

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
November 4, 2019

Board Members present: Ben Allen, Gale Askren, Margaret Bolshazy, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, Lorraine Pratt, and Bob Stevens. **Absent:** None. **Guest:** Randy Pratt.

Meeting called to order at 4:59.

Per Jerry, this special meeting will dispense with member reports and focus on the lights, contract rules, and carpet damage.

Lights:

- Jerry asked Alice if she had **feedback from the Wilde Bunch** re the options discussed in the last meeting: Changing the switches so that every other light is on in an even pattern (entire hall), or changing to 3000K fixtures in the East Hall only. **The Wilde Bunch overwhelmingly voted for 3000K in the East Hall.** Lorraine said this will not help the dancers who have a problem with the brightness in the West Hall. Gale thinks that is extremely selfish to do only one side to satisfy a few people. Alice said that a number of people using the East Hall prefer a lower level of light. Gale said this doesn't change her opinion. Alice also talked to Kris's Thursday night A workshop dancers, and some of them would like to see 3000K lights installed. Most of them do not care one way or the other, except for the expense of changing. **Alice has a second estimate for installing 3000K lights on the East side, this one from Recovery Electric** in the amount of \$1,599.00, but this does not include tax because we are non-profit. Since we don't have a tax exemption certificate, Alice added the tax back in for a real **total of \$1,724.92.** Recovery Electric installed some 3000K lights in a large church downtown, but Alice was unwilling to go check that out for fear of getting trapped, lost, or mugged. They are also doing electrical work in the remodel of local Planet Fitness gyms, including the one where Alice goes. They did install new lights there, but they are the "rod" type LED, which are difficult to compare to panels. Alice also talked to Leo Martinez, a lighting specialist at **Dealer's Electric Supply** on 2nd Street, a large supplier of lighting for businesses and public buildings in Albuquerque. Mr. Martinez said it is common to have some people who would have problems with 5000K LED's and others who would not, but he would have recommended 3000K lights for a dance facility because higher levels of light are not needed for that activity. 5000K is for reading small print or detailed plans, factory work, or crafts like sewing or quilting. Dealer's Supply has various types of LED lighting in their office, and Mr Martinez showed Alice 3000K, 4000K, and 5000K lights in use there, all in 2X2 panels. Some of the 3000K were being used above desks and provided adequate light for the work being done there. Mr. Martinez had 5000K in his office for use with detailed lighting plans. Re blue light, 3000K use a different part of the light spectrum with lower levels of blue light. Alice displayed a demo box Mr Martinez loaned her to show the difference between 3000K, 4000K, and 5000K lights. Board members said they could see a major difference. Lin and Jerry think the 3000K has a very yellow cast. Alice met the Recovery Electric estimator, Anthony Vigil, at the Square Dance Hall before he gave us an estimate. Ben asked what would happen to the existing 5000K fixtures if we install 3000K. Alice said we keep those and dispose of them as we choose. Lin said we should keep them in case people don't like the 3000K and want the 5000K back. Jerry said storing the 5000K would not be a problem; he can store them at his shop, and if it turns out that we don't need them he will sell them back to Ed Carr or somebody. Alice also emailed Phil and Shirley Frank, as they are among the people most concerned about blue light exposure, and they would be happy to see 3000K installed. Lin asked if any of the East Hall dancers have seen the demo box, and Alice and Lorraine said yes. Lin is not favorably impressed with the 3000K, and said it looks dim and yellow. Sheri agreed. Jerry said it would be dim and create more shadows. Alice explained that many of the Wilde Bunch dancers like the idea of lower brightness levels, and to them the 3000K looks comfortable.
- Alice said that she has an estimate that is labor only, and we could buy the lights directly from the dealer at \$76 apiece. Lin, Ben, and Jerry spoke against this, saying it would be better to deal with only one entity. Alice said that she told the estimator (Mr. Vigil) that we don't want our floor scratched, and he understands

that they can't drag metal ladders around our wood floor. Jerry said it should be a simple job of unplugging the 5000K and plugging in the 3000K fixtures.

