



TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA [TSOM] AMENDED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday July 26th, 2018, 7:00 pm

Location: Uptown Lunds & Byerlys Community Room
1450 W Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Present: Natalie Aiello, Tom Bischoff, Scott Chase, Barbara Haselbeck, Terry Holten,
Mark Jefferis, Linda McFadden, Janeen Rae, Sandra Uri
Absent: Corinne O'Neil, Jennifer Wang
Non-Board: Michael Helffrich, Vicci Kitzberger-Johnson

1. Introductions
2. July 26th Agenda approved
3. June 28th Minutes approved
4. July Milonga Review – 45 attendees and a loss of \$87.95.
5. August 11th - Milonga
 - A. Location: Four Seasons
 - B. MC: Tom Bishoff
 - C. Food: Linda McFadden coordinating with Ranja
 - D. Teacher: Bruce Abas
 - E. DJ: Niko Salgado
 - Terry Holten reminded the Board that J. Abling and Rachel Moon had agreed to a performance at the August Milonga.
 - Scott Chase suggested that TSOM do a well-recorded video (IE Good sound, focus, subject-centered etc) of traveling teacher's performances and include those videos on the TSOM website. Scott communicated that he felt videos at local venues, with local dancers watching, would benefit the local tango community.
 - The Board discussed potential issues, costs, and videographers. Tom Bischoff agreed to contact Jean Mueller and find out if J. Abling approved of being videotaped.
 - Janeen Rae reviewed the policy for demos at a TSOM sponsored event.
 - Motion was made by Scott to approve the demo by J. Abling and to explore the logistics and costs related to video-taping the performance. Motion was seconded, and all Board members voted for the motion.

MOTION: Approve the performance by J. Abling and explore the logistics and costs related to video-taping the performance. Passed.

ACTION: Tom Bischoff agreed to contact Jean Mueller and determine if J. Abling approved of being videotaped.

6. Treasurer's Report

- Board members reviewed and signed the Corporate Resolutions granting authorization to Corinne O'Neil and Jennifer Wang to conduct business on behalf of TSoM as it relates to the Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund Account number 0030-XXXXXX6432.
- Mark Jefferis asked Michael Helffrich to review the history of the Vanguard account. Michael shared that the account had been set up as a safety net, and that it had been funded monthly with membership dues and milonga fees.
- Michael also noted that the Board could put ~\$3,000 annually into the Vanguard account. Board questioned if membership dues and milonga fees should be increased due to inflation.
- Board agreed that best steps would be to continue to follow Corinne and Jennifer's plan, and that procedures needed to be updated so that access issues did not reoccur in the future.

7. Survey

- Terry communicated that in the June Board meeting, Board members had agreed respond to the draft survey. The intent was to compile the results and determine potential questions for a future general membership survey.
- Terry reviewed the results of the survey:
 - 75% were "somewhat satisfied" with the way TSOM Milongas are held.
 - 50% were satisfied with the Milonga times.
 - 75% were satisfied with the Milonga venues.
 - The biggest dissatisfaction was with the Leader/Follower balance.
 - Board members also questioned the value of the Pre-Milonga Lesson.
- Terry noted that assuming that the Board was a fair representation of the membership, unclear what value a general membership survey would provide. Overall the Board is satisfied with the TSOM Milongas, including the locations and start times. Terry felt that there would be more value provided by researching how the Milongas could become profitable. Scott disagreed that the Board was a fair representation of the membership and felt that a general membership survey would provide value. Scott also felt that the viewpoint of non-members would provide crucial information. Board members agreed to review the results of the survey and discuss in a future Board meeting.
- Tom suggested that the Board needed to address and solve the Leader/Follower balance issue.
- Janeen suggested that the Board initiate building a Tango Community, similar to what other tango communities had accomplished. Janeen noted that she was brought up thinking you had to be dancing, now she realizes that there is more than just dancing. Building a community could include non-Milonga events, some examples include:
 - Potlucks, random selection potlucks in TSOM member homes.
(Noted that non-TSOM members could be included.)
 - Art Project, painting or wood working etc.
 - Flower arrangement classes
 - Golfing or Boating
 - Summer potluck picnic
 - Men's and Women's GroupsThe Board discussed how local female Leaders met to practice with each other, and how beneficial it could be for male Leaders to meet and practice the lead/follow together. Board also discussed the need for a strong male Teacher in our community. Vicci suggested reviewing the GuideStar Grants to determine if a grant could be used to finance a male Teacher for a year. She discussed targeting specific communities and building said communities.

Scott suggested that the Board flesh out the above ideas and determine which one would be appropriate to proceed with.

- Terry also communicated that she had been in contact with Bill Boyt and planned to meet with him to discuss the past membership survey. Michael asked to be included in that meeting.

ACTION: Terry Holten will email the survey results to all Board members for reviewal.

ACTION: Terry Holten and Michael Helffrich will meet with Bill Boyt when he is available.

8. Suggestion Box

- Scott communicated that at the last Milonga, the Suggestion box showed up as planned, but ended up at the over-crowded gate table. Scott wanted to know who the custodian of the box would be, concerned that it would become the responsibility of the gate. Advocacy for the suggestion box must not fall silent or fall to the gate (as happened with the "Tango Treasures" program). Scott also noted that the box was fairly large and could potentially be much smaller. He also suggested using a clear box and placing paper and a pen next to the box.
- Terry noted that someone needed to not only be responsible for the box, but also responsible to review and respond to the suggestions.
- Tom volunteered to get a smaller, clear suggestion box, paper slips, and a pencil for the next Milonga.

ACTION: Tom Bischoff will purchase a smaller clear suggestion box and, paper slips, and a pencil for the August Milonga