to the problem. The West Hall is not a concern to Rick. Problems for WB dancers range from discomfort, to headaches and migraines. Some dancers wear dark glasses. Turning some of the lights off has been tried. These are not satisfactory solutions, and Rick is asking for the Board to take action. Rick is not suggesting any particular remedy, he is just asking the Board to find a solution. The subject was brought up at the Annual Meeting in January, and the Board said they would take a look at it, but nothing has been done. Rick said that most of the guests present were there to show their concern.
- **Randy Pratt** said that there are some dancers who dance on **both the East and West sides** of the Hall and have problems with the brightness on both sides.
- **Marijane Marks said that some dancers have headaches, dizziness, and other physical problems from the lights on the East side.**
- **Sheri said that the Board did not know how many people were affected;** she had no idea it was so many people.
- **Ben Allen asked if anyone has a suggestion** for solving the problem. **Marijane said replace the lights** because what we have is not appropriate.
- **Shirley Frank said replace 5000 Kelvin LED's with 3000 Kelvin** (as Seattle did with their outdoor lighting) or install dimmers, but these work by high-speed flicker, which can be problematic, or third, install a covering on the lights to reduce the glare.
- **Holly Gilster** quoted a study from 2011 stating that **bright florescent white are the most dangerous lights** for the eyes, while LED's don't emit UV rays. Jerry pointed out that we *have* LED, not florescent, and **UV is not a problem with our lights.**
- **Phil Frank** outlined the industry evolution from “eye-friendly” incandescent light bulbs to the invention of LED lighting in 1994. Phil thinks that **5000 Kelvin LED lights have too much blue, high energy light,** which affects the retina of the eye and, over time, irreparably damages the blue light receptors in the eye. He concludes that macular degeneration is accelerated by exposure to the blue light in computer screens,

cell phones screens, and LED lighting. Also, **high energy LED light in the evening suppresses melatonin levels in the brain and causes sleep problems.** Phil feels that eventually employees exposed to high energy LED's will bring lawsuits against their employers for health issues. Also, **the LED's we have are designed for environments like warehouses and offices, not for a dancehall.** Phil thinks the best solution is to **replace the lights with low-intensity LED's, 2500 to 3000 Kelvin.** Phil doesn't recommend dimmers re the flicker issue. Sheri Pastian said she has seen dimmed 5000 kelvin LED's identical to ours and they were fine. Phil explained that you can't detect the flicker, but it could affect your eyes and brain. We could find a film to cover the lights to block out the high-intensity rays, but it might not lower the brightness.