- **Gale doesn't understand how people in the large hall are mostly OK with the brighter lights, and people in the small hall are not.** She thinks that is strange. Alice explained that the light on the small side seems more intense possibly due to the smaller size of the hall. Particular people have problems like headaches, dizziness, or dry eye. Ben thinks we should not hash this over again.
- Ben asked **Lorraine** why we might opt for **changing the switches to alternate the lighting**, and she said the argument for that would be that it would do something for both sides of the hall. However, it would not be the ideal solution. Randy said that having half of the lights on in the large hall still bothers their eyes, so the alternating lights would not solve the brightness issue. Ben thanked Lorraine for her candor.
- **Alice asked about installing new icicle lights to provide an alternative for the clubs on the west side, particularly the round dancers.** Alice had priced some icicle lights at Walmart at \$28 for 50 feet, and Bob said we could replace the strings that are dim with some of these. Bob said the problem is that many of the icicle lights are of poor quality and don't last very long. There doesn't seem to be a way to tell what will last. Bob spends a lot of time and effort trying to keep the icicle lights functioning.
- **Bob** said that Teresa saw her eye surgeon last week, and she said that it is true that **LED's can affect sleep for some people. Those people should buy the light-blocking glasses and wear those.** Bob thinks this is a personal problem and the people with the problem should buy the glasses. It is not everybody's problem, so we should leave the lights alone. Alice said she thinks the disturbance to sleep patterns is an important issue, and Ben agreed that it is a significant point. Alice said there have been multiple studies, including a recent one by Harvard Medical School, showing that bright LED light affects sleep.
- **Jerry** feels as Bob does, that **the lights are fine**, and no one attending any festival here has had any criticism of the lights. They think our lights are bright and cheery.
- **Ben made a motion to accept the bid from Recovery Electric to install 3000K lights in the small hall.** Margaret seconded it. **The motion carried 7-2.** Jerry and Bob were opposed. Bob asked for Alice to provide him with all the documentation and contact info so that he can arrange for installation. Alice admitted that installing 3000K may not prove to be the perfect solution, and if there are problems and criticisms she will be front and center for the blame. Gale agreed, but Jerry said it would not be necessary for Alice to give up square dancing or flee the country.
- Alice said that both electricians as well as Dealer's Supply advised that we could save money by installing **dimmers** instead of 3000K lights, but she explained that it had been tried, was unsuccessful, and the Board voted against further attempts. Bob said the electrician who tried to install dimmers spent two hours trying to make it work before he gave up.

Contracts:

- Ben has been reviewing contracts that Lorraine prepared for 2020, and she is warning the Board that **charging for setup and cleanup time is causing some contracts to increase by as much as 65%.** She is afraid we will lose some of our best renters when they see such a large increase. **Ben has reconsidered our Contract Committee recommendation to charge for setup and cleanup time that is "incidental." If a renter does not request exclusive use of the hall for setup, and if their setup/cleanup time does not interfere with another renter, he feels that we should not charge for it.** Cleanup time at night should never be a problem because no one rents the hall for times starting later than 7:00 pm. Lin said we never charged for setup/cleanup in the past. Lorraine started including this on contracts without charging extra for it to be accurate about when the hall would be in use. Lorraine showed Ben a couple of contracts that were used by previous contract directors: These don't include any indication of setup/cleanup time, and Lorraine added it so that it would be clear what hours the Hall is in use. Some clubs actually set up in the morning on Saturday for an evening dance. Ben said as long as it doesn't prevent another renter from using the Hall we should not have a problem. Gale asked who will determine whether extra time is "incidental." Ben said that Lorraine sends him the contracts for approval. Ben said that Lorraine, to her credit, includes the setup/cleanup time on contracts, so it is easy to see if any conflicts will arise. Gale wants to make sure everyone is treated the same, and Ben said that should not be a problem. **There are three possible sessions a day: morning, afternoon, and evening. The ONLY time we would charge for setup or cleanup time is**

