

FRCB Quarterly Membership Meeting

April 25, 2020

Virtual via Zoom platform

The meeting opened at 4:06 PM

In attendance were Dinis Camara, Johanna Camara, Kathryn Chongpinitchai, Bridgette Pfeufer, Silvie Gallardo, David Walker, Ganga Keppetipola, Stephanie Seaman, Nancy Popson, Eleanor Simpson, Irene Elliott, Shauna Hill, Charlie Pavitt, Setu van Lare-Hodges, Bill Wood, Tracy Fitzgerald, Erin Kwong, Tara Mease, Erin Kwong, Elaine Gilby, Cathy Camut

MINUTES:

- Silvie Gallardo called for a review of the minutes of the 2/8/2020 meeting. Nancy Popson made a motion to pass the minutes and it was seconded by Cathy Camut, and approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR (attached):

- Silvie Gallardo presented the Consent Calendar for discussion. Silvie Gallardo made a motion to pass. It was seconded by Ganga Keppetipola and approved with two abstentions.

REPORTS:

Director's Report:

- Eleanor Simpson sends her thanks to all in the FRCB, and is thankful for all who are helping to keep the ballet supported in these times. She reported that the FRCB getting the production fund set up, and setting up debit cards for her and her mother (for purposes of set-creation) to use to purchase items for the ballet, made this task much easier to do at the time needed. She will submit all receipts when things go back to normal and is able to do this with the City of Rockville.
- Eleanor Simpson thanked the FRCB for helping to facilitate the donation of the new tutus for Swan Lake. She reports that they are beautiful and are currently being stored at her house until there is a better storage location at the Rockcrest Ballet Center. Currently the City has directed all people to stay out of any City facilities, so Eleanor has not been able to work on sorting costumes or any such business.
- Swan Lake – it was very stressful preparing for Swan Lake, but Eleanor is thankful for everyone's support in getting ready that week. She also is thankful to the City for their support during a difficult time. They monitored the COVID19 situation and the ballet was kept well-

informed as events unfolded. Eleanor is looking forward to the opportunity to perform Swan Lake in the future. Eleanor has been discussing plans for this with Erin Kwong.

- Rockville Ballet Classes have moved online. It has worked and connectivity problems have been getting resolved, although Eleanor anticipates them persisting. She would like to thank Kathryn Chongpinitchai and Pam Baxter for their help in setting up these classes. It has been great re-connecting with the students. Access to the online classes has not been a major challenge, and those who want to participate seem to have the ability to do so. If anyone knows someone who is not connected and would like to be, please have them contact the City. The question was posed, can someone who has moved away join the online classes? Kathryn stated that anyone who is interested should reach out to Pam Baxter.
- Summer classes will be moved online. If at a time in the future it becomes possible to go back in the studio, this will be announced to those registered.
- ASP has been cancelled for this year. Eleanor is looking forward to our discussion on this topic.

Treasurer's Report

- Ganga Keppetipola posted the report.
- David Walker asked about a noted \$713 in FRCB merchandise. Was that from this quarter? Ganga reported that it was from last quarter. David also asked if the \$722 of inventory is after the Nutcracker? Ganga reported it was. David asked if the item noted "Dancers Gifts" were from the Nutcracker. Ganga said yes they were. David commented that commended the FRCB for their fundraising efforts in spite of the fact that we had a lack of opportunities to do so.

OLD BUSINESS

- Merchandising profit – Silvie Gallardo reported that it was an immense success to work with a vendor, Jen Auroux, who passed on the profits. However, in the future, we will be ensuring to increase our communication with Jen Auroux directly so as to ensure that profit checks are given to the FRCB in a timely manner.
- Financial policy update – Eleanor needs to be refreshed on the financial policy update. The Board will decide after the meeting when they will work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

