

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.  
A Non-Profit Corporation  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
September 16, 2019

**Board Members present:** Ben Allen (arrived late), Gale Askren, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, Lorraine Pratt, and Bob Stevens. **Absent:** Margaret Bolshazy. **Guest:** Susan Moore

Meeting **called to order at 5:05**. Jerry stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the carpet and the lighting. Alice asked if we are leaving the review of the August minutes until the next meeting, and Jerry said yes.

### Carpet

- Bob explained that **ChemDry damaged the carpet in the large hall**, and Jerry, Sheri, and Bob went to the **House of Floors** to get samples of carpet we could use to replace what we have. One sample is of a similar grade to what we have, the other is a higher grade. The lower grade is no longer available. **Bob has an estimate from the House of Floors with costs for replacing various sections of the carpet** according to a chart Bob made showing square footage for sections of the Hall. (Copies attached.) He excluded the narrow side strips along the east and west walls and the carpet in the closets. Ben Allen arrived at this point (5:15). Jerry said that the higher grade should hold up better. **Bob recommends the darker color**. Alice wants to throw stuff on the sample and see if it cleans well.
- **Jerry wants to ask ChemDry to replace the West side hall carpet**, leaving ASDC to pay for the rest of the Hall. Per Bob what we have is a low grade commercial. Bob had stain treatment applied, but it didn't make a difference. **The lower grade is polypropylene, and the higher grade has more nylon in it** (easier to clean). Installation is included in the estimate we have. **Lin said the estimate adds up to over \$10,000 for the entire hall**.
- **Ben explained that insurance companies will not do anything until a claim is filed**. Bob had to go to the ChemDry owner's office to get her to answer questions. Jerry suggested that he and Bob can take the estimate and go meet with her again.
- **Lin and Lorraine pointed out that the estimate for Section 5 is too low. Lin said it should be around \$5000 instead of \$575.10, which makes our total cost more like \$14,000 instead of \$10,000**. Sheri nearly passed out. Lin suggested we get the carpet done in stages, with ChemDry paying toward the West side hall.
- **Ben said we need to make the biggest claim possible because we have nothing to lose**. Put in a claim for the entire hall. He figures they will not pay more than \$1000 because the carpet is practically worthless due to its age and condition. Gale wants to make a claim based on just the west hall, but Ben said rule # 1 in negotiation is to **make the biggest possible claim you and bargain down from there**. Jerry agreed with Ben. He works with insurance companies and claim adjusters all the time. Estimates should be as high as possible because the insurance company will make a big reduction in their offer.
- **Lin said we could submit a claim for the whole \$14,000, get whatever money we get, put it in the bank, and then just wait on replacing the carpet until we can afford it**. Ben said we would sign a release after receiving any funds, and that would be the end of our claim.
- **Bob** said he will call his contact at House of Floors to get a **corrected estimate** re Section 5 so we can submit to ChemDry, and they can make an offer or submit to their insurance.
- **We agreed by acclamation to get the insurance claim filed and settled and then decide what to do re the carpet**. Per Sheri our loan for the parking lot has 2 years to go, and we should not consider such a big expenditure (for the carpet) until we have paid off the parking lot. Also, we should **get other estimates** before we install any carpet. Jerry said their contact for House of

Floors, Dustin, is a go-between for ChemDry, and he is not involved in installing the carpet.

- **Gale wants us to consider installing something other than carpet** for easier clean-up.

