

Indy Contra Board
Tuesday, July 19, 2011
6:15 p.m. Earth House Café

Present: Dianna Davis, Juliet Port, Lisa Boyles (guest), Barry Levitt, Kathryn Millis (minutes), Vickie Stohl, Jamie Shepherd. Trevor DeWitt (guest), Chris Reading (guest).

1. Approved minutes:

Jamie took minutes at the June meeting. Kathryn will post this weekend unless she receives edits from those who were there.

2. Treasurer's Report (Barry):

Average weekly paid attendance is 62; significantly up from previous years! Some expenses were paid out this month for Barry & Joanne's anniversary dance; Barry donated the money in 2010 when scheduling the event.

3. Scheduling (Dianna & Vickie)

- a. We're all scheduled through September, with several callers coming from Cincinnati, one from Texas, but mostly Indianapolis bands.
- b. We reconsidered our plan to have an October First Friday dance, run by Jamie, but which almost nobody else on the board can attend. We decided to cancel, wait, and try to schedule First Friday dances in spring.
- c. Beach Party: Discussed bands. Dianna will contact our first choice. Plan on someone from south of here, as they may have easier travel in winter weather.
- d. Agreed to discuss band payment (for the weekly dances) as soon as we know our cost structure for Earth House this coming year.

4. Earth House Collective Conversations (Juliet):

- a. Staff changes: Earth House is rearranging staff & board positions. Indy Contra folks, please continue to go through Juliet.
- b. Contract for August 2011-2012: Earth House board would like a flat monthly rent to make their budgeting easier. We currently pay a base rate plus a percent of admissions. We're still not consistently making money on weekly dances, though we have made money on a few individual dances recently. Juliet will ask for a more precise request.
- c. Social media – We are linking to Earth House on our website, facebook, etc. We have occasionally forwarded their emails to our group, and promoted events on our site and facebook. Kathryn will try to promote their events more often, and Juliet will ask them to better link to and represent our events. (E.g., their calendar and website don't link to ours, though we link to theirs.)
- d. Locks: Earth House board suggested we could lock the side room that contains our storage box, to decrease unauthorized use of things that

don't fit in our box (e.g., our water dispenser, which has been used for trash several times). We'll need to pay to get the locks changed, and give them keys so they can get in when needed. Juliet will call a couple locksmiths for estimates.

- e. End time: Juliet, when making the announcements and at the end of the evening, will remind folks to leave promptly at the dance's end. We'll remind bands and callers to end at 10, because Earth House staff wants to go home. We'll announce that folks are going to MacNiven's, so people can socialize.
 - f. Sign: We cannot leave our contra sign outside attached to the light pole due to zoning regulations. Ian and Ken have keys; Ken used to take it home with him, but his travels mean we can't depend on that. The sign says "contra tonight," so Trevor will get a quote for one that says "Tuesdays." Juliet will talk to the Earth House board about whether we can attach the sign to something in the garden, or another visible spot.
 - g. Arby's/pizza: People have been bringing non-Café food and eating it in the Café. This is a problem, so we should ask dancers not to bring outside food to the Café. Snacks to share upstairs are fine.
 - h. A/C & Big Ass Fans: Earth House is setting the thermostat for 60 degrees on Tuesday mornings and getting quotes on "Big Ass Fans" to keep the place cool. [Note to board from Kathryn: they're at <http://www.bigassfans.com>. If you're more easily offended than me you may not want to google big ass fans.)
5. Sound (Lisa):
- a. State Fair – Lisa, Heather, and Dave are doing sound, but we can't set up until the group before us ends. They plan on unloading the car at 7:15 and staging the equipment so they can move fast at 8.
 - b. Equipment – Heather has bought some new equipment but not given Barry receipts yet. Lisa will label things "Indy Contra."
6. Spirit & Place
- a. Publications & P.R.
 - i. Biographies need to be made shorter & consistent.
 - ii. Someone needs to work on the rest of the text too.
 - b. First Friday Fest: Dianna will look over videos of her bands, & try to find something to use on a monitor at the opening Friday event (which conflicts with GMB, so we'll not be present). Juliet will ask Julie & Ron for folk dancers to volunteer to staff the S&P First Friday Fest booth.
 - c. Dianna will line up a few people to be our band for our event; they'll play only about ½ hour.
7. GMB:
- a. Dianna has been distributing our fliers when her bands play other cities.

- b. Neither Barry nor Juliet has yet seen the signed contract from Zion.
- 8. Workshops: We received a request for a longer beginner session, so Juliet will lead one next week, starting at 7 p.m. We had “beyond the basics” in May, and waltz in June.
- 9. Next meeting: August 9, 6:15 p.m. in Earth House Café.