

Santa Clara Valley Square Dancers Association, Inc.
Board of Directors

Draft Minutes
of the meeting of
16 November 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:21pm by President Jim Davis at the offices of Google in Mountain View.

Present: Jim Davis (President), Debbie and Bill Malloy (Treasurer), Jane Bishop (Director)
Absent: Jerry and Debbie Janke (Vice President), Gary Evans (Director), Sue-Lietz Davis (Director)
The position of Secretary remains vacant.

Those present in addition to the Board included Karl Belser, Jackie Daemion, Joe Dehn, Keith Ferguson, Allen Glessner, Carol Glessner, Jan Hoover, Betsy Lasarow-Tozzi, Ray Olszewski, and John Sybalsky.

Davis announced that Joe Dehn volunteered to take the minutes of today's meetings.

Davis reported that Gary Evans consented to his election as a Director, but could not be at the meeting today.

With members representing only three Board positions present, there was not a quorum.

Treasurer

[written report to be attached]

Bill Malloy said that in preparing the current report some errors were found in previous reports, specifically an allocation of an insurance payment to the wrong year and incorrect year-to-date totals relating to insurance and the toy dance in some bi-monthly reports. The full-year report distributed today has these errors corrected.

In response to a question about an apparent increase in our total bank balances, Malloy explained that this was due to variation from year to year in the timing of forwarding of insurance premiums.

SCVCA Liaison

Keith Ferguson reported that the last SCVCA meeting was their barbecue, and that they selected a round of the month, considered a draft revised Whing Ding contract, and distributed an updated list of callers for 2009 Whing Dings. There is no cuer yet assigned for the August dance. SCVCA recommends a Halloween theme for the October dance. He noted that there will be a Whing Ding this month, and said there is an ad in Squares 'Round the Bay and flyers have been distributed.

Joint Whing Ding Committee

Jim Davis distributed copies of the proposed contract developed by this committee, and asked for comments.

In response to questions. Ferguson said that there had been some comments when this was distributed by e-mail earlier in the week, and that the current version included some changes made by the committee in response to comments received after an earlier version was presented at the SCVCA meeting. He said that the approach the committee took was to keep the basic framework we had before but to address some specific problems relating to communication, timeline, oversight, and consideration of new ideas that may come up in the future. He described the change in method for accounting for expenses, so that there will be a report for each Whing Ding showing the actual expenses for that Whing Ding, once the final amounts are known.

Ferguson pointed out that the Joint Committee established by this contract will not be putting on the event, and that if either association decides to delegate its responsibilities to its own committee that is an internal matter.

There was discussion of modifying the wording to make clear when payment is expected to be made to allocate each association's share of the surplus or loss.

52nd Jubilee

Jim Davis distributed a written report [to be attached], including several attachments covering specific aspects of the event, but noted that this is not the final report for this Jubilee.

53rd Jubilee

Jim Davis reported that he earlier had a volunteer to serve as General Chair, but this person was now unable or unwilling to serve.

He reported on a new offer from Mary Gingell and Joe Dehn to serve as General Chair. This offer comes with a number of conditions, including that they not be required to provide RV management, an on-site dinner, afterparties, or a grand march; that they have control over the choice of callers/cuers, the pricing, and the program; and permission to run a deficit of up to \$3000. Their approach would be to put together a program similar to that of the last several years while possibly eliminating some sessions that did not get a good response, in order to give us one more Jubilee at the fairgrounds. They have verified that the fairgrounds is accepting reservations for 2009, but they are concerned that we are already behind the normal schedule for hiring the callers. The Caller Procurement Committee and anyone with alternate ideas for location or program would then be free to start work now on their ideas for the 54th Jubilee.

There was discussion of the grand march. Keith Ferguson said some people would be upset if we don't have one. Jane Bishop said she doesn't care about the march itself but there should be a "patriotic acknowledgement". Betsy Lasarow-Tozzi said there should be a color guard. Jackie Daemion suggested following the model of Winter Festival, where there isn't a march but somebody sings a patriotic song.

Davis said that now is the time to be setting up a committee for the 54th Jubilee in order to “do it right”, and that people should check with their clubs for people willing to work on this. He said the fact that other festivals have shut down could represent an opportunity for us to schedule Jubilee in a different month which might allow it to be more successful.

