

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.  
A Non-Profit Corporation  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 31, 2021

Meeting conducted by computer application Zoom. Board Members present on Zoom: Ben Allen, Gale Askren, Margaret Bolshazy, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Larada Horner-Miller, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, and Bob Stevens. Absent: None.

Zoom meeting set up by Larada Horner-Miller. Meeting was **called to order by President Jerry Gilbreath at 1:30 p.m.**

Jerry said that Board members recently received a **letter from a man who is disgruntled** that he cannot enter the Hall because he is not vaccinated. We will probably continue getting this kind of complaint, but we have to follow the rules we think best for the health and safety of our dancers. We can't possibly please everyone on this issue, no matter what we do.

Recently the **Board reprimanded Randy Pratt** re the Hot Chile Steppers for having a caller at their July 11<sup>th</sup> dance who was reported by several people to be unvaccinated (for COVID). This would be a violation of our guidelines, not to mention blatantly ignoring the signs we have on the doors, stating that only vaccinated individuals should enter the Hall. **This reprimand was retracted, with an apology to Randy Pratt**, who rents for the Hot Chile Steppers, after the Board determined that **acting on hearsay instead of actual evidence was improper.**

**Alice made a telephone call to the caller in question** on 7/28/21, and the conversation was as follows: First, **Alice apologized** for urging the Board to act on hearsay; the caller felt that no apology was required, although they said that people who actually *attended* the dance were the ones who should have been consulted, not just people who said they knew about it. Alice also mentioned that, although the email to Randy Pratt was signed by Jerry Gilbreath, it was not Jerry, but others on the Board, that recommended sending it. However, Alice pointed out that the caller's spouse had posted on Facebook re attendance at the dance, and we did think a spouse would be a good source of info. **The caller acknowledged attending the Hot Chile Steppers dance on July 11, but did not call or dance**, and only took notes and consulted with Rich Stewart, who did call the dance, about calls that dancers need to practice. The caller said that per Randy, both Jerry and Ben had advised Randy in telephone conversations that he was granted an exception to enforcing the vaccine requirement. Per Randy they advised that he did not have to ask people if they were vaccinated. Also, he was told that his two grandchildren, being under 12, and therefore ineligible for vaccination, were granted an exception to enter the Hall. Randy said that he refuses to discriminate against adults vs children. **The caller attended the dance because of the understanding that Randy was granted an exception to enforcing our COVID guidelines.** The caller will not state whether or not they are vaccinated, saying there is no obligation to give out this information. The caller feels that **each club should be left to decide for themselves how to enforce any COVID guidelines.** Alice thanked this individual for the information and said she appreciated the willingness to communicate.

**Jerry called this meeting to discuss whether any further action should be taken in this matter.** Randy did tell the Board that this individual did not call or dance at the Hot Chile Steppers on July 11<sup>th</sup>, but this was certainly misleading since the individual was present. Rich Stewart told Jerry that he "didn't remember" if the individual was present or not. Jerry said that he did tell Randy that he could bring his grandchildren to the Hall even though they were too young to receive a vaccination. Alice pointed out that the Board had not discussed making exceptions before this incident. Jerry and Ben felt that it would be a hardship to enforce the rule on the children, since Randy might be unable to have the dances if he could not bring them. Jerry did not anticipate Randy expanding this "exception" to the entire club. (As a result of this incident, the Board created a new requirement for clubs to have sign-in sheets asking for COVID vaccination status.)

**Lin said that Randy has cancelled all Hot Chile Stepper and Desert Dancer dances at the Hall for August because he refuses to abide by our new guidelines.** For the time being Lin sees **no reason for any further action.** We will have an opportunity at the Annual Meeting on August 14 to explain our position re our guidelines. Lin mentioned that he sent an email to everyone on his Hot August Nights list stating that a refusal to give vaccination status at the Hot August Nights festival would be treated as a negative response, and anyone giving this response will not be allowed in the Hall. People have a right to keep their vaccination status private, but the ASDC also has a right to require vaccination for admission. **Bob and Ben agree with Lin, leave things as they are re Randy's club, and make our policy explanation at the Annual Meeting.**

**Larada feels that cancelling Randy Pratt's contracts would be the just thing to do, based on Randy's misleading the Board about who was in attendance at the dance on the 11th, and his unwillingness to enforce any guidelines, but it would not serve a practical purpose at this time, since they he has cancelled his dances for August.**

**Gale said that Randy sent the Board an email stating that the only option for *not* cancelling the dances is "the Board stating that**

I do not need to ask about vaccination status. I will require a response in writing that I am not responsible for asking about the vaccination status of the dancers.” Gale said **Randy's clubs will not be dancing at the Hall** because we will not be giving him any such statement.

