

Albuquerque Square Dance Club, Inc.  
A Non-Profit Corporation  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
June 10, 2019

**Members present:** Ben Allen, Gale Askren, Jerry Gilbreath, Alice LaCelle, Lin Miller, Sheri Pastian, Lorraine Pratt, and Bob Stevens. **Absent:** Margaret Bolshazy. **Guests:** George Sewell and Randy Pratt.

Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm.

**Review of Minutes** from the past two meetings, April 15 and April 29, 2019: Bob had a correction to the April 15 minutes, under Old Business, the type of flooring for the front porch is not “Mikespain.” “Mike's Painting” is the name of the company that does the work, and Jerry said that the name of the flooring is Pentax. Also in the April 15 minutes, Bob insisted that he does not have cracks in his knees from mending the cracks in the parking lot. He does not want the minutes to say that he is cracked. Alice promised to make corrections. Minutes of both meetings unanimously approved, with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report, Sheri:** (copy attached)

- **Membership dues:** Sheri sent the two big clubs (Duke City and Wilde Bunch) lists of dues paid.
- **Re taxes filed,** Sheri remembers that Lorraine asked last year about \$10. paid to the CPA; this is a filing fee that he pays to file for our non-profit status, and we pay him back.
- **Desert Dancers 2019 Rumba Blast Contract: Sheri found a discrepancy in the contract.** By her calculations, the Blast should have been charged:
  - Friday night, small hall \$35.00
  - Saturday morning (3 hours) \$35.00
  - Saturday night, large hall, \$43.00
  - Sunday morning, small hall \$35.00
  - Total due: \$148.00 Check received: \$90.00 (**Short \$58.00**)

Saturday afternoon, small hall, \$35.00 (Abby Pratt's graduation party). \$35.00 paid.

**Discussion:**

**Randy Pratt stated that the payment was \$125.00 rather than \$90.** Sheri said for Randy to wait, that she wasn't finished with her report, and Jerry told him he was out of order. Sheri went on to say that the check was for \$125, with \$35 of that total being for Abby's party and \$90 for the Blast. Sheri (and the Board) received an email from Lorraine stating that the Blast was similar to Festivals like Hot August Nights and Spring Fling, which are entitled to a discount. Sheri said the special rate of \$300 is the festival rate for using *both* halls. The Blast only used half the Hall (one side or the other Friday, Saturday, Sunday), for \$90. This would be 10 hours of dancing at \$9 an hour. This would be a discount of 35% off the small hall and 48% off the large hall. When she received the check she called Randy to question the amount, and he said call Lorraine, because he just paid according to the contract. Sheri credited Randy with putting a good breakdown of what checks cover on his envelopes. Sheri called **Lorraine**, who said that **she gave the Blast a discount**, per her email showing discounts given other festivals in the past, discount percentages, and a contract the previous Contract Director had written for a similar event. Sheri questioned how these examples justified getting “4 halls” (4 dance sessions) for \$22.50 each.

**Ben** asked if he could make a very short statement re what could be a very contentious moment if we don't do something about it. **It is his understanding that the Board has set some (square and round dance) rates, \$300 for a weekend festival, and session rates for individual dances. Per the By-laws,**

**the Board does set the rates. Traditionally, discounts have been granted. This creates the appearance of impropriety.** There is no way to give additional discounts without making someone mad. **There is no authority in the By-laws allowing anyone to set rates lower than those set by the Board.** Regardless of what the understanding has been in the past, this should not be happening now or in the future. We need to resolve what we will do in the case of current contracts where someone has been given a special rate. Sheri said there are not any future contracts already given out with special rates. Ben is willing to give everyone the benefit of the doubt, and to accept that **Lorraine believed she had the authority** to do this (give a discount), or whoever was her predecessor felt they had the authority, as Lorraine has given evidence re this, but it needs to stop. Whoever is in charge of **contracting has to charge the contract rate set by the Board. The Board is the only entity with the authority to set rates.**