Lasarow-Tozzi asked why there would be a significant deficit. Jan Hoover said there would be a significant increase in rental cost for the fairgrounds. Davis said we have been doing a good job compared with some other festivals in getting our local people to attend, but we just don't have as large a dancer population as we would like.

Daemion asked about the number of complimentary ribbons issued for the 52nd Jubilee. Dehn commented on the categories and noted that the largest categories relate to callers/cuers; he said that when the current policy was adopted several years ago it was decided that all local callers should get comp ribbons as a way to encourage them to feel part of and to help publicize Jubilee, and that many comp ribbons go to people who likely would not attend if they had to pay.

Dehn announced that a draft Top Ten Ballot had been prepared for this meeting as required by the Jubilee Guidelines.

Bill Malloy asked if not having a Wagonmaster would make Jubilee less attractive. Ray Olszewski said that having one who really understood the market might allow us to attract significantly more RVers, but that this had not been possible this year because we didn't have a Wagonmaster during the time when we were doing the marketing. Dehn said that they would be happy to have a Wagonmaster if somebody came forth early in the process and committed to doing the job, but that they did not want to be doing that job themselves so in the absence of such a volunteer they planned to just inform people that RV parking is available at the fairgrounds and let people deal with it themselves.

Allen Glesser asked if there would be a patriotic element, even if there is no grand march. Dehn said that if they produce the event, this would not be included.

Ferguson expressed concern that there would not be an opportunity to introduce the callers and the people who worked to put on the event. Dehn said that he would be willing to consider having a time for that. Ferguson expressed concern that this would still not provide a patriotic element.

Dehn said his position on this is the same as it was for the 51st Jubilee, citing his Chairman's remarks in the program book and from the stage that year: that Jubilee is a square dance and a celebration of square dancing. He does not consider it a proper function of either SCVSDA or Jubilee to impose a political message on those who attend. He said that it is no more appropriate to include these demonstrations of political sentiment as part of Jubilee on the basis that a majority of dancers favor them than it would be to include the Lord's Prayer on the basis that a majority of dancers are Christians, and the fact that other dancers have the option of just standing silently or not attending that session still doesn't make it right.

Karl Belser said this should be up to the association. Dehn said he agrees with this, that it is the right of the association to decide all of the parameters for Jubilee including the callers, the program, the location, and the grand march, but that he and Gingell were only offering to do a particular type of festival so it was up to the association to decide if that is what it wants. He urged anyone who wants something different to step forward and volunteer to be General Chair.

Bill Malloy noted that some dancers are not Americans. Lasarow-Tozzi said that in cases like last year when we have a caller who is Canadian, we should also have the Canadian national anthem.

The meeting recessed at 2:33pm to allow the General Committee meeting to convene.

The meeting adjourned at 4:39pm after the end of the General Committee meeting.

Santa Clara Valley Square Dancers Association, Inc.
General Committee (Delegates)

Draft Minutes
of the meeting of
16 November 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Davis at 2:49pm, at the offices of Google in Mountain View.

Delegates from 6 out of 9 clubs were present, constituting a quorum. There were no Delegates from Bows and Beaus, Krazy Dazys, and Single Squares of Sunnyvale. [sign-in sheet to be attached]

Treasurer

[written report to be attached]

Bill Malloy reported that this report has two parts – one for the last two months and the other for the full year ending October 2008 -- and that in preparing these some errors were found in past reports; these are fixed in the full-year report. The report was submitted to audit without objection.

SCVCA Liaison

Keith Ferguson reported that at their last meeting SCVCA adopted "Look at Me" as Round of the Month, considered a draft of the revised Whing Ding contract, revised the list of callers for the 2009 Whing Dings, and decided to recommend a Halloween theme for the October 2009 Whing Ding.

Carol Glesser moved and Andrew Irish seconded to have a Halloween theme for the October 2009 Whing Ding; the motion passed without objection.

Jim Davis reported that a flyer for the January 2009 Whing Ding is now available.

