

AACTMAD Board of Directors
Concourse Building
4531 Concourse
7:30

January 27, 2010

Paul Carryer, Mark Hillegonds, Abby Liskow, Greg Meissner, Robert Messer, Nawal Motawi, Ruth Scodel, Carolyn Texley. Non Board members: Holly Ackerman, Brad Battey, Hal Breidenbach, Drake Meadows, Dave Pardy,

Holly Ackerman: 'Hop for Haiti' will be a nationwide event – 10 locations (attending via speaker is fellow coordinator/Kissme collaborator Jaime from Lansing.) Dave Bennett Quartet will be the featured band, Feb 27 is the proposed date to be organized under Kissme Lindy Exchange Committee, with proceeds donated to Doctors without Borders or the Red Cross for Haiti relief efforts. They want to coordinate with the Dawn Dance activities. They've created a brochure for the 'Hop' with all relevant information. Scheduling would be either late night, 8-midnight, Dawn Dance afternoon, etc. Evening event would draw the most attendees. Greg: there will be a brunch at the Concourse facility, but the evening would be available – starting at 8 or 9:00. Kissme should contact the Dawn Dance Committee about coordinating their event. Does AACTMAD want to sponsor? Board members agreed that we would support/sponsor the event. Some discussion about the unknown state of the floor for dancing. Holly: The sound system is not a problem, they could bring their own. Greg: proposed that the Board approve endorsing the event for Doctors Without Borders so that the Hop for Haiti group can use Bethlehem United Church of Christ at a discount with AACTMAD's endorsement (\$75 as opposed to \$100). Holly will contact the Dawn Dance Committee.

Greg: motion to approve endorsement of the Hop for Haiti fundraising event by the Kissme Committee. Ruth 2nd. Approved.

Greg asked for copies of correspondence and a report on the event.

5th Friday Fusion

Presentation by Drake Meadows. 5th Friday was initially an experiment to intermingle dance communities: international, contra, etc. as well as a mix of musicians and musical styles. Conclusion drawn was that the communities don't mix well with each other, with the exception of the Morris dancers. They have succeeded in breaking even. Susie Lorand is acting as treasurer, and Drake was not sure about exactly where the finances stand. The committee has concluded that they need to recruit dancers from outside – new dancers attracted to this format. This would entail massive publicity work. Lots of energy was lost when Neal and Elizabeth left, and Drake would like to step down as chair. No one has as yet been found to take on the programming and publicity work, so they have determined that they will go ahead with the January and April dances, and end the series. This Friday will feature a Balkan band and also some Scottish dancing. Drake wanted to let the Board know about the status of 5th Friday.

Greg: spoke with Susie about Greg's idea to do a weekend event on fifth Sat in July and October that would include the 5th Friday dance. Greg would bring in headliner/out of town band/caller for those weekends, to be combined with local talent etc., and he would like Drake and the Committee to give some thought to combining efforts. Greg would like to continue working with the group to make it happen. Greg is working on organizing several special events for the Concourse facility. Drake would be interested in looking at details. Brad: 5th Saturday has been talking about reorganization and some similar issues to those facing 5th Friday. Greg, Brad, Drake, Debbie Jackson are all interested in being involved.

Brad:

Distributed budget for the Thursday night dance, which is scheduled to begin in March (1st Thurs.) Modeled on the English Tuesday night dance. He is predicting that the dance would break even by about the 4th week. The intent is to keep the quality high, with different musicians and callers. Greg: his experience is that high quality music is important, with 2-3 callers. Time of the dance proposed is 7-10. Brad's budget proposes some support up to \$500.

Greg: motion to approve \$500 in support for the new Thursday night dance proposed by Brad. Ruth 2nd. Discussion: Mark what determines success? Brad: improving the quality of dance/music for other dances rather than just attendance on Thursday. Greg: asked Brad to report back. Bob: if AACTMAD's membership increases, that would also indicate success: Approved.

Nominating Committee:

Ruth: We need to set a date for the election. Ruth Jones does not want to be involved. Nominating committee will meet within the next 2 weeks. Greg: since the committee's short a member, the board could appoint someone. Some suggestions were made, and Ruth will contact a few possible candidates for the nominating committee. So far, no responses to the general email asking for candidates for the board. Send any suggestions to Ruth. Greg: we should draft some changes to the bylaws: we should think about setting Board terms at 3 years so that only 1/3 of the board turns over at each election; voting via email (acceptable if unanimous). Ruth will work on some more revisions proposed for the next meeting. Paul volunteered to help with bylaws as well as continue work on the policies/procedures manual. Mark: should we set a date for the election? Greg proposed May 1 before the dance. The nominating committee will discuss.

Name for the new facility:

Nawal: motion to name the building Concourse Hall. Mark 2nd. Approved.

