CFOOTMAD Meeting Minutes, 6 Jan. 2018

In Attendance: Nancy Reindl; Sam Smith; Paul Somlo; Christa Torrens; Duffy Boyle; Cindy Scott

* Minutes from December 2017 were approved.
* Business card “next dance free” coupons are in the works.
  + Julie was looking into printing options, but she was absent. Nancy is moving forward with the research.
  + We want to make sure that door staff know how it works—not handing cards to all and sundry, but also erring on the side of getting new people in.
* Facebook publicity:
  + Events work differently—and better—than posts to the facebook group, as people can be explicitly invited and reminded, and the invitations can be shared.
  + This would work even better if the events came from a facebook page, instead of being created within the group. It’s possible to have both, and Will Loving has written a brief how-to on the subject.
* Westminster
  + The Contra Waltz:
    - The event was successful, with ~40 dancers in attendance.
    - It was not expressly profitable, though it may fall within the grant-supported threshold that we had identified for the previous Westy dances.
    - There was also a different mood at the dance—less focused on aerobic dancing, and more social.
  + We’re moving forward with a survey of dancers’ preferences for other Westy events.
* Techno contra possibilities:
  + Will Loving approached Andy Reiner about playing a Techno; he’s enthusiastic, but it would be a bunch of work for him, and would require some investment on our part. This is an investment in both a person (who might move away) and a model of dance.
  + We debated the merits of doing a live techno contra, vs. a dance to recorded music. The latter might be cheaper and easier—possibly involving flying Erik Erhardt up for a weekend.
  + Would this work as an option for the Westminster Dance? Would we need a larger hall? The gym at the Scheitler Center might work, as it’s already nice and dark.
  + Paul, Duffy, and Will will make a subcommittee to explore this.
* Dance etiquette and environment.
  + Paul will make buttons for the dance coordinators. Some will have names; others will be generic, to live in the cashbox for each series.
  + Christa, Sam, Peter, and Tina will discuss expanding the “tips and etiquette” announcements, to include demonstrations.
    - Plan: meet up for dinner before the next Boulder dance.
    - We want to set the right tone in these announcements—short, pithy, attention-getting, and memorable. We don’t want these to be about quick laughs or snide giggles.
  + We also need to discuss, update, and operationalize our disruptive dancer policy.
    - Sam will research what other peer dance communities are doing.
  + One component of this is our statement of purpose in the bylaws.
    - We currently state that our goal is to promote “traditional music and dance.” It was suggested that this become something about the “evolving traditions of American music and dance.”
    - We also want to make a formal stand toward inclusivity: “CFOOTMAD is an open and inclusive community that welcomes all to participate in and enjoy our events.”
  + We need clearly stated and consistent policies for dealing with disruptive dancers.
    - This needs to include communication between the series coordinators, but also guidelines on how we’ll deal with problems if the coordinator isn’t around, or if problems are reported to someone other than the coordinator.
    - One good step would be to prepare an ‘incident report form’, to be circulated to a broader community of board members, coordinators and deputies, etc.
* Volunteer stuff.
  + Volunteer appreciation.
    - The Louis Sass memorial was fairly recent; we don’t necessarily need to do a big event soon.
    - A simple recognition can be done each year—it’s easy, specific, and cheap, and it’s a good use of our money.
    - We want to be sure that a list of volunteers to be recognized is complete. There have been questions about the accuracy of previous lists.
  + Do we want to be more stringent about how the volunteer coordinator does stuff? Should we look into finding Pam an assistant?
* Board Membership:
  + John and Claire Weidner will attend the February meeting, as potential new board members.
  + Steve and Sharon Thomas were also suggested.
  + We don’t want to add too many new people at the same time.
* Further discussion of dance weekend possibilities.
  + Sam has been talking to Lyn Mead about the lessons Stellar has learned. We don’t want to duplicate their mistakes.
  + We already have three vaguely urban weekends per year; what would be different about the weekend that’s being proposed. How much change could we get for how much time, effort, and money?
  + How would an urban weekend affect our financial situation?
    - Many dance communities use weekends to subsidize their regular weekly dances; we’re discussing roughly the opposite. The fear is that this would be a bunch of financial liabilities.
    - Would fronting this money be an appropriate use of CFOOTMAD’s cash reserves? Would it be accountable to our community, and to our grants?