Joint Whing Ding Committee

Jim Davis reported that this committee had a number of meetings and developed a draft contract. He reported that two changes had been made to the draft as a result of discussion during the Board meeting: (1) to insert "upon approval of the Joint Committee" to the end of the last bullet point ("Update the financial statement ...") under SCVSDA responsibilities and (2) to insert "and upon approval make timely payment or submit invoice to SCVCA as necessary" to the end of the 9th bullet point ("SCVSDA Treasurer will deliver...") in the Timetable section.

Allen Glesser moved and Karl Belser seconded to accept the contract with these changes. Davis pointed out that the Whing Ding Committee established by the bylaws section approved at the last meeting is a different committee than referred to in this contract, but that the same people could be

appointed to serve on both. Bill Malloy noted that the same people might not want both responsibilities.

The motion to approve the contract passed with 7 Delegates voting in favor and 1 abstaining. Davis said that this means that the contract will go into effect if the SCVCA also approves it, but that it would come back to us for another vote if SCVCA decides that they want to make changes.

52nd Jubilee

Jim Davis noted the addition of a page with financial statements to the the report packet that had been made available during the Board meeting.

Davis said that almost everybody had a good time at this Jubilee. He cited as an exception a Mainstream dancer who asked for, and received, a refund because some of the Mainstream sessions didn't actually happen due to lack of attendance; his conclusion from this is that we should not be attempting to be a Mainstream festival. Jackie Daemion reported that Katydid's just voted to go back to being a Plus club.

There was a discussion of the programming for new dancers. Daemion said we should not have such sessions if they need to be outside, and we need to decide whether we are going to actually make a big push for new dancers at this sort of event. Carol Glesser suggested that it would be better to encourage prospective dancers to just come and watch. Jan Hoover said that festivals of this kind generally don't have sessions for complete beginners. Dehn said that while there is at least one other festival in California that offers such sessions, historically our current beginner offerings came out of an effort to experiment with putting the spaces we had available to additional uses and that if something wasn't working we could drop it; he said using the patio for the Blast session was not as much of a problem as for the Intro because it is warmer during the day and because the people who sign up for that already have a greater level of interest. Keith Ferguson said that back when Jubilee was at the fairgrounds previously there had been a session for people in September classes but that attempts to expand this to more hours had failed; he suggested we consider having a session at beginner level but advertising it only for people already in a class rather than to completely new people.

53rd Jubilee

Jim Davis said he wants to be able to appoint General Chairs for both the 53rd and 54th Jubilees as soon as possible, give them guidelines, and then let them do the best jobs they can for their respective years. He said that Mary Gingell and Joe Dehn have volunteered to be Chair for the 53rd, but he has no volunteer yet for the 54th.

He said that the Gingell/Dehn offer is conditional on them not being required to include management of RV parking, afterparties, or the grand march, and that they be allowed to budget for a deficit; their proposal is to have a program very much in the style of recent ones, just trimming a few things that have not been successful, probably including the Mainstream and Intro sessions.

Betsy Lasarow-Tozzi questioned whether the event could be considered successful if it runs a deficit; Davis said that it could be considered a success if dancers and callers find it a positive experience and it doesn't lose more money than we are prepared to lose.

Allen Glesser noted that Dehn had stated that a patriotic component would not be included. Dehn said that their proposal is to eliminate the entire grand march session. Ferguson expressed concern that this would not provide an opportunity to recognize the people who work on Jubilee, and that people like to get such recognition.

Davis said that Gingell and Dehn are willing to do the work to make a 53rd Jubilee happen, it just won't include everything that everybody might want, and they don't want to take it on if people are going to be complaining about that all year.

Karl Belser said that a Jubilee deficit along with the cost of other things like the storage unit might mean an overall loss of more than \$3000 per year that would have to come out of our reserves. Davis said that the people who agree to do work for the association should not be asked to pay for everything out of their own pockets. Ray Olszewski said that we need to be realistic about the fact that there aren't people coming forward to work on either the 53rd or 54th, that we should take the proposed conditions seriously, that he was not offering to serve as Chair but if he had been willing to do so he would also have stated conditions up front, and that while some of the conditions would be different he would also have included an expectation of there being a deficit.

Belser said he doesn't really have a problem with the deficit as long as everybody understands it up front, but that he thinks it will demotivate some area clubs if a patriotic element is not included.