**Sheri** said that Lorraine sent an email showing that in 2015 the previous CD gave a special rate to Joey (Solis). Lorraine also used an example of Jerry (Gilbreath) getting a discount for the large hall, but Sheri disagreed and said no one has ever gotten a hall for a weekend for \$90. **Randy** said they had the small hall for the weekend for **\$125, which included Abby's party as part of the Blast**; the original contract for one session at \$35 for the party was changed to one contract for 5 sessions for \$125.00. Sheri said that is \$25 a session, which is not right. Lin asked if Randy paid according to the contract, and Sheri said yes, so **Lin said there is no issue with Randy. The issue is that a discount was given that may or may not have been given in the past.** Lin doesn't recall any discount having been given by the Board in the past. Gale asked who (on the Board) sees the contracts. Sheri said she gets copies and Lorraine is very good about sending them in a timely manner. Alice said she also receives copies and admitted that she has seen discounts before, but found the whole thing very confusing. **Sheri said she is just doing her job, and Lin said she should be commended for bringing this to the Board** to be addressed. Lorraine feels that if special rates exist for full hall users they must exist for small hall users. Ben disagreed and said there is a Festival rate and a session rate, and no other authorized rates. Randy pointed out that the person who instructed Lorraine on doing contracts (Georgian) had given her the 2015 contract as an example of this (single hall festival) situation, and that was the only example she had. **Ben said we should accept that Lorraine thought she had the authority to do that and we should give her the benefit of the doubt and move on. Jerry said going forward we need to follow the established rates; we don't need a motion to follow the rules, we just need to agree that this is what will be done from now on.**

**Alice asked if people are charged when they come in early to decorate the hall.** It was agreed that if any group wants guaranteed time to decorate before their official rental time, they have to pay for it at session rates. They cannot interfere with a scheduled dance to do their decorating or set-up. Lorraine and Sheri agreed that people have not been charged for this, but per Lin it was never a problem because it was not interfering with any dances. It was just assumed that a weekend festival included Friday morning. Now that the Hall is busier, it could be an issue. **Ben said we need to establish the beginning and ending times for Festival rental.** A festival covers three (calendar) days. What time on the first day does the Festival have possession? Is it both halls, all day for three days? **We don't actually have a rule re this, so we decided to establish one.** Hot August Nights, for example, starts dancing Friday at 3:00, but does not pay extra for starting in the afternoon. Lorraine pointed out that she **built set-up and clean-up time into the contracts**, so a "session" includes more than just dance time. Lorraine said the **Festival contracts allow for six sessions**, which could start Thursday evening, for example, with the last session on Sunday. Randy asked if there is a lower rate for weekday festivals than weekend festivals – he has seen that. **Gale said we need more standardization, and everyone agreed. No different rates for**

**festivals on weekdays vs weekends. Ben suggested that a festival rate cover 12 noon the first day through 1:00 pm on the third day.** Sheri asked about the Nolans round dance festival, which begins on Thursday night, and Ben said they should be charged the session rate for Thursday. **These rates will apply to all new contracts given out from this point forward, including any new contracts for 2019, and all contracts for 2020. Ben said we would have to honor any existing contracts. Every contract dated from this moment on must follow these rules we clarify today.**

There is a group that has a Sunday night dance (High Desert Dancers, once a year) that sets up Sunday morning, and does not want anyone scheduled for the Hall the entire day. They have been allowed to do this for years, and Lin thought we should let them continue, but Gale objected and said they need to follow the rules. Everyone agreed they must be told that the Board will no longer allow them to claim the Hall all day without payment for the full day. Sheri said that Duke City's Fling contract shows a charge for Thursday night because the fling started on Thursday. There is an extra charge for Thursday; Lorraine disagreed, but Ben had a copy of the contract showing the charge. Lin pointed out that some clubs and festivals are "well off" and can afford to pay for extra time as needed, but for other clubs it can be a challenge. George said he has seen people come in the night before a festival and start setting up. Ben asked again if we could agree on Friday 12:00 pm to Sunday 1:00 pm.

Sheri asked what we would charge the Nolans for their Thursday, Friday, Saturday round dance festival? **We agreed that the festival rate would apply for any three days – noon Thursday through 1:00 Saturday. Anything else would be an extra session(s) charge. Lorraine said this would apply with the contacts for 2020 because the 2019 contracts are already signed.**

**Jerry wants a contract for the State festival**, which will be three days in 2020; he does not have a contract yet. Jerry said that since we are talking contracts, **the Nolans** are pulling their (round dance) week out of Fun Valley in Co. and **asking if we would be willing to rent them our entire hall in April or May 2020.** This would cancel all of our regular dances for a week. Alice asked if we have a rate for an entire week, and Jerry said we do not. Lorraine said we have 5 festivals scheduled for 2020, and Duke City is the club most impacted by festivals. Ben, Gale, and Sheri spoke against giving up a whole week of regular club dances. No one on the Board wanted to do it, so **Jerry said he would tell the Nolans we decided against it.** George asked if we could compromise and give them the hall every morning for a week, but Jerry said that wouldn't work for them. Gale suggested they try Roswell, which has a great building to rent.

