

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 14, 2019

Board Members present: Ben Allen, Margaret Bolshazy, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Sheri Pastian, Lorraine Pratt, and Bob Stevens. **Absent:** Gale Askren and Lin Miller. **Guests:** Randy Pratt, Richard Riger, and George Sewell.

Meeting **called to order at 5:02.** Lin and Gale both out with whooping cough.

Minutes from the last two meetings reviewed (**Aug 5 and Sept 16**). Note re Page 4 of Sept minutes, re comments from guest Susan Moore, light readings in the “hallway” refers to the foyer. **Minutes of both meetings unanimously approved.**

Treasurer's Report, Sheri (copy attached): Sheri went over the report, said we do not have many recent expenditures, and she brought our last two bank statements in case anyone wanted to see them. All clubs up to date on payments. We owe \$14,605 on our Wells Fargo loan. **Treasurer's report unanimously approved.**

Vice President's Report, Ben: Caller and Quer signed up for March ASDC Spring Dance. Sheri asked if Ben is in charge of **getting callers** for the **Holiday Hoedown**, Dec 21, and we agreed that he would be. He will contact local callers (Kris Jensen, Scott Amspoker, Rich Stewart, Delbert Teeple). Kris is usually working on the FolkMADS (contra) side for the Hoedown, but comes over to do an intro to square dancing tip for the contra dancers. Jerry said he will be in town and can also help out. **Ben will also look for a quer** for Rounds. Sheri said that FolkMADS has already paid for the rest of the year, and they did pay their rent for the Hoedown date. We usually celebrate with FolkMADS and have given them free rent in the past for the Hoedown, but not consistently. Sheri suggests that we let them know that we will come over and dance with them and will be happy to have them come visit us also. **Ben will contact FolkMADS** to discuss this. We also did line dancing last year, with Scott Amspoker leading. We do whatever combination of activities we can get. Rich Stewart leads Christmas Carols. Randy said that we don't charge the square dancers for the Hoedown, but FolkMADS needs to be able to charge their dancers so they can pay their band. **In recent years we have said the Hoedown was free to all, including Contra, but if we are not doing that this year we need to let FolkMADS know. Ben said OK.**

Central District, Jerry: (Gale out.) There was no quorum at the last CD meeting, so no business was transacted.

Contracts, Lorraine:

- Lorraine asked if a scheduled meeting (like a club's board meeting) has priority if someone wants to rent the hall and bump the meeting. We unanimously agreed that **a paying renter would have priority over a meeting.**
- **USA Dance** is not making ends meet, so they are cutting out their Sunday night dance after December, without Lorraine even mentioning that we are increasing our rates next year. **USA wants to go from two monthly dances to one, and to move to Sunday afternoon instead of Sunday evenings.** This will lower their rent from \$5,975 to about \$1,500 a year. They asked whether the 1st or 3rd Sunday (monthly) would be less conflicting, and Lorraine told them the 3rd because Central District holds their meetings on the first Sunday of the month, although CD would not take precedence. Sheri said this is not good; it is a big money loss for us.
- Our fee for the **Roundezous Festival for 2020 went from \$325 to \$488, a \$163 increase (15%).**
- **Bodies In Motion**, which rents a few Sundays a year, for 5 hours (counting setup and cleanup) went **from \$107 to \$140** for 2020 based on the new requirements to charge for setup and cleanup and not to rent except in 4 and 2 hour blocks.
- **ADC** has been renting for \$250, using the hall for six hours, and their **new fee will be \$412**, which is quite a jump, resulting from a 10% increase on the \$250 to 275, plus **charging for 2 hrs setup and cleanup.** Alice asked if they were always getting six hours for the \$250 they have been paying. Lorraine said yes,

but we only charged for four hours of dancing, not for setup and cleanup. Now we made a rule to charge for that, and it was never charged before. Lorraine included setup and cleanup times on her contracts so that dances would not overlap, but did not charge for it. Lorraine is concerned about sending out this new ADC contract and how ADC will react. ADC rents the 2nd and 4th Saturday nights, from 5 to 11 p.m. Sheri is concerned about upsetting ADC, which is a major source of income. Ben said if the ADC setup/cleanup is not interfering with any other dances, maybe we should not charge for that. Alice said we should not make a rule and then start making exceptions to it. Ben said we should advise ADC of the increase (to \$412), and if they come back and say it is too much we say we will negotiate. Randy said Lorraine started asking renters about their setup and cleanup times so that renters would know what time they had to be out to make way for the next renter, if someone else was coming in the same day. Ben said we should have been charging ADC \$380 for six hours, and going up to \$412 looks worse because they were NOT getting charged for the extra two hours. Alice said we don't want to lose ADC; we don't want them to walk away. Jerry thinks we should explain it to the ADC organizer as a financial decision. Lorraine thinks the committee took too many steps at one time without being aware of the consequences. Ben disagrees and said we did exactly what we needed to do. Jerry said his business rent goes up every year, and people should expect increases because taxes, water, city fees, etc, increase. ADC has been renting with ASDC since 2002. They will not find another place like this for that price. Alice suggested an explanation to ADC as to how we arrived at \$412. Margaret asked if they could shorten setup/cleanup time to 1 hr, but Randy said that would not help because we don't have one hr rental fees. Lorraine said she needs more flexibility than the new rules are allowing. Jerry said ask ADC for feedback. Sheri said ADC rent has not changed since 2011, when it went from \$140 to \$250. Alice volunteered to write ADC a letter of explanation re the rental increase. Sheri and Ben liked that idea.

