

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.  
A Non-Profit Corporation  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
May 12, 2021

Meeting conducted by computer application Zoom to abide by Social Distancing rules imposed by the Governor of NM for the Coronavirus pandemic. Board Members present on Zoom: Gale Askren, Ben Allen (partial attendance), Margaret Bolshazy (partial attendance), Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Larada Horner-Miller, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, Bob Stevens. Guest Matt Thompson joined the meeting at 6:20, and Monica Allen spoke briefly at the end of the meeting.

Zoom meeting set up by Larada Horner-Miller. Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Gilbreath at 5:32 p.m.

**Jerry called this meeting to continue the discussion about how and when to re-open the ASDC Hall.**

- Jerry had forwarded an **email from Amanda Skidmore**, a local caller, recommending that we require dancers to **follow the rules of the public health department**, because she has found that some people are hostile to COVID rules and also to those who obey them. We all agreed that it was a good point, and there has been too much politics associated with following the COVID rules.
- Jerry read a **Facebook post** stating that: “According to the US Dancing Association there is to be no square dancing unless 100% of the participants are fully vaccinated.” The person posting this said this opinion is “unscientific and a violation of HIPAA.”
- **Jerry and Ben think it might be a violation of HIPAA to ask dancers about being vaccinated** or require vaccination to dance, although Ben said some institutions are doing this. UNM, for example, is considering it. Ben thinks we need a clear OK from an official source before we go there. Whatever the state requires, that is what we should require. Clubs can require more if they want.
- Lin asked if we could get **a ruling from the State – an “oversight” office – about our specific situation**. Larada and Jerry have both talked to people in the state Health Dept. earlier in the pandemic, but it is very hard to get through by phone. They have both been trying with no luck. Ben doesn't think we can get any useful info anyway. **Info given over the phone is of questionable value.**
- Bob said we need to decide there will be **no food, no refrigerators, no water fountain**, and move some of the tables out of the Halls. We need to do a little cleaning, and Bob is asking for help with that.
- Re the **special meeting** that is being requested, **Bob feels that the State has to be 100% open before that can happen**. Jerry, Lin, and Alice agreed because we have to allow for the possibility of a large number of people attending. Lin said the order of events should be open the Hall first, wait for the state to open 100%, then do the special and general meetings.
- Per Jerry, the **governor made a comment on a TV broadcast that indicated dancing would be allowed if people are wearing masks and socially distanced**. The only kind of dancing that would fit this would be spread-out line dancing. **Ben thinks we should not take this kind of “off the cuff” TV interview too seriously**. Larada pulled up a recent KOB News bulletin stating that night clubs may open but dancing is prohibited. Ben said that dance clubs are included under the State's definition of “**recreational facility**,” so we should just follow the rules for recreational facilities. The rules for night clubs don't apply to recreational facilities. Ben thinks that we can and should open because recreational facilities are allowed to open at reduced capacity. Jerry said opening requires masks and social distancing (6 feet), and we can't abide by those rules. Ben thinks those rules apply to a “mass gathering,” not a recreational facility. Larada said we get **conflicting messages**, but it looks like we can open the Hall under current rules at 50% capacity.
- **Matt Thompson**, who is on the Wilde Bunch Board, said the next WB meeting will include a discussion about whether to start dancing again. He asked about the **ventilation capabilities** of the Center, and whether those might be upgraded. Bob explained that there are **two standard filters on each heating/cooling unit on the roof**, with fans that blow the air through the filter. (Five units, two filters each, is ten filters.) There are return air fans and vents, but Bob doesn't know the volume of airflow. It is not practical to try to upgrade as this would be expensive and would challenge our power capabilities. Bob is also concerned that our **utilities in summer weather** will more than triple if we open the Hall.
- **Lin** said we may not get many dancers willing to come in. Then we have the **expenses of being open, but not enough revenue**. Matt said that the WB had a gathering at a park this week, and it was attended by about 30 people. Hall attendance will probably depend on the rules we establish. Matt himself is not ready for close contact with groups in a closed environment.

- **Jerry sent an email out to all the local callers and cuers**, but has only had three replies. We would have a commitment from one club for two nights in the small hall. Larada suggested connecting with club leadership if callers aren't responding. Jerry will bring his Sundancer club back. He would also take the large hall Thursday nights to have an SSC class to try and rebuild square dancing in NM. Our dance hall is one of the best in the country, and we should do everything we can to rebuild our dance community.
- Ben said the **Governor is planning to fully re-open everything July 1** if our vaccination numbers and COVID numbers meet certain criteria. **Alice suggested that we put out a notice saying that we will tentatively open on July 1, if conditions allow.** That way clubs and dancers can make plans, but we can cancel the opening if conditions deteriorate. Ben, Sheri, and Lin agreed with this idea.
- Lin said one **drawback for our finances** is that the Ballroom dancers will not be back until maybe September, and they paid in advance for last year, so they have pre-paid all their dances for this year and part of next year. This means we will be operating at a loss. If we go through our reserves we could lose the building.
- **Gale said we have be very clear that any opening date is not set in concrete** and will depend on the Governor's rulings and the COVID situation. She thinks July 1 might be a little soon.
- Larada said some dancers want to get back to dancing, but they are not thinking about our **finances**, and we have to get that message across. Many folks think \$60,000 (reserves) is a lot, but they don't realize that this could be gone in a year.
- Lin and Alice were nominated to draft a **tentative opening announcement** and submit it to the Board for a vote.
- Larada said we will have to **revisit the requirements for dancers**, like vaccines, temperatures, masks, etc, before July 1. As Amanda Skidmore pointed out, we need to be very specific about those requirements. There will be naysayers no matter what rules we decide on.
- **Matt pointed out that businesses have the authority to be more stringent in their rules than anything the State sets**, and the ASDC Board has that right also. Matt thanked the Board for allowing him to participate, and said his confidence in our decisions is very high.
- **Monica Allen** came on to say that the **Duke City Board** has not been able to make any decisions because they had to wait for the ASDC Board to make decisions first. With a tentative opening date of July 1, she can discuss this with the DC Board and get back to Jerry next week.

Meeting **adjourned at 6:42 p.m.** No date set for the next meeting.