**In an attempt to summarize our discussion, Gale made a motion that, for all square dancing and round dancing, we use two rates: The Festival Rate (entire Hall) and the Session Rate (per hall), and that no discounts be allowed.** Ben said whatever the purpose, be it dancing, set-up, eating, etc, everyone will pay the official rate. **HOWEVER, per Lorraine there are day rates that apply (for square dancers and round dancers) to anything before 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday: \$25 for the small hall and \$30 for the large hall.** Lorraine pointed out that if the Nolans want the Hall prior to 5:00 on Thursday for their festival, then she would be charging them the day rate. Jerry asked who rents at those times (Mon-Fri daytime). We had daytime exercise groups and ballroom couples in the past that rent the hall to practice for competitions, but these are outside dancers so the square/round rates do not apply. Sheri said she doesn't know anyone at all who rents during the day, and if there is she wants to know who it is, because she is the Treasurer. Ben said what does it matter, let's just set the rate and move on. Lorraine said one couple does ballroom practice on Sunday morning. Sheri wanted to know who the ballroom dancers are, and Lorraine told her Glen McCullum rented for six months and paid \$600 in advance at the rate of \$25 an hour. Square dancers would not be charged \$25 an hour. Sheri found the

McCullum contract, which reads \$65 per session. **Alice asked what are the day rates for square dancers, Jerry said there isn't any). (???)**

**Jerry asked if anyone would second Gales motion to accept the Treasury report as given. Lin seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.** Jerry thanked Sheri for all her work checking contracts.

**Vice President's Report, Ben:** What is the **caller budget for the ASDC Spring Fling Dance** in March? Ben needs to know this before he can hire a caller. Sheri looked it up and said last year we paid **\$900 plus gas**. Ben clarified that would be for Friday night, Saturday afternoon, and Saturday night. Alice reminded Ben that the Friday night dance is Advanced, so **we need a caller who can call Advanced**. Lin said there is no charge for the hall; we don't charge ourselves for the hall. Ben said what kind of favoritism is this!?. Ben asked if anyone had suggestions (for a caller)? Gale likes **Dee Dee Dougherty**. Alice said we've had Dee Dee for three years. Ben asked if we would be against having her again. Jerry said she stays at his house, so there is no hotel charge. There were no objections, so **Ben said he would try her first. Jerry said that he and Lin were interested in making this into a festival**, and they brought it up last year also. Dee Dee can pull in dancers from the AZ market, since they shut down their AZ operation that week. Ben said he is festivaled out, and Alice and Sheri agreed that it would be a lot of work. **We agreed not to expand to a full festival.**

#### **Central District, Gale:**

- The **State Festival in Roswell** was WONDERFUL, and the friendship and camaraderie of the SE District members was one of the big reasons. They treat each other well, and the way they treat visitors is an inspiration. The callers and cuers were good. We need the same kind of things for our state festival in 2020. We already have eleven plus squares sold. Alice asked if Gale means we have to be nice. Gale said at least pretend to be nice, but she isn't expecting Alice to change her personality. Alice asked if she had been insulted, but Gale backtracked and said, "Well, you *are* nice." Bob objected to that.
- **District membership cards** have been distributed to the clubs.
- **Toys For Tots** is coming up, and Gale thinks it is a opportunity for the dance community to do some real good. Lin objected to Gale taking part of his report. Gale wanted to know what report, and Lin said the Publicity report he hasn't had a chance to give yet.
- Alice pointed out that Toy's For Tots is an exception to the rule re "always" charging for the Hall. We don't charge for either of the TFT dances. Sheri mentioned that the Veteran's Dance is not charged either. Gale said that **we don't charge rental for charity dances**. Lorraine said we ALSO don't charge for the **Central District dances** at the Hall. **Alice said that we need to list the dances we don't charge for, and state that they are exceptions**. Ben said OK, list them. Alice pointed out that we might have to put some limits on charitable dances if the number expands. Everyone has *their* favorite charity, and Ben said we want to be judicious about that so that the Board isn't seen as favoring one club or one cause over another.
- Gale asked about **an email Board members received 6/9/19 from "easysearch.club" asking if we want to be listed in a "directory of new and historic businesses in the area."** (New and historic seems to cover all businesses, really.) We all agreed that we do *not* want to be listed, and Jerry will respond to the email accordingly.