- Jerry advised that **PNM examined our building and approved the 5000 Kelvin lights we have, which meet PNM and OSHA recommendations,** and Jerry has checked both halls with a light meter to measure foot-candles and luxes, and we are in the safe zone, and below the OSHA max for this building.
- Phil responded that foot-candles and luxes refer to brightness, which is a matter of preference, but the health issue is the blue light. Phil does find the lights too bright, but the real issue is the high energy damaging. **Phil has documentation which he feels shows that high energy light is damaging to the eye;** he gave copies to Ben Allen and Alice LaCelle. (Copies in the Secretary's Book in the ASDC office.)
- **Ben Allen disagreed with Phil and stated that there is no evidence-based, peer reviewed medical literature to prove that LED light is damaging to the eyes.** If such a problem existed it would be published in medical literature, not "internet stuff." The documentation Phil provided is not authoritative. This is a medical question, and the medical community has not found a problem. Phil's documentation would not be admitted in any court of law. The CDC recommendations against 5000 Kelvin lights refer strictly to outdoor lighting and specifically exclude LED light as damaging to the eyes. Ben has consulted with two eye surgeons, and both have stated there is no evidence that LED lights are damaging to vision.
- **Shirley Frank objected to Ben's analysis of Phil's data,** and said that Phil is an expert, his data is valid, and his opinion as an engineer should be respected. Phil said that he is a licensed electrical engineer and he knows what he is talking about and can provide his credentials.
- Per **Jerry** the reason we changed the lights was because the **florescent lights were quite old,** and they were going yellow and getting dim, and **bulbs and parts were becoming hard to find.**
- **Marijane Marks** said that PNM, OSHA, and medical opinions are important, but **what dancers are experiencing, headaches and dizziness, is also important.** We try turning some of the lights off and then some people are afraid they will fall due to not seeing well. SO, something needs to change. Dimmers doesn't sound like it would be the best solution. Jerry said he thinks dimmers would create problems.
- Ben said he agrees, and said he is only trying to find out how we can fix it. We voted 3 months ago to install dimmers, but now we find out that dimmers are problematic.
- **Jerry said we could change out the lights from 5000 Kelvin LED to 2500 to 3000 Kelvin, at a cost of around \$5000.** Lorraine said Ed Carr's first quote to us was \$3,485. His quote for installing dimmers, both halls, was \$3,465. Why not just go with the lower Kelvin lights? Ben said that sounds reasonable to him, but will it solve the problem? **Rick suggested trying it on the small hall and see if it works.**
- **Shirley Frank said there is nothing wrong with LED lights, they save energy, but we need the right ones that are more comfortable for the eye.** Lower levels of Kelvin have much lower levels of blue light, easily seen on a graph.
- **Jerry thanked the guests for coming, said that we would consider possible fixes for the lights** as soon as Ed Carr, who installed our lights, and Bob Stevens, our maintenance director, have returned from trips. Any details and provider info Phil can provide re a film cover for the lights would be appreciated. For now we will move on with other business; guests can stay if they wish.
- Jerry asked if everyone likes the **new front porch flooring,** and there was applause and positive feedback.

Penelope Becker asked to speak to the Board on another matter. She **presented Jerry with a letter in regard to an email "blast" Jerry sent to the dance community criticizing Lorraine and Randy Pratt for holding a dance on the same date as a major anniversary dance.** Penelope requests that Jerry apologize to Randy and Lorraine and to the recipients of his email. She presented her letter and copies of the emails to the Board (filed in

ASDC Secretary's Book.) Jerry thanked Penelope and said this matter has been dealt with; he and Randy worked it out. Penelope does not consider this adequate. She feels that Jerry is not entitled to send out an email in the guise of dance info that instead makes false statements and accusations, and he should apologize in the same (email) format. Jerry said he would take her recommendation under advisement. Lin objected to Penelope bringing this up at the Board meeting since he considers it a personal issue that has nothing to do with Board business. Penelope said Jerry is the President of the Board and talked of leadership in his email. Lin said we have Board business to deal with and Penelope said she would leave.

Vice President's Report, Ben:

- **Contracts Committee Report** – Ben, Sheri, Alice, and Lin met twice (Lin not present for the 2nd meeting) to come up with suggestions for standardizing Hall rental contracts and minimizing exceptions. The committee report was sent out to all Board members, and all have read the report. (Copy of report attached.) **The only discounts recommended for chargeable events are for festivals and mini-festivals, as defined in the report.** The committee also **recommends raising rates for the non-member groups by 10% for 2020.** Lorraine said that she has dancers that rent for three hours, and with **no hourly rate** she would be unable to meet their needs. Alice said they would have to choose to rent for 2 hours or 4 hours. Ben said anyone renting for 3 hours is essentially taking up a 4 hour block because no one could schedule anything else in that 4 hour time block. Even paying for 4 hours is an extremely reasonable deal. Alice said having too many rate options makes errors more likely. Nor is there a lot of demand for hourly rates. Ben said we need a system of rates that can be easily understood so that contracts can be quickly reviewed by a 2nd Board member. Jerry asked Lin his opinion, as a committee participant, and he liked the results and the report. **Lin made a motion to accept the report as written and accept its recommendations. Discounts on existing contracts for 2019 will remain in place, but no new contracts will be written with discounts outside of those listed in the report.** Gale and Sheri wanted to know who would make up the lost revenue from the discounts given for this year. Ben said past discounts are beside the point. Jerry called for a vote and **Lin's motion was carried with Lorraine opposing;** she would prefer more flexibility and thinks we will lose business. Going forward, any **contracts written will have to be approved by a 2nd person on the Board. Sheri or Ben (Treasurer or VP) will be responsible for checking contracts.** Gale said she understood someone was already supposed to be reviewing contracts and it had not happened. Alice explained that there had been an issue on conflicts over who had priority for certain dates, and she was supposed to be involved in negotiating in those situations, but not in checking contract amounts.
- **Alice asked about the Caller School,** an annual event for two years, which has received a very large discount as an event that supports and encourages square dance callers. Would this still receive a discount after 2019? Jerry and Ben said it **would qualify only for a festival or mini-festival discount.** Alice wondered if this would discourage caller/instructor Mike Sikorsky from continuing with the school, and Jerry said he thought not. In any case, the Wilde Bunch may also be sponsoring a Caller School. Jerry said we can always consider whether ASDC wants to sponsor a caller school if needed, and there are plenty of callers who could teach one. Ben hopes Mike will continue with the school, which he considers excellent, thorough, and reasonably priced for student callers.