- Lorraine said **two groups did not get an increase for using the Foyer for setup because the fee committee said not to charge for that.** Alice explained that if the halls can be rented out during a setup in the foyer, there should not be a charge. We don't have a foyer rental rate. Ben objected and wanted to charge, but then changed his mind based on the fact that the halls could still be rented. Lorraine said it doesn't seem fair that others get an increase but people can use the foyer without charge, per the fee committee. Alice said there has never been a foyer rental fee. The Board is sticking with the committee's recommendation not to charge for setup in the Foyer; Lorraine went on record as objecting to this decision.
- **Sally and Bob Nolan are asking for a closet** for the supplies they use for their **two festivals** held in the hall each year. We don't charge for closets. We agreed to turn down the request; festivals don't qualify for a closet.
- Lorraine asked if the **State Festival will really need the Hall until 4:00 pm** on Sunday, as requested, because **USA wants the Hall** that afternoon. Jerry said **State will be out by 1:00 pm**; go ahead and rent to USA.
- **Ben thanked Lorraine for warning us about the possible pitfalls of the new contract fees and rules.**
- Alice asked about the **Eric Henerlau dance** in Jan; **will that conflict with USA?** Lorraine said **no**, USA will make that their last Sunday night dance.

Maintenance, Bob:

- Bob fixed the **kitchen faucet** in the large hall; it was leaking.
- Bob ordered some **new parts for the bottom of the sliding wall** between the halls; he got them for free because the co had some extras, but he owes them a box of donuts.
- Installed two **new kick downs** on the hall doors.
- Bob and Sal (LaCelle) installed a **barricade alongside the front porch** to prevent water from running onto the porch.
- **Mike's Paint will be replacing our new front porch** in two days (no charge) because there is a crack in the center, and, although they patched it, the crack is still showing. The evening dancers will come in the side door on Wed to allow time to set.
- **Carpet: Bob got three bids to replace the carpeting with the better grade that we saw in the last meeting: \$18,177, 17,196, 15,206. Hartford offered to pay us \$3,142.** Bob has lined up a former estimator who thinks he might be able to push Hartford to offer more, but probably not more than \$4000

total. Margaret asked why it would be so much to replace the carpet. Bob said going to a **higher grade of commercial carpet** is expense. Margaret said she had to replace all of the carpet in her house, and she found a big difference in the estimates she got from House of Carpets, Home Depot, and ProSource. Installation, padding, carpet, all had tremendous differences between estimates. Bob explained that this carpet has to be scraped up to remove all traces of the old carpet before it can be replaced, which increases installation costs. Margaret ended up going with ProSource for her house. Bob said one of his bids is from them. Jerry said we won't sign a release until the supplement supervisor "washes the estimate" to see if he can get us more money from Hartford. Lorraine said in 2015 the cost of the carpet we have was \$6000.

- **Richard Riger asked if we could consider a cheaper and more durable type of floor.** Bob said carpet helps to cut down on the noise factor, which is a significant issue.
- **Ben said we should get as much money as we can, live with what we have, and take our time deciding what to do.** Ben asked a number of dancers at the last festival what they thought about the carpet, and they hadn't even noticed a problem. Maybe we can start a carpet fund, or a new floor fund, for the future.
- Bob said he could put a piece of **darker carpet over the burn spots**, like the one he put under the food table, if we decide we want to do that. Ben said this is a tribute to how resourceful Bob is. Alice said we have confidence in Bob's ability to deal with almost any problem.
- Lorraine is concerned that **carpet cleaners will refuse to clean the carpet** with those burn marks. Bob said he will assure them that they won't be accountable for that damage.
- Bob wants to have the exterior of the **front porch doors and wall above cleaned and repainted.** Mike's Painting bid \$991.
- Also, **Bob plans to paint the walls in the large hall.**
- Clean-up day needs to be immediately before the State Festival (May 15-17). We agreed on **April 25th for clean-up day.** Lorraine will add that to the calendar.
- Bob asked if Sheri could have the **cleaning lady sweep the front porch** when she is here to get the pine straw off of it. Bob does this when he's here, but it would help for her to do it also. Sheri agreed to let her know.

