

FINAL MINUTES

FRCB Quarterly Membership Meeting

November 15, 2020

Virtual via Zoom platform

The meeting opened at 3:03 PM

In attendance were Silvie Gallardo, Bridgette Pfeufer, Eleanor Simpson (Director), Bill Wood, Ganga Kepitipola, Johanna Camara, Dinis Camara, Charlie Pravitt, Tara Mease, Nancy Popson, Setu van Lare Hodges, Shauna Hill, David Walker, Tracy Fitzgerald, Irene Elliott

MINUTES:

- Silvie Gallardo called for a review of the minutes of the last meeting. Bill made motion to pass. Setu seconded. Members voted and all agreed to pass, no abstentions.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- The consent calendar was presented by Silvie. A motion to adopt the consent calendar was made by Nancy. Johanna seconded. Members voted and all agreed to pass; no abstentions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Eleanor Simpson):

- Pali Kepitipola (Tuesday classes) and Anna Adhikari (Wednesday classes) will be joining the team of ballet teachers. Eleanor is excited about integrating them into the winter schedule. The winter schedule times will be different. Rockville ballet is hoping to introduce hybrid classes in the future as metrics improve. Eleanor is looking forward to Pali and Anna infusing some freshness into the ballet classes. It is encouraging to see the City's continued support of the program even with smaller numbers.
- Pam Baxter has retired. Eleanor wants to express her gratitude for her support. The responsibility within the City of Rockville is being shifted to Megan Frene. She has been very eager to learn about the program, as well as speak with Anna and Poly and see what the program means to them and continue the legacy.
- Eleanor will be meeting with Betty Wisda to discuss the 2020-2021 season for the Rockville ballet. Currently classes are working on their "Winter Wonderland" performance. The Rockville Senior Center asked to partner with us to show it to their groups as a watch party. The students will record their dances, then Eleanor and Kathryn will edit. It should be interactive with the audience.
- The older classes have finished their fall choreography, which was very successful. Eleanor is looking forward to continuing with some more virtual choreography events. She was pleased with the Wednesday group who were able to do some of their own choreography.

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- David suggested perhaps to consider investing in a green screen. Eleanor could take it around to the dancer's homes for them to use while filming. Then, she could use various backgrounds for performances overall. Silvie remarked that she wished there were a safe way for people to use it, but it may prove difficult. Nancy felt it would be safe to transport from house to house.
- The question was posed if the Winter Wonderland performance would be able to be opened to families. Eleanor thinks it would most likely be possible, and she will check into it.
- Silvie asked if the City has any regular meetings with the Arts department. Eleanor is not aware of any. Silvie is wondering if the City is drafting any guidance on the usage of facilities. Eleanor believes that the City is working on figuring out efforts to establish metrics. Some facilities are being improved, however Rockcrest is not a higher priority. There have been discussions to move into a different facility. Perhaps there would be a possibility of using the Senior Center?

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Ganga posted the Treasurer's report. There are no questions as there is no activity to report.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

- Johanna posted membership report. Currently we are in a holding pattern – there are no performances so there are no new members. Our typical recruiting efforts have not been possible.
- Johanna is working on getting a finalized version of membership form. Charlie has been helping with the project. It is getting close to where the board can review it. The goal will be to post it before the Winter Wonderland performance.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

- Charlie reports we have not been doing anything lately and are on hiatus. It is suggested perhaps we look at online fundraising. We could do a take-out dining event. David suggested perhaps we do not need to at the present moment.
- Tracy reminded us that currently people are ordering a lot of stuff, and we should remind people about Amazon Smile.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT:

- Charlie reports that we are currently supporting 2 people with online classes. We have not had a lot of applicants. Silvie reminds us to keep reaching out to families to be certain if anyone needs help.

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ALUMNI REPORT:

- The alumni report has been moved under membership for the future as we have made changes with adding the supporting cast.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Dinis has been working on posting information that are on an interest in the ballet community on our Facebook page, as well as sharing items from the Montgomery County Public Library pages. Currently there is not much content being posted as there is not much going on right now.
- Silvie asked Eleanor to send Winter Wonderland information to Dinis, Setu and Tracy to post online.
- Tracy informed us that the website has been updated for Black Lives Matter. She is waiting on the membership form.
- Setu has not had much to post lately due to a lack of performances. Perhaps we could profile dancers. We could profile Anna and Pali to introduce them. Nancy reminds us to include adult dancers.
- Setu is going to investigate the FRCB having a YouTube Channel.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Alumni database project – Charlie has been working on this. David went through and edited it. We have 136 performances (not including student performances) and 1,250 participants over the years. We are missing dates for 26 performances. In the mid-1980s, performances weren't as organized as they became later. We have mostly from 1985 forward. Those performances span 35 years. Bill remarked on how many different types of performances the RCB has done. Nancy asked if perhaps the City could update their website about our historical efforts. Tracy offered to put up a section on our history on our website. Setu asked for information as well to be able to post on social media. Charlie will send the information to Setu and Tracy.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bylaws revision project -Silvie thanks all who are working on it. Nancy reports that they are still in the middle of working on it. The committee met and discussed the need for 2 subcommittees: one that looks at the board's responsibilities and duties, and a second that focuses on membership. There are others that haven't been discussed yet such as fundraising, etc. The

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Bylaw committee will come up with suggestions for changes to present. Nancy and David suggest they put together what they have so far and discuss before moving onward.

- DVD Distribution – Silvie thanks Nancy for helping assist with distributing the DVDs. Nutcracker 2019 DVDs – Nancy is hoping to distribute them about when the Nutcracker would typically take place. She will plan a similar drive-up distribution.
- Elections 2021 – the board needs to discuss.
- RCB Community activities:
 - Eleanor is hoping we can do a watch-party when the Nutcracker DVDs are distributed.
 - Silvie suggests having a Nutcracker viewing party – perhaps December 12th or 19th.
 - Dinis asked if the City would consider showing it. They are doing drive-in movies. Would they consider showing Nutcracker 2019 to a wider audience? Dinis suggested coupling this with a dine-out.
 - Bill inquired if there has been any advertising or emphasis on adult dancers? Nancy added that some adult dancers may be more likely to start ballet from their homes than a studio. Dinis mentioned that it had been posted in August about the benefits of dance as an activity. Johanna asked if the catalogue could perhaps be more descriptive of classes that are inclusive to adult dancers. Eleanor will talk with the City of Rockville to include adult dancers with the catalogue.
 - Eleanor mentioned there is someone who started ballet during CoVid-19 and is taking ballet 3 days a week. Dinis asked if perhaps if we can highlight this person. David suggested branding it as “dance for life”
 - Currently there is more of a concern of our numbers of younger dancers are dropping.

Next meeting -before January 30

Nancy makes a motion to close the meeting. David seconds. All agree, no one opposed, no abstentions.

Meeting ended at 4:24 PM