#### **Contracts, Lorraine:**

- Received **keys back** from Dee Taylor and Courtney Sewell.

- **Rich Stewart** is changing closets, **moving from the large hall to the small hall.**
- **Desert Dancers Club** is switching from the small hall to the large hall on Wed nights.
- **Crazy Eights** went to using the large hall the first and third for May and June and in July to moving to the second and fourth.
- These changes will result in **changes to the contracts** re the difference in the charge for the small hall vs the large hall.
- **ABC Sundancers** are going from the first, third, and fifth Wednesday's to Tuesdays in July.
- Two couples came in **May 1** for **ABQ Sundancers** which had been cancelled, and they complained that it was not shown as cancelled on the ASDC.org calendar. Lorraine told them that she had not been notified to change the calendar. **When dances are cancelled, three people should be notified: Lin (Publicity), Lorraine (calendar), and Sheri (re Hall payment).** Jerry said he was not calling that date and the replacement caller did not know about this, but Jerry has let him know. Jerry apologized and said let's move on.
- Lorraine objected to not knowing about the dates for the 2020 State Festival in a timely manner.

#### **Maintenance, Bob:**

- Still **patching the cracks in the parking lot**, with one long one left to do. Gale asked why the contractor was not liable for those. Bob explained that they won't touch cracks under ½ inch wide, and Bob doesn't want to wait for water to seep in, freeze, and create bigger problems, so this is preventative maintenance.
- **Men's urinals fixed**, attaching them solidly to the wall, clamping them to 2 by 4's so that they don't pull away from the drain and leak when the flush handle is pulled.
- Bob was in Houston when he got a call from dancer **Steve Howard**, a dancer whose name he did not recognize. Bob ignored the call because he didn't know who it was. It was **in regard to a leak**. Bob asked that Board members please call and report maintenance issues because he does not pay attention to calls from people he doesn't recognize. Lorraine said Steve could have gotten Bob's number from the ASDC.org website or the Bulletin Board, which have contact info for the Board members.
- **Moved the yellow and red rocks from the front porch carpet to the rocks on the side;** they are filled with concrete, so it took three people to move them, with a fourth to observe. Gale asked if they were tossed, and Bob said no, that Alvin (Thrasher) wanted us to keep them. Alvin wants them moved back onto the porch after it is resurfaced, but Bob said no way, they could damage the new surface.
- Bill Clayburgh helped Bob put **a new fan in the men's room.**
- **Re-caulked the drain pipes again** to catch a couple more small leaks.
- **Fixed a couple of loose wires** in the electric box on the caller stand in the large hall.

**Supplies, Margaret:** (absent): Sheri reported that Margaret has picked up supplies and we are in good shape there.

#### **Publicity, Lin:**

- Sent out an email today reminding dancers the **Toy's for Tots dance is coming up**, and he will be sending more reminders between now and the dance.
- Another email sent today re **Eva Neil**, who died two weeks ago. The email was brief because the family only provided the date of death. Lin wants the Board to consider some type of memorial event similar to what was done for Melinda Wilson and Jean Maher. Eva was a long-time dancer.

Alice advised Lin that she has heard that Eva did not want any type of memorial, celebration of life, etc. Gale said Eva was extremely private and did not want any attention directed at her. Lin reluctantly gave up the idea of any memorial event, saying we have to honor Eva's wishes, but it is a shame that we can't acknowledge how special she was to our community. Sheri said she ordered plaques for Melinda, Jean, and Edward Bethel, and she needs to add Eva. Gale wants to stay in touch with Eva's family and invite her grandson to come dance with us. He came and danced with Eva, and we don't want to lose touch with him. Jerry said Duke City has the family's phone number, so Gale said she will call.

### **Old Business:**

- **Dimmer switch for lights: Lin made a motion that the issue of installing dimmer switches in the ASDC be tabled until the 2020 General Membership Meeting, and at said meeting the issue be voted on by the membership at large.** Gale seconded the motion. Bob said it was a good idea. Lin explained his thinking: Previously we voted to put dimmer switches on the small side because most of the dancers with a problem dance on the small side. This has changed, because several clubs have switched from the small hall to the large hall. Lin said the problem has now extended to the large hall, and now we could end up in more lengthy discussions over this. If the general membership decides, that will be final. This would free the Board to focus on other, important issues, like the discussion about raising hall contract rates. Also, Bob probably has projects to propose, and we need to make time for that.

### **Discussion:**

**Ben was against the motion because it is the Board's responsibility to resolve the issue, however contentious or difficult it may be, because that is our job.** Putting it out to the general membership and saying, "You guys deal with it," is a dereliction of duty. WE have the responsibility to make a decision. We were elected to make these decisions, it is our reason for being here. To do otherwise is contrary to every principle of republican government. To say we can't handle this and we have to put it out to the general membership like the legislature proposing a constitutional amendment would not be doing our duty.

**Alice asked if we are still able to install dimmer switches on the small side;** is there a reason why it cannot be done? **Jerry said it can be done.** Alice said it can be done, we voted to do it, why are we not following through? Sheri said we had to approve spending more money since the low bidder could not complete the job and we would have to switch to the higher bid. Ben said that, as he recalled it, we voted to go with the higher bid IF the lower bid fell through: Was this not our decision in the last meeting? Sheri said that is what she thought. Jerry said no, that was not in the motion, and Alice agreed with Jerry, but felt that we should now agree to go ahead with higher bid. Jerry said the higher bid from ElectroData was \$1495, and the one we approved was \$1024. Per the minutes of the April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, "Ben said if KEI refuses to give us a contract, then we would have to meet again. Alice amended the motion to say that if KEI refuses to give us a contract to limit the cost to the estimate, that we would fall back on Ed Carr's estimate and go with it." **ElectroData did not refuse to give us a contract – they gave us a contract, but could not execute the contract, so we are not authorized to fall back on Ed Carr's estimate automatically under that motion.**

**Lin called for a vote on his motion to allow the membership to vote on installing dimmer**

**switches. Gale voted in favor of the motion, and since she was the only affirmative Jerry said the motion did not carry.**

Jerry said we are back to the discussion of whether to install the dimmers in the small hall. He can contact Ed Carr ask him to schedule the installation based on the estimate we already have. It can be done, and has been done in other places in town. Sheri said she and Bob went over to the BMW dealership, where dimmers have been installed on this type of light. Ed has been in South America building a road for the government there; not sure when he can get to us. Sheri said that she talked to John Arnold, the Wilde Bunch treasurer re whether they had considered helping to pay for dimmers, per Lorraine's info at a prior meeting. John told her that the WB had tabled the motion until they saw what ASDC planned to do.

**Alice made a motion to fall back on Ed Carr's bid and have him install the dimmers on the small side. Lorraine seconded the motion.** Alice and Lorraine voted in favor, everyone else opposed except for Jerry, who did not vote. **Jerry said he did not vote unless there is a tie. Lin and Ben told him not true** (under the By-laws), he can vote, so he voted against the motion; the motion did not carry. Gale said she was concerned this won't be the end of this. Alice said it was not. Gale said most of the people opposed to the lights are moving to the large hall. Lorraine said actually there are more people in the Wilde Bunch that have a problem with the lights than in the clubs that are moving over. She plans to use lamps (for the clubs moving) and avoid the overhead lights on the large side. Alice asked if the dimmers are now a dead issue. Ben said that there is nothing to stop anyone from raising a motion re the lights again. Alice said that she still feels that it is a health issue that we have a responsibility to deal with. Gale said that the majority rules. Ben and Jerry said we should not argue that point, we should just say **this motion did not pass, so the issue is tabled for now.**

**Carpet Cleaning, Bob:** The carpet was to be cleaned on July 1<sup>st</sup>, but this date won't work because the porch carpet replacement will be taking place. There will be dancing the rest of that week. Bob asked Jerry if his club can put stuff back into place if Bob is able to get the carpet cleaned on **July 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Jerry said they could. Otherwise Bob will wait until he gets back in August. Bob asked someone to **give Rick Weber a set of keys to the building for the month he will be gone; Rick will fill in for Bob if any maintenance issues come up.** Bob will be stripping the front porch carpet between June 24-28 for inspection to see if anything needs to be done beneath the carpet before the Pentax is installed. **Bob will be out of town July 7-August 8.**

**Jerry will be out of town from Wednesday June 12 and back by July 1 or 2.**

**The next meeting will be on August 5 at 5:00 pm.** Bob requested that we discuss whether to increase **building use fees** at that meeting. It is something we need to decide before 2020 contracts are negotiated. **Lorraine asked for dates for the Central District dances for 2020.** Jerry said they will discuss dates at the next CD meeting. Jerry said that he has the info Lorraine requested from Ed Carr and he will send it to her tomorrow

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33.