Supplies, Margaret: Supplies are stocked. Lorraine mentioned that we keep **running out of trash bags in the kitchens.** Sheri said she would notify the **cleaning lady to put more bags out at a time.**

Publicity, Lin is out: No report, Jerry said Lin is doing his usual good job.

Old Business: Lights

- Jerry and Bob met with **Joey Solis** for about two hours re **changing the switches to turn on alternate lights instead of one side or the other of each hall.** Joey did not see anything wrong with the current lights. He said it can be done, and **his estimate was \$2,500.** Ed Carr also came in with an estimate of \$2,500. Alice got an estimate from K&J Electric for \$3,235.23. Lorraine provided a diagram showing which lights would be activated for each switch.
- Alice said that Ben had specifically asked for an **estimate for installing 3000K lights**, so she had the electrician from K&J provide one, but it is **only for the East side: \$1,921.86.** There is no breakdown for labor and parts, but Ben said that was not crucial. Jerry said the cost of the lights is about \$100 each, the rest being labor, and he considers this estimate to be in line. There would be a 5 year warranty on the lights and a one year warranty on the labor. The electrician, Ken Kerbo, has done work for Alice and Sal in their home, on lights and installing fans, and he has always done an excellent job. He is highly rated on the internet as well, and is very experienced, having been in the business for many years. The 3000K would be the same size as the 5000K panels that we have and would fit into the same fixtures. Sheri and Margaret said that we would probably do well to sell the 5000K ourselves (on Criagslist) if we replaced them in the small hall. Jerry had previously expressed concern about putting 3000K lights in the East Hall and then having uneven lighting when the divider wall was removed, opening the whole hall. Alice asked how often this occurs? Maybe 5 times a year, not counting the social dances? (USA and ADC do not use the overhead lights. They use lamps and the icicle lights.) Jerry said the wiring is attached to the roof, so very high ladders are needed to reach it.

- Alice said there has been a lot of discussion about whether people would be satisfied with one of these two solutions, and the only way to know that is to ask. Ben doesn't want to put the money into this and have people still complaining. Jerry said we need to know the 3000K will bring a yellowish tint to the light. Ben said some people think *any* exposure to LED's will blast their retinas and kill them. Alice took exception, and Ben said the point is that some people are terrified of blue light in any amount. Alice said **we need to ask people if they will accept a compromise of one of these solutions and commit to that; we should not vote until we have that information.**
- Ben said our **options** are to replace all lights with 3000K, change the switches to turn on alternating lights, change the East hall to 3000K lighting, or get more lamps and have clubs use the lamps instead of overhead lights. Sheri and Alice reported that Kris Jensen said lamps would not work for her – she needs overhead lights, as most callers probably would.
- **Sheri suggested that we install 3000K on the small side and let Randy and Lorraine use the lamps for round dancing on the large side.** Jerry said that when we open up the hall, the 5000K would “bleed off” into the small side and lighten it up a little more, but it would be darker than the west side. Jerry guarantees that no one would notice a difference except the people that already know what is going on, and no one would complain.
- Jerry asked how we want to proceed. **Ben pointed out that, per the by-laws, we have to have six votes on the board to spend more than \$500.** He asked Lorraine, Alice, and Margaret, as the most concerned re the lights, which option they would prefer. **Lorraine wants to decrease the amount of light in the whole hall, so she would prefer the alternating lights option.** Most people she has talked to think that would help. She said the current lighting hurts her eyes; bright lights cause a halo effect for her. Using lamps with the icicle lights is an option, but the icicle lights are dying. **Margaret is not concerned about the blue light, just the brightness, and having half the lights on will work for her. Alice prefers the 3000K on the east side,** but does see that this will do nothing for the people who dance on the west side. **Could we upgrade the icicle lights for the west side to help make those an alternative?** Sheri prefers going with 3000K on the east side re the lower cost. Ben wants to please the most people we can. **Alice said we need to ask people which alternative they prefer, particularly the Wilde Bunch. We can't know without asking. Sheri said Rick Weber wants the 3000K.**
- **Randy** asked if we end up doing the 3000K on the east side, **could we look at upgrading the icicle lights on the west side.** Alice said she would look for the icicle lights. Bob said the newest icicle lights he put in are not LED, and they are dimmer.

Re Annual Meeting Jan 4: Jerry asked Alice to write a **letter inviting ASDC members to the Annual Meeting**, and send that to Lin for him to send out to the membership by email. **Lin, Lorraine, and Margaret are up for re-election, and all of them are willing to run again. Randy Pratt said he also plans to run, and he is requesting that the vote count be observed by a non-Board member.** Jerry and Ben said that should be no problem.

The **next meeting will be November 4, 2019**, to talk about the lights only. We all think we can be present, if no one else gets the whooping cough.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45.