Maintenance Report, Jerry: (Maintenance Director Bob Stevens is out of town.)

- We have a problem with the **carpet in the west side hall; Chem-Dry burned it,** came in and re-cleaned it to try and fix the spots but said it can't be fixed. Jerry contacted the owner, who sent a repair man to look at it. We have some remnants of carpet, so it could be patched with that, but it would be noticeable. Bob and Jerry want to replace the west hall carpet instead of repairing it, and Jerry said we need a better grade of carpet, and a color that won't show every spill. Lin said we were never happy with this carpet, and Sheri said it is hard to know how it will turn out when you buy it, and **we paid \$6,900 to carpet the entire Hall five years ago.** Margaret asked how receptive Chem-Dry would be to replacing the carpet. Jerry said Chem-Dry has liability insurance and Chem-Dry will submit a claim to pay for new carpet, but we will have to pay for the upgrade to a better quality. Ben made a motion to **replace and upgrade the west hall carpet,** and it was **unanimously approved.** George Sewell suggested taking the opportunity to replace all

- the carpet at once. Jerry said we would get bids for both options.
- Jerry said that **out of town callers** want to come here and use our Hall because it is such a great facility. Alice said it is also probably the least expensive venue in its class.
- The **front porch** flooring replacement looks very good and has been well-received.

Treasurer's Report, Sheri: (copy attached)

- Re the **installation of the front porch flooring, Bob saved us \$200** by pulling up the old carpet himself. He had two helpers, Earl Quick and David Torres.
- Sheri's report addresses our **non-profit status**, and the fact that we pay taxes on the outside group income, so **our status will not be affected by raising the rent on the outside groups**.
- Lin asked the difference between the Business Insurance and the Commercial Insurance; Sheri said the **Business Insurance covers theft and damage to the building, and Commercial is liability insurance**. Jerry asked Sheri to check the policy that covers liability and report back. We may want to raise or lower our coverage.
- Sheri's report covers instances of **discounts given to the Desert Dancers**, and she complained about this. Randy Pratt came forward to say that the same type of discount was given to other groups and was not a concern to Sheri until his club received them. Sheri said that she did not notice the discounts other clubs received because she was trusting the contracts to be correct, and she feels that the discounts were unfair. Alice pointed out that Lorraine believed in multi-session discounts. Randy said it won't be happening any more anyway. Ben said we have solved the problem (with the new contract rules) and we can move on.
- Lorraine stated that the April Minutes show that ADC's deposit on hold dropped to \$640. Lorraine contacted ADC and they gave her the contract showing that they have **\$800 on deposit**. The **Treasurer's report needs to be changed to reflect this**. Sheri said she can do that, but the mistake goes back to Bill Eyster's tenure as Treasurer. Lorraine disagreed and said the amount was dropped from \$800 to 640 in April. Also, **Body Emotions' \$125 deposit is not showing** in the report. Sheri agreed to look this up; Lorraine provided her with documentation. One deposit was returned, but a second deposit was made.
- Lin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report with the correction re ADC's deposit and verification of a deposit for Body Emotions; **report unanimously approved with corrections**.