Davis said that under the proposal Gingell and Dehn would also have control over the selection of callers/cuers, the program, and the pricing. Lasarow-Tozzi asked whether some of these things would be under the control of the Program Chair. Davis said that it is the Jubilee Committee as a whole that should be considered to have the control, that the management structure and degree of delegation has varied from year to year, and that in this case Gingell and Dehn were proposing to do most of the management jobs themselves and there might not be a separate Program Chair.

John Sybalsky asked if the Delegates were allowed to know what was in the written proposal. Dehn said Davis could share any part he considered useful; Davis read aloud a large portion of the proposal.

Lasarow-Tozzi asked if they would be willing to take suggestions, such as to reduce the number of tracks. Dehn said that he personally would be willing to listen to suggestions about any aspect of the event, and would be happy to make changes when they make sense to him, but that he doesn't want to be stuck having to debate everything for the next ten months. Olszewski said that being General Chair is a lot of work, and telling people that they will have to do all the work but that somebody else gets to decide the program is not workable, because nobody will be willing to volunteer. Lasarow-Tozzi said that last year when the General Chair and Program Chair disagreed about the program many other people quit.

Dehn said you can't have people on the same committee trying to manage the same Jubilee if they have such fundamental differences in their ideas of what they are trying to produce. He said that he and Gingell were volunteering to do the job of putting on the same sort of event again because that is what they want Jubilee to be, they already know what is involved in doing that, and they feel they can do most of it themselves; there are many ways that Jubilee might be changed but the job of remaking it into something different is not a job for which they are willing to volunteer; if other people have a different vision for what the event should be, they should come forward and volunteer to be Chair for the 54th, or if they think they can put their plan together in time they could even offer to do it for the 53rd.

Jan Hoover said that for the last several Jubilees most of the management tasks have been done by Challenge dancers, that there needs to be more participation by Plus dancers, and that she is concerned that under this proposal there will be little chance for new people to get the experience they need to be able to do these jobs for future Jubilees.

Davis asked if there was a motion to accept this offer; there was none.

Insurance

Betsy Lasarow-Tozzi reported that she has asked for each club to identify an insurance representative, so that she can make the information she has on file for the club available to them for review in order to catch any errors early.

She said that the statement attributed to her in the minutes that “if you are in a square you are covered” is not what she said and that the insurance makes distinctions between accidents and medical conditions. Jim Davis said that he asked at the recent Council meeting for clarification of this point. Jan Hoover noted that if a dancer is not on the roster of any club they will not be eligible for any benefit from this insurance. John Sybalsky said that this insurance program operates on the basis of cooperation and good will, and that it seems that as a result of our having made trouble in the past year for those higher in the administrative chain we are now getting only the bare minimum level of service; Davis responded that we were not getting good service before that either.

Top Ten Ballot

Jim Davis reported that a draft ballot has been prepared for the Top Ten Callers vote, that this matter would normally be handled by the Program Chair for the next Jubilee and we don't have one, but Delegates should still review this draft and come back with suggested additions and corrections.

Betsy Lasarow-Tozzi questioned why two callers who had taught the most recent Advanced class at ECR were listed on the ballot but didn't have ECR listed by their name. Joe Dehn said that although that amount of calling during the year qualified them to be listed, it was not known to those preparing the draft ballot whether ECR considered them at this point to still be “club callers”, and that this was one of several open items that were identified in communicating the draft to the President as needing to be clarified, in this case by getting input from ECR as it is really up to each club how they view this kind of relationship. Andrew Irish said ECR would consider this question and provide that input.

Bylaws Committee

John Sybalsky said that several ideas came out of the brainstorming meeting held in August relating to making our meetings work better: to not hold the Board meetings on the same date as the Delegates meeting, for the Board to set an agenda for the Delegates that deals with "strategic" topics, to not have the Delegates deal with routine matters, to make sure that agendas are available two weeks in advance so people have a chance to prepare input, and to make an archive of the minutes available on the web site.

Jackie Daemion asked if this committee would be meeting again to come up with proposals to revise the bylaws. Sybalsky responded that he wants the process to continue but that no date for another

meeting has been set at this point.

