

IndyContra Board minutes of March 9, 2010

Attending: Dianna Davis, Glenn Grove, Juliet Port, Joanne Classick (guest), Barry Levitt, Ken Gall, Kathryn Millis (recorder).

Ken opened by thanking for officially becoming involved, staying involved, and sharing their skills.

Officers:

First meeting of new board, so we divided up Board positions. Juliet will become President, shifting away from scheduling talent. Dianna will be Scheduler. Barry will continue as Treasurer. Kathryn will be Secretary, P.R.

Pay:

At Dianna's request, we reviewed pay and pay categories: Indianapolis area, Bloomington, out of town, traveling national talent.

Barry noted that we used to vary the payment more. Factors included the number of people in the band, expected turnout, etc.

Treasurer's Report:

Barry distributed a summary of 2009 (and early 2010) finances. We had a very slight income in 2009, thanks to a small profit from GMB and substantially lower rent at Earth House than at the Athenaeum. However, average paid weekly attendance has remained low, at only 27. There does not appear to be a strong correlation between specific bands/callers, and attendance.

We lost money at Beach Party 2010. Factors included the widespread snowstorm the day before, we lost some Champaign-Urbana gypsies because the band and caller performed there the night before, and almost nobody came from Bloomington. Beach Party has been snowed out or had very low attendance after snow storms several times in recent years, so we discussed moving to it early March, when weather is less likely to cause problems.

Attendance at weekly dances:

Discussed attendance and turnover. Discussed whether we can estimate the numbers of people who come only once or twice, people who come for a few months and then drop out, and people who for years were regular dancers, but have dropped out. Briefly discussed how to retain (or regain) more of these folks.

Juliet will get new people's names and email addresses each week and forward them to Kathryn who will send a welcome & information about web and email.

Agreed on two new policies: 1. Each ITMDG can member can bring one guest for free, once per year. 2. Each caller and member of a band can bring one guest free when they perform. (This is on top of giving talent free admission for any

quarter in which they perform). Dianna will add #2 to information provided to talent. KCM will add both new policies to the website.

Gypsy Moon Ball 2010:

Dianna presented information on the band & caller fees: Perpetual e-Motion (playing Saturday afternoon, 2nd half of Sat. evening, & Sun. afternoon, plus doing their own sound.) and Diane Silver were both approved both unanimously. Coffee Zombies & David Ernst fee to be determined. Barry will send Dianna information on what we paid talent the last few GMBs.

Reminder of 2009's GMB hours: Saturday afternoon 3 hours 45 minutes contra, Saturday evening 5 hours contra (3 headliner, 2 band #2), Sunday 45 minute waltz & 3 hours contra. Need to add extra cost for Friday.

Dianna will tell Bloomington's board that we've moved dates & are adding Friday. We do not conflict with 5th Saturday this year.

Juliet will call the Scouts to see if we can get the hall Friday, and can we get cabins Friday night even if we don't dance there? Most doubt that Earth House is good for Friday night (too small, few restrooms, cost of snacks). Juliet will look into Fisher's & Zion Evangelical. Kathryn will look into health regulations to see if there's a legal, not just financial, reason we can't bring food to Earth House.

P.R.:

Kathryn will contact WICR & ask about sponsorship rates, and double check WFYI costs. Can costs decrease if we do greater quantity or for other options?

Juliet will ask via the member discussion list for dancers to commit to paying for at least one dedication on WFYI. Will send draft for board feedback first.

Adding more dancing:

Doug offered to do a flourishes workshop. Vicky offered to teach waltz.

Next meeting:

We'll continue meeting on 2nd Tuesdays, at Ken's. Next: April 13, 6 p.m.