Contracts, Lorraine:

- **Jerry complimented Lorraine on her ASDC income pie chart** (copy attached), and said she must have put a lot of work into it. The chart shows the income from square dance clubs and from outside members. Ben said he had been wondering about income since he joined the Board, so he appreciated the chart. Alice said it was beautiful. Lorraine said she updated it to include ASDC membership dues. Alice asked if the chart includes donations, which are substantial, particularly from Hot August Nights. Lorraine said no, but she did add some expenditure info.
- **George Sewell said that the pie chart was an awesome product** and the result of a lot of research. **Data is what should drive decisions**. Everyone has their niche, and Lorraine has skills for analyzing data. The Board should consider Lorraine's input re the effect of raising rates. The Charter for the ASDC and the purpose of this building is to increase square dancing, which George sees as dropping off rather than increasing. We need to make decisions based on data, not on emotions. Jerry thanked George for his input.
- Jerry got a call from **Eric Henerlau**, a national caller who wants to come to Albuquerque, and he wants Lorraine to send him (Jerry) an email with what weekends are available January through May.
- Lorraine said that she has a couple of contracts pending, one is for a **line dance seminar** on a Monday in September in the large hall.
- Lorraine asked for us to set a date for the **2020 annual ASDC meeting**. Taking into account the Chili Steppers' dates, football games, and church attendance on Sundays, we decided on **11:00 a.m., Saturday January 18, 2020**. Ben made it a motion, and it was unanimously approved. (NMSRDA mid-year meeting to follow at 1:30, with time for a Taco Bell type lunch.) Lorraine pointed out that the Mid-term dance will be that evening also. Jerry said meetings are just sitting so everyone will be ready to dance that night.

- Ben said that he lined up a caller for the **2020 Spring Dance**, but now he hears that he has to get a round dance **cuor** as well, and what is the **budget** for that? The usual cost is **\$75**.
- Alice said she is out of paper for taking notes, so make the rest of the meeting **SHORT!** Ben said let's adjourn **now**, but Jerry called for the Central District Report.

Central District, Gale:

- **Lynne Martel is the new CD Treasurer.**
- The outlook from classes and memberships indicates a slow **improvement, reversing a declining membership trend.**
- Jerry wanted Gale to report on the State Fair, as discussed at CD, but she is afraid of trespassing on Lin's Publicity Report. The Board gave her immunity re Lin. **The State Fair is looking for demo square dancers for September 8 and 15, with free passes.** People who get passes and don't use them need to turn them back in – we may not get passes in the future if we aren't using them. **Lynne Martel needs the count and names by Wed Aug 7th.**

Publicity, Lin:

- Lin will send out an email with the info re the State Fair Square Dancing.

Supplies, Margaret: Although Margaret has been out for awhile, we are current on supplies. She received an email stating that her COSTCO credit card would be renewed, but does not have a COSTCO credit card. Lorraine said that is spam.

Old Business: We previously discussed raising **ASDC membership dues** from \$20 to 25. If we want to do that for 2020 we need to make a decision. Based on Lorraine's pie chart, Ben doesn't think raising the dues would be worth doing. **There is no interest in raising dues.**

Ben said that we need to discuss what to do about the **lighting issue**, as promised to our guests. Jerry said that needs to be a **separate meeting**. We need to collect data and estimates before we have that discussion. Gale said she appreciated the people who came to the meeting and spoke up about the lights; it was good to hear directly from so many people.

The next regular ASDC meeting will be on October 14 at 5:00 pm. Jerry said he will have more info and estimates about what we can do with the lights by that date, if not before. Jerry adjourned to head for Taco Bell (probably joking). Alice said that is worse for you than blue light, but Jerry said Taco Bell has a cleansing effect.

The meeting was **adjourned at 6:54.**