



## TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA [TSOM] BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 29th, 2018 - 7:00 pm

Location: Northeast Minneapolis Lunds & Byerlys Community Room  
25 University Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55401

**Present:** Natalie Aiello, Tom Bischoff, Scott Chase, Barbara Haselbeck, Mark Jefferis,  
Linda McFadden, Corinne O'Neil, Pauline Oo, Sandra Uri, Jennifer Wang

**Absent:** Terry Holten, Janeen Rae

- April 14<sup>th</sup> Milonga
  - Corinne O'Neil, the MC, suggested “April Showers” as the theme and bringing umbrellas to decorate the milonga location at Virginia St. Church. Pauline Oo liked the idea, saying it added the fun/surprising element that she requested all board members who are milonga MCs to implement in 2018. (This request was made in an email to the board about 10 days prior to this meeting. She shared this decision with TSOM members in her TSoM-Announce on March 28.)
  - Pauline offered to bring a couple of umbrellas and encouraged board members with colorful umbrellas to bring them to the milonga. Pauline reported that community member Lynda Cannova has agreed to help with food. (Pauline approached her because she has helped with food at the TTC Tango Camp and her food was a hit. Pauline is allowing her to place business cards for her food consulting/catering at the TSoM food table.)
  - Supporting MC Tom Bischoff will help Corrine with arranging the space for the milonga. A couple of board members suggested he snap a photo of the church chairs and tables before moving them—because everything needs to go back in its place.
  - UPDATE 3/30: Corinne emailed Pauline that she will find/buy cheap cocktail umbrellas to add fun.

**ACTION:** Pauline to help Corinne with TSoM-Announce and FB post about the milonga.

**ACTION:** Corinne or Tom to contact the DJ, Teacher, Food person with event details.

- March 10<sup>th</sup> Milonga
  - Barbara Haselbeck reported that March milonga had both positive and negative feedback. Visiting teacher Guille drew people, so did the pies he brought for the food table, reported Pauline, who was in charge of food. The negative was for some confusion that arose from a birthday dance for a community member. Some attendees thought it went too long and Barb said she could have cut it short.
  - Mark Jefferis suggested changing the length of the waterfall at Four Seasons so dancers had more time to dance with each other. He recommended starting at a corner and going in a circle to get dancers to think about navigating and line of dance. No one opposed the idea.
  - Scott Chase said he didn't know about the pies and he did not think there was enough promotion about this. Pauline said she posted it on Facebook and TSoM Announce. (The post on TSoM's Facebook page drew a lot community engagement— likes and comments; the most, as observed by Pauline, for a FB post announcing a TSoM milonga.)

- UPDATE 4/7: Pauline was mistaken about sending out the milonga email. As MC, Barb sent out two TSoM Announcements; the first gave the teachers' names, and the second included information on the free Oscar Casas class passes.

ACTION: Supporting MCs Sandra Uri (June milonga) or Mark Jefferis (July milonga) will implement the corner waterfall at her or his milonga.

- December 8<sup>th</sup> Holiday Milonga

- All but 2 or 3 board members went to both past events. Tom raised concerns about acoustics. Jennifer Wang, who was DJ at both, said she preferred the sound at Wirth. Sandra said Wirth "was cozier and more Christmasy." Pauline asked the board to vote between Columbia Manor and Theodore Wirth—two locations narrowed down from three in a board email sent about a week prior to the meeting. Linda McFadden made a motion to vote on the December Holiday Milonga location. Corinne seconded the voting. The result: 5 for Wirth, 4 for Columbia, 1 abstained. Sandra asked about Glen Manor as an option; a few board members said it was probably unavailable and cost was prohibitive.
- Pauline asked if live music was necessary. Half the board members said no. The concerns being: cost/expense and the fact that dancers can catch a tango band/musicians at the Loring and other local spots. Corinne reminded the board that Desperados sponsored \$500 in the past for live music. She also suggested there was still time to make a decision about this and catering.

MOTION: Linda McFadden made a motion to vote on the December Holiday Milonga location, Board majority voted for Theodore Wirth.

ACTION: Pauline will add live music and catering to future meeting agenda.

- Plans for 2019

- Pauline brought 9 questions to help guide a conversation on the plans for 2019. She wrote everything on large wall Post-it sheets. Among them: What is TSoM's mission? Answers included "foster Argentine tango in MN," "not to make a profit," "not to promote one teacher over another." What do we value? Answers included: "community," "social interactions" "inclusivity." What do we offer? Among the answers "monthly milongas," "calendar," "announcement/event notification," "special events like tango opera last year." Who do we serve? Answers included: "Current members," "teachers," "visitors," "promoters."
- Next Pauline encouraged "big ideas." Suggestions from board members included "practicass in lieu of lessons," "a mentor program for new and current dancers," "reciprocity program with other states and countries," "queer tango/event to connect with LGBTQ community," and "earlier milongas." Corinne suggested that the discussion for 2019 continue at future meetings. Scott agreed, noting that planning for next year must happen now to ensure proper execution and promotion.

ACTION: Pauline will set aside 30 mins at upcoming board meetings for 2019 discussion/plans.

- Next meeting:

- The next Board meeting is Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Uptown Lunds-Byerly's Community Room, 1450 W. Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Holten, Secretary