#### Lights:

- **Jerry said that he talked to Ed Carr re the cost of replacing the 5000K with 3000K, and Ed told him that they don't make quality 3000K panels in this size, we would have to go to smaller panels** like the recessed ones that you find in restaurants and hospitals. The ones that would fit our fixtures are 4000K and these would have to be special ordered. The cost would be an extra \$2000 above what we already paid, plus the amount of the PNM rebate, totaling around \$10,000. Lorraine said she finds the 2 by 2 and 4 by 4 panel 3000K lights online, readily available. Jerry said that is probably very inexpensive lighting that would not be recommended by Ed or any other lighting manufacturer. Jerry said just call a couple of lighting companies if you don't believe him. Alice said that is exactly what we need to do, consult more than one source for info.
- **Sheri said we've already decided that the answer is not using any type of film covering, or dimmers (due to the flicker problem), so replacement seems the only possibility.** Alice said dimmers probably would have worked out alright, as they did at the car company Sheri visited. **Alice said the main problem is in the small hall, possibly due to the number of lights in that space. Alice asked if we could replace the lights in just the small side.** Jerry said no, because when you opened the hall the lights would not match. Alice said one side of the hall would be darker, but that would not be a big problem. Jerry said if someone else wants to take the time to call other companies and get estimates, that is fine. Sheri said we cannot expect Bob to take more time than he already has calling electricians, meeting them at the hall, getting estimates, etc. Furthermore, we would have to find someone to take the 5000K lights off our hands.
- **Alice pointed out that she and Lorraine said from the beginning that we should take care about installing 5000K lights,** because if they caused a problem it would be very expensive to fix. The Board didn't not take that seriously enough in the beginning. **Now we seem to be saying that we can't fix the problem because it would be too expensive.** Gale said the research was done in the beginning and LED lights were not proved to be harmful. Alice said the Board knew in advance that bright lights can cause some people problems and did nothing to address that. Investigating other options (than 5000K) was never done. Gale thought this had been done, but Lorraine said no. **The only option we were given was to vote on 5000K lights, yes or no.** We asked to see 3000K lights, and we never saw them, never had an estimate on them, and never had the opportunity to make a comparison. **Ben said it isn't helpful to say we didn't get these options in the beginning; that isn't relevant now. We need to get estimates NOW.** Ben wants an estimate re what it would cost to replace the 5000K with 3000K NOW. No internet stuff, but an actual estimate. Any Board member can go out and get an estimate and bring that in to the Board for consideration. Bob said he already had two individuals come in re installing dimmers, and one of them said the lights are not too bright. Alice said she and Lorraine will proceed as Ben suggests, but we were legitimately waiting for Jerry's info up until now.
- **Bob has had it with the whole subject of the lights,** and claims it is similar to global warming: No one can prove anything. Also, if you go to Disneyland, you accept the conditions there, and if you don't like the sun you bring sun glasses and sun screen. If you don't like our lights, bring your glasses, the way people who think the building is cold bring jackets. Alice said conditions at Disneyland are irrelevant. Disneyland is for customers, but ASDC is for members. The Hall belongs to the ASDC members; Disneyland does not belong to its customers. Conditions at the Hall were changed with the installation of the LED's, creating a problem for some members. We did not have complaints about the lights prior to changing them, although Jerry needed brighter lights to see to call. Jerry said NO, we needed new lights because it was becoming difficult to maintain the florescent. He does not want people turning lights off and dancing.
- Alice said the point is that we had no problem with the old lights bothering people, then we replaced them with something that bothers some people. **The vote to change the lights was not properly conducted.** Gale asked how that could be, and Alice explained that the vote was not taken in a meeting, but by email, without following through on promises made re 3000K estimates, and with two members of the Board out of town. Jerry said (in a previous meeting) that it didn't matter, "because it was done." Alice said that

doesn't make it right, and that fact gives her grounds to complain. Lin said the by-laws don't prohibit voting by email. Alice replied that the By-laws state that large expenditures have to be approved *in a meeting*, with a quorum. Installation took place immediately after an improper vote, with no time to protest. **Ben asked "What do you want now?"** Alice said there is no will to fix the problem. People are defensive about their decisions and unwilling to address the problems they create. Ben said that is not answering the question; what should we do?