Concourse Hall, Traditions Hall, Community Dance & Music center were the finalists for the name of the hall. Mark will send a message out to the membership tomorrow for advisory input from the membership. Deadline will be 1 week before the board meeting

Facilities:

Floor is being retreated.

Greg: motion to give any donors who were not already members a membership for the current year. Abby 2nd. Approved.

Dave Pardy will send out the letter to those donors and send the information to Bob.

Hal Breidenbach distributed the facility management team report to the Board. They have created a lease form, and a list of events to be moving to Concourse; there is a schedule on the website. Scheduled income of approx. \$500 per month so far for March through May. Mark: asked if POB was contacted about moving to Concourse. Make sure that they are included in committee messages. Paul: had the Swing dancers been contacted? Paul will follow up with them, and see if perhaps the Lindy Exchange may be interested in using the Concourse.

David Pardy.: asked Hal to keep him informed about projected income.

Abby: has received a targeted donation for fans upgrade; and the walk-off mats for the doors have been ordered. Abby went over the wish list of items needed: coffee maker & carafes, refrigerator, cubbies/coat storage, under-counter ice-maker, mops, vacuum. Mark: wish list should be put up on the website. It needs to be a very specific list targeting commercial grade items in most cases. Hal will take on the maintenance of the wish list.

Greg: motion to approve purchase of a sound system as funds allow. Beginning with a basic system at \$5000, total system up to \$13,000. Paul 2nd. Discussion: Paul has a contact that may be useful for purchasing sound equipment. Approved

Greg: Motion to approve the following alteration in policy for storing/using the AACTMAD sound equipment and piano at the Grange; to be sent in a letter to the Grange and Sound Committee:

As AACTMAD is making the transition to its new dance facility, Concourse Hall, starting in March, we will have storage areas for our Library materials and other equipment. We are currently identifying and purchasing new and dedicated sound equipment for Concourse Hall, and we have a full upright piano ready to move in once the floor finishing is completed.

One of the services AACTMAD has provided to the dance community for a long time is a “traveling” sound system for various dance and music events, both at the Grange and at other venues, and this is the AACTMAD sound system that is currently stored at the Grange in the cabinet on the stage. It is AACTMAD’s desire to continue to maintain the traveling sound system as a resource to the dance community, and to the Grange. We would be very happy to continue to have it stored and available at the Grange to be used there or rented out and maintained by AACTMAD’s Sound Committee. We understand, however, that Don Thyeken has donated his sound system to the Grange, so it may be the case that the Grange no longer has the need or space for the AACTMAD sound system. We would like to know what the Grange’s

plans are with regard to its need and use of the AACTMAD sound system, and whether it has the storage space in the cabinet on the stage for it to be kept. The two possible scenarios we see are the following:

- (1) If the Grange no longer needs or has room for the AACTMAD sound system, then we will re-locate it to Concourse Hall, and it will remain available as a traveling sound system for rental use by the entire dance community.
- (2) If the Grange prefers to keep the AACTMAD sound system at the Grange and stored in the cabinet on the stage, we are very agreeable to that as a service to the Grange. This means AACTMAD would no longer be paying the monthly storage fee. Any use of the AACTMAD sound system would still be arranged through our Sound Committee and subject to their rental fees and policies.

In either case, it is AACTMAD's desire to continue to provide uninterrupted availability of a rentable traveling sound system to the dance community, and we are happy to coordinate with the Grange to make that happen in the most efficient way. Please let us know what your plans for a sound system at the Grange, and whether or not you need the AACTMAD sound system to remain there.

As a final note, the piano that currently resides on the Grange stage belongs to AACTMAD, but we have no plans to move it. As a benefit to the dance community and the Grange, we are happy to have it at the Grange as long as the Grange needs it.

Mark 2nd. Approved.

Abby: requested no traffic on the floor until Feb. 8.

Budget

David: will be paying bills as they come in. We will be over budget in February, and need to raise \$50,000. Mark: how is the shortfall allocated. We will need \$19,000 by the end of Feb. We need a cushion for equipment costs, gaps in rental income, etc.

Greg: suggested writing a letter to the membership explaining that we've achieved 80% of the goal, need another 20%. Mark will draft a letter for the board to help edit to be sent out very soon. Mark will talk to the Grange about donating the completion of the conference room. March 20 dance will be promoted as a fundraiser, but we will need to raise funds in the meantime. Second weekend in April is also a fundraiser/grand opening. David will contact the former Wagner Waters members.

Communications

Bob: asked for input on Public Drum format for Dance Calendar. The Board approved the format and Bob will proceed.

Paul: he's putting together a standard operation procedures. Operations, systems, master copy book for forms, He will send out a table of contents for the board to fill in where information is needed.

Adjourned 10:17.