Calendar

Jim Davis said that there is a copy of a preliminary draft printed calendar available for each club, and asked that additions and corrections be sent to calendar@scvsda.org; he needs these revisions before the beginning of the year in order to prepare copies for distribution.

Historian

Joe Dehn reported that he is still in the process of collecting photos and video recordings from various people he knows have them, in order to be able to complete the coverage of the 52nd Jubilee which it now looks may turn out to have been the last. He said he has edited 17 videos so far from the recordings he made and expected to be producing more.

There was discussion of the impact of photography, of video recording, and of making the results available on the Internet, on attendees who don't like having images of themselves available in this way. Keith Ferguson said he knows of a couple who do not attend Jubilee for this reason. Betsy Lasarow-Tozzi suggested having "no-photos" areas. Ray Olszewski said that it is difficult to exclude particular areas, that coverage of an entire hall is useful for management and research purposes, and that people in public places should expect that photos will be taken. Andrew Irish said he knows of events where people who don't want their faces to be shown provide the photographer with a sample photo of themselves so that the photographer can identify them and then blur or crop their faces out. Joe Dehn said that while it was technically possible to blur faces even in video, this would take significant effort and would become unmanageable if a lot of people asked for such treatment as a result of us offering it, that there is no way we can take responsibility for a "no photos" area without banning all unauthorized cameras, and that limiting photography might cost us a greater loss of attendance from people who enjoy it than we now have from people who are afraid of being photographed. John Sybalsky said that this issue had come up several years ago and signs were posted at Whing Dings and at the Jubilee held at Blackford; Dehn said that SCVCA adopted a policy that was considered to apply to Whing Dings because of the joint sponsorship arrangement, but that the SCVSDA had not adopted a policy on this at the same time or since.

Whing Ding Committee

Jim Davis noted that he and many of the other people who typically do the work at Whing Dings will be out of town on the date of the upcoming Whing Ding. Bill and Debbie Malloy have volunteered to handle the door duties, but other people are needed for other tasks.

Davis appointed Carol Glesser and himself to serve as the SCVSDA members of the Joint Committee established by the revised contract, assuming that contract is approved by the SCVCA.

Davis appointed Jerry Janke, Debbie Janke, Debbie Malloy, and Bill Malloy to serve as our Whing Ding Committee, with Jerry Janke as Chair. (It was noted that Davis himself is also, as President, an ex officio member of this and other committees.)

Approval of Minutes

Jim Davis read aloud some proposed changes to the minutes of the 28 September meeting. Allen Glesser moved and Jane Bishop seconded to approve the minutes as amended; the motion passed.

Caller Procurement

John Sybalsky reported that the Caller Procurement Committee has gotten agreement, but not yet written contracts, for John Marshall and Deborah Carroll-Jones to call for the 53rd Jubilee, and they are waiting for guidance on whether to seek a third caller.

Carol Glesser asked Keith Ferguson to share some statistics regarding use of callers at the 52nd Jubilee, suggesting they were relevant to the work of this committee. Ferguson said that his intention had been to address his findings directly to the next Jubilee Committee when established, that he didn't intend this as a criticism of the 52nd Jubilee program, that he didn't think anybody had made these choices maliciously and they weren't necessarily even bad. However, in following up on a comment by somebody who recommended that people not attend unless they are Advanced or Challenge dancers he had done some calculations concerning the amount of time that the Featured Callers were used in various halls, and he thought this information could be useful to the next committee. He found that, considering the three callers together, they were in the main Plus hall 24% of their time; counting their time in both halls where there was Plus made this fraction 32%; that they spent 29% in Advanced, 34% in Challenge, with the rest of their time in Mainstream or other special sessions; these figures don't count the Sunday evening multi-level session. He said he understood the complaint to be that even though it is the case that there were sessions for Plus dancers through the whole of the festival, much of this was to callers who are available to local dancers any time.

Meeting Schedule

Karl Belser moved and Jane Bishop seconded to have Delegates meetings quarterly. In the course of discussion this was refined to “approximately quarterly” and four specific dates identified for 2009: 8 March, 21 June, 20 September, 22 November. The motion as amended was approved.

Davis said that the proposed bylaws changes presented at the previous meeting would be carried over to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37pm.