- **Lorraine made a motion: Each hall has two main light switches, each switch controlling half of the lights for that hall. We could re-wire the switches so that each switch turns on half of the lights in an alternating pattern so that the entire floor can be lit, at a diminished level, by either switch – a zig-zag pattern.** Ben said that would not address the blue light issue that so many people are concerned about. Alice said it would diminish the problem, and reminded Bob that before the lights were installed he said if brightness was an issue we could disconnect some of the lights to reduce the brightness.
- **Ben said there are 3 issues: The blue light, brightness, and the high kelvins, and he isn't hearing any suggestions that would address all three of those issues. Alice said 3000K light would address all 3 issues.** Kris Jensen reported that Eric Henerlau, a respected national caller, said 5000K lights are way too bright for a square dance hall, we should go with 2700 to 3000K. Ben said Shirley Frank would not be satisfied with 3000K. Alice said Shirley said, in the last meeting, that 3000K had very low blue light energy. Lin said you cannot make everyone happy. He does not buy into the "health hysteria." Like Goober in an Andy Griffith Show, people who are fine can make themselves feel sick through suggestion. Alice said there are *real* problems with bright light, and much documentation on that subject. To tell people that their problems are imaginary is an insult.
- **Lin would not be in favor of disconnecting any lights, but he is willing to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lorraine's motion and talk to electricians about it.** Bob refuses to be involved in getting estimates. Lin said he will **consult Joey Solis**, who is a licensed electrician and was previously in charge of maintenance for this building. Jerry called for a vote on Lorraine's proposal. Sheri, Alice, Lorraine, and Ben voted in favor, Jerry, Bob, and Gale against; **motion carried.** Jerry wants estimates with labor and material.
- **Jerry is upset that no one at the last meeting went out and checked the light levels** as he suggested to see that they are within safe limits – no one cared.
- **Ben suggested we buy torch lamps and extension cords that can be put out around the hall for clubs who want more mellow lighting.** Randy Pratt did this for a dance, and it worked fine. This would be an economical fix.
- After an explosion of comments and general mayhem, **Jerry called the meeting back to order and said he would do more research and call Ed Carr, Lin would call Joey Solis, and we need minimum 3 or 4 opinions from electricians. We need to address this on October 14<sup>th</sup> and put this to bed permanently.** Jerry is tired of listening to it, and the bickering is coming from the Board. Jerry has not had ONE DANCER come to him and complain about the lights, it is coming from the Board. Alice said that is not true; people complain to the Board members about it. Bob said that Alice helped stir that up. She responded that immediately after the lights were installed, Joy Nelson, a Wilde Bunch dancer, turned around and walked out after she arrived at a dance because she could not handle bright light. Another dancer, Dean Smith, asked Alice why the Board had installed such bright lights; he considered it a serious mistake. Bob said he is sorry; he was mistaken.
- Bob said what we do in the meeting is **for the good of the ASDC, and should not be personal.**
- **Ben made a motion that if Lorraine's proposal is rejected, then we vote on the torch light proposal. Jerry said we will vote on October 14, and after that there will be no more discussion of this issue in future meetings.** Sheri, Jerry, Lin, Gale, and Bob do not want to ever have to discuss the lights again. **Alice said she can't see herself telling dancers, "Sorry, the Board won't allow any more discussion or complaints on that topic."** Ben was doubtful about banning any further discussion.
- **Gale said she was so excited to be elected to the Board, but she has not been having a good experience because of so much dissension, just fight, fight, fight.** Bob said "Go, team, go." Alice said we used to not have fights. Lorraine, Sheri, Bob, and Lin agreed.

- **Guest Susan Moore said that she wanted to say that she DID measure the light levels** throughout the hall, and it varies from 26 foot-candles to 5 foot-candles in the hallway, and it **varies vastly** depending on whether one is directly under a light or not. Jerry said even directly under the lights the levels measure safe unless you hold the meter up over your head.
- Ben said he does not have a problem being on the Board, and Gale said that's because, as a lawyer, he's used to fighting **Ben does not have trouble with sharp differences of opinion as long as they remain respectful.** Disagreements are normal. As long as we can discuss, plan, and vote respectfully, we are fine.

Next meeting will be October 14, at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30.