**Sheri agreed with Gale and said we don't need to take any further action at this time.** Perhaps we should answer Randy's email and say that we will not give him the leeway he wants. Ben said we already answered him – we sent a notice of what would be required to dance at the Hall. No further response is necessary.

**Margaret said it is a difficult problem, but if we have a rule people should abide by it.**

**Alice thinks that we have responded to Randy, both individually and with our update to our guidelines.** Since Randy has moved his dances to a different location **we don't need to take any further action.** If Randy wants to bring his dances back to the Hall we would have to make a decision about whether that should be allowed, and, if so, require an agreement to abide by the COVID guidelines. Something that has come out of this affair is that we can see that **some people will refuse to say whether they are vaccinated, so we need to specifically ask about vaccination status and require those people who refuse to answer to wear a mask and social distance at the Aug 14<sup>th</sup> meetings.** Ben agreed. Jerry thinks we already discussed that, and he will have a box of masks for those individuals who aren't vaccinated or refuse to answer the question. Larada thanked Alice for making the point that we could have people who will refuse to answer the question, and now we are prepared to deal with it.

**Jerry wanted to clarify a few things about the August 14<sup>th</sup> meetings.** Should we have the **financial review** from the individuals who reviewed the records at the Special Meeting or the Annual Meeting? Alice and Ben felt that this should be part of the Special Meeting since it was related to the petition for an audit. This should be the first item addressed so that we are consistent with the notice sent out for the meeting. We all agreed that we will not open this matter up for discussion since the Board needs time to review the data in order to make an informed response.

**Lin wants to make sure that both sides of each By-law proposal are heard – not just one side.** He suggested that Jerry switch between pro and con by asking for someone to speak in favor, then someone opposed, etc. Each speaker should be very brief so that we can hear from as many people as possible without making the meeting so long that we can't get everything in.

Alice wants **Lin to send out the minutes from the January 2020 Annual meeting** to the membership so that people won't be taking the time to read them at the upcoming meeting.

**Larada is getting questions from the non-member renters about our stance re the latest CDC recommendation to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.** She said she is hearing positive things about our guidelines and a willingness to comply with whatever we require. Jerry said the latest news he heard is that everyone entering a Bernalillo county building must be masked, but this doesn't apply to businesses. Lin said he has seen some people shopping without masks in the last few days, and he feels that it should be an individual choice for our dancers (at dances) since they are required to be vaccinated anyway. Margaret agreed. Larada said we should wait and see if the governor changes the guidelines. Everyone agreed – **if there is a mandate from the Governor, we should change our guidelines to require masks for everyone.**

Bob said that he heard that the Arizona Republic newspaper is reporting that **White Mountain Dance Hall at Show Low Arizona has had a large outbreak of COVID cases and is closed down until 2022.** Bob feels that we are doing the right thing (by enforcing COVID restrictions) at the right time for the right reasons.

Jerry said he will make an **agenda** for the meetings and send it out to the Board for review. Jerry will make copies of the agenda and the Treasurer's Report to hand out as people come in for the meetings.

**Larada reported that the tango club that is now renting with us came over partly because of the COVID restrictions at the Lloyd Shaw Hall.** Jerry said he heard that the Lloyd Shaw Hall is closed due to COVID. (The website actually shows the Hall as closed.) Lin suggested that Larada contact the tango club to see if they are interested in the August dates that are now open due to Randy moving his dances.

**Jerry will be starting SSD classes on Thursday nights in Sept** because we need to rebuild the square dance program. Jerry will sponsor the classes, so there is no club affiliation. Angels will be welcome.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m