if it interferes with renting the hall for another one of those sessions. Gale is concerned about consistency, and Sheri said we have a chart to go by. Alice said she needs to change the Contract Committee instructions to exclude charges for incidental setup/cleanup time. Originally we said we would charge for any requested setup/cleanup time, and now we have changed that to say we will not charge unless it interferes with another session. Alice admitted to contributing to the confusion by perviously insisting that we should charge for *all* setup time if it pushed the total over four hours. That turned out to be a bad idea. Lorraine said that Susan Kellogg (ADC organizer), told her that the other places where they dance charge by the hour and don't charge for anything but dance time.

- **Caller School with Mike Sikorsky was cancelled** for this year. Ben said he cancelled because he did not get enough students. Lorraine said Mike is not planning on *any* more caller schools at the Hall due to the higher rent. **Sheri said that the contract requires a 15 day advance notice of cancelation, or the full rent must be paid,** and we did not get a 15 day notice. We had a \$50 deposit, and Sheri refunded that at Lorraine's request. Lorraine said that the caller school was not bumping any dances, but Ben said that isn't the point. The contract calls for a 15 day notice, but it does say that the Board can make an exception. Ben said that our other contracts actually require a 30 day notice, and this one is only 15. Lorraine wrote this contract with a shorter cancellation requirement. Rick Weber, as president of the ASDC when Lorraine joined the Board, authorized her to modify contracts. **Ben made a motion that we not collect the \$200 rent for the cancelled caller school.** Lin wanted to modify the motion to say that if Mike ever wants to do a caller school again, we get the rental fee up front so that we don't get burned again. Alice asked if this would be a change we enforce for all contracts, and Lin said no, it would not be a precedent for any other contracts, just for Mike's caller school. Ben did not agree to this amendment to his motion. Alice made a second to Ben's original motion to forgive this year's caller school rental fee that would be charged under the contract for insufficient notice. **The motion carried six to three,** with Lin, Gale, and Jerry opposed.
- Sheri suggested that **Lorraine now has sufficient info re the new contract rules to send out the contracts for next year.**
- Per Lorraine, **FolkMADS is operating in the red** and looking for other places to dance. Alice suggested that we give FolkMADS a break since contra dancing is a kind of cousin to square dancing, and we could give them a better rate than the other outside groups. Lorraine pointed out that they could not join the ASDC since they are not square dancers or round dancers, but Alice said we could still vote to give them a lower rate. They have the added cost of having to pay their musicians. Jerry agreed, and said that square dancing and contra dancing both evolved from French quadrille dancing and share some of the same elements. **Sheri said that Kris Jensen brought the contra dancers in at \$85 a session.** We are currently charging them \$125 based on the outside group rate. Jerry suggested that we go back to \$85. Lorraine made a motion that we charge them twice the member rate, which would be \$70. Lin thought that was too low, and **Margaret said we should go with the original charge of \$85. This motion to charge \$85 was carried unanimously.** Lin thinks they are losing dancers and might eventually go away regardless.
- **Body Emotion cancelled two of their dances for next year.**
- **Desert Dancers are canceling all of their afternoon sessions for next year;** this year they had around 11 afternoon sessions (one a month), and next year they are going down to six night sessions.
- Ben said these losses are all due to lower numbers of dancers, not the increase in rental costs.
- Lorraine said that **Strictly Swing has \$100 on deposit, and they have a key. The \$100 deposit needs to show up on the Treasurer's report.**

Carpet: Jerry gave Sheri documentation re the **payment we received from the insurance company** for the damage to the carpet, **approximately \$3,100,** and Sheri can deposit the check into our bank account. Ben said that Jerry negotiated a great deal, because he didn't think we would get more than \$1000. Bob said NM law differs from some other states, like California, in defining "continuous" carpeting vs from "non-continuous." We could have received more money for "continuous" carpet.

Next meeting will be December 2 at 5:00.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06.