

Community Center Committee Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2008 4:00 PM

in the Rutledge Room

Present: Paula McDonald, Kerstin Ellefson, Jake Ellefson, Dianna Young, Jane Young, Lorel Gordon, Celia Hansen, and Kari Gordon

Absent: Mary Schacht and Pat Shay

Call to order: at 4:05 PM

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Jake so moved, with corrections to minutes and the addition of **1A Financial Report** to the agenda, this was 2nd by Kerstin. All were in favor.

Financial Report: Current Fund Balance is \$42,920.92. The Fest brought in \$2554, which is \$100 more than last year. Paula submitted a bill of \$265 for dowels, and ribbons used to make the banners. Barb O'Connell does not want a thank you this year. "Please put money towards pants," she requests. Maren Schutz will get a thank you this year, but not next year, per her request. Alec Reiss, Charlie Berggren, and Maren will receive \$50 for accompaniment. Dan Hansen will receive \$150 for his composition written for and played at this years Fest.

Fest Wrap-Up: The Fest had some great improvements this year to enhance the already wonderful event. A parade of dancers, a piece composed by Dan Hansen played by trumpeters, a decorated horse, banners, a new dance with original music and choreographed by Kari, 154 dancers this year, and fewer discipline issues. All attendees paid the suggested donation unless they were dancing or performing.

The parade was a wonderful addition with favorable comments about it and the additional history shared by the MC. There were suggestions for improvement next year. The parade should be announced and the trumpeters play louder and until the parade ends. Paula's idea is to have the

group go through the middle of the crowd, and wrap around the stage. The younger dancers could go where they need to be for the first dance, with singers assembling on stage, and others dispersing elsewhere. The horse could do its own thing. Other ideas are to start the Fest at 7:30. We could create a larger border between the stage and audience members that would be a little wider. This could be a “no fly zone” to help reduce the kids running or playing in front of the stage and audience members sitting right next to the dancers. Kerstin suggested that there be a parade of dancers, in authentic costumes, who are holding the country’s flag for the costume represented. It was discovered that few costumes are authentic. Paula suggested that the announcing happen more as dancers are assembling and getting set to cut down on time, and the Danish hospitality song that has been sung by Cindra Hokannen be used in the future.

Should there be a suggested age for the younger dancers? How could we improve the younger age groups? Create an instructional DVD or a skill sheet for preschoolers, divide group by skill, size, or break the group into two circles?

Mike McCauley and Kari Gordon worked on the history and MC script. Note: older fests would have been a play and more singing. Mike McCauley, Cameron and Thor Chapan helped put up the backdrop. Keith graciously loaned his tall ladder and offered to do so in the future.

We need a broom for the stage, more black pants for knickers, and more white shirts. The shirts and pants can be altered by our committee this winter after an instructional meeting with Barb O’Connell, Costume Manager. Five hundred programs were printed this year (donated by North Star Realty). That was a good amount with only a few left over. The dancer’s program board was very helpful.

There was an issue of vandalism. The Italian flag was flying on the school flagpole and on the light post next to the Electric Co-op where there was a Finnish flag. Kari and Rodd took down these flags on Saturday, with quite a bit of effort, and days later found out the Finnish flag was in the Co-op office. It was discovered that Jenny and Lou Munao were involved. Jenny offered an apology to Kari. The committee feels it is necessary to address this issue to reduce the likelihood of this happening again or some other form of vandalism.

WIFL donated \$250 to the event and \$150 to the Red Barn.

Gym Floor: It was decided that the hardware for the curtains remain on the ceiling with the floor hardware removed and saved for possible future use. It was also decided that the old curtains could be disposed of. A suggestion was made that Mr. Hokannen’s black cabinet be put on wheels.

Adjournment: Jake made a motion, 2nd by Dianna and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:23.

Respectfully Submitted,

Celia Hansen, President