ASP update

- From Eleanor: The ASP has been cancelled by the City of Rockville. It is the right thing to do, although it is disappointing to many. Eleanor stated it is a time when the community can build across ages and groups and this is now lost. The beginners will miss out on their 1st show opportunity, and we are missing out on the Seniors being honored for their many years of work and dedication to ballet.
- We are unsure of when we will be allowed back in the studio or the theater, and the current question is how to honor the seniors. Eleanor, Kathryn, the FRCB, and people at the City level are all expressing their concern about the seniors. We have 4 senior dancers who we would be honoring: Tiffany, Cheryl, Bella, and Catherine.
- Silvie stated it needs to be something meaningful to the seniors. David reminded us it is not just about the acknowledgement, but the performance. Perhaps we can feature them in the summer show. Another possibility is that they are featured in a virtual capacity. David posed the question of what is the availability of the theater? Is it possible to get into the theater to film the seniors. Perhaps in the studio? Silvie suggested pulling material of the 4 seniors from the dvds of the shows we have compiled. Dinis suggested putting together a video showcase of the seniors. Then, schedule a time when we can present the Senior videos for all the Rockville dancers to watch. Include giving them recognition after the Sunday show of the summer show. Bill Wood suggested finding photos of the seniors and making poster sized prints of them. Tracy Fitzgerald suggested putting profiles of the seniors on Facebook. Bridgette Pfeufer asked whether the City of Rockville could highlight the seniors on their website.
- The question was raised of why did some receive flyers for the F. Scott Fitzgerald theater for upcoming performances. Eleanor reports that some groups do not have the personnel needs like the RCB does. Silvie commented that we need to communicate with the City about their summer use of the theater.

FRCB Supporting Cast Google Group

- FRCB supporting cast Google group was officially created this morning. We will now have two google lists – Current Cast, and also Supporting Cast. The Board is listed in both. It is requested that all reach out to their contacts and make sure everyone is on one of the lists.

Annual Report

- Nancy Popson is working with David Walker to finish a bare bones version of it.

Nutcracker DVD

- Nancy Popson has been in touch with Marissa Morris who has the Alice DVDs ready to distribute whenever we are able to meet again. Nancy will get them and pass them out. The plan is for the Nutcracker DVDs to be ready by the summer show. The DVDs cannot be simply mailed out because they have not been paid for yet.

Summer Show

- It is an option to do Swan Lake as a summer show. However there is a lot more to consider of just moving a spring show to a different time. A major question will be if the dancers will be in shape to perform Swan Lake in the summer. In general, Eleanor wants to do Swan Lake at some time. In our discussion about featuring the seniors, Swan Lake does not lend itself to being a ballet that can do this.
- The City of Rockville has not said when they will open up facilities again. We are currently planning on doing the summer show. Eleanor says that Betty is working on getting the summer show in the Guide for advertising. If we are back in the studio by June 1, we can most likely perform it.

Summer classes

- Currently, the City plans to have ballet classes in the summer be virtual, and when the decision is made that we can be back in the studio, it will be better to announce that later. The question was posed, what happens if someone signs up for a virtual class, but then cannot come to a class in the studio. They would need to talk to the City to determine what to do.
- Eleanor stated that as we would get closer to the summer show happening, we would need to have a dialogue about audience sizing as well as where they are seated. There is potential for innovation to make the summer show happen.

#DanceAtHome

- Setu van Lare has requested members to send their photos of them dancing at home so they can be shown on social media.

Social contact

- Is it possible for the FRCB to create a Hangouts or such for the dancers to see each other. They miss the social contact they have before and after dance class.

Website and Membership form

- Tracy Fitzgerald needs to update the website with board members, minutes, and the membership form. She is waiting on the membership form to be finalized.

Advocacy

- It was discussed that there may be some concern about how the City will be able to budget their finances once facilities open up. It is expressed that the ballet community be proactive and plan for a visible advocacy group. City residents can have influence with the city government to press the importance of ballet and requesting support from the city. It is important to be proactive in case we run into financial hardships with the ballet.
- The FRCB itself as a whole (legally) cannot campaign or advocate for political purposes. However, if individual dancers wish to be a part of a larger advocacy for the RCB to the City of Rockville, that would be encouraged. There are public hearings in the City of Rockville, and some have expressed interest in going and showing their support for the RCB.
- A call for Advocacy should not come from the board or the FRCB.

Community Support

- If anyone knows of any members who are in distress in any way, please inform Setu van Lare, and she will coordinate how we can support each other.

OTHER

- Charlie Pavitt is asking for old programs to see how many members we have had in the past. Kathryn will coordinate with Charlie.
- Bill is willing to be a volunteer in most capacities. Please contact him if you need assistance with tasks.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 11, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 PM with a motion by Silvie Gallardo.

Minutes Submitted by: Bridgette Pfeufer

Minutes Approved:

Post meeting planning:

By-laws and process group: Ganga Keppetipola, Nancy Popson, Charlie Pavitt, Silvie Gallardo, Eleanor Simpson, Johanna Camara, Dinis Camara

Saturday May 9, about same time (4 pm ish)

Perhaps we divide up the writing and give members different parts to write to submit to the committee.

Later on – it is important to hear what others say. But the writing portion does not need to be in meeting.

People should read the bylaws before coming to the meeting. People can comment prior to the meeting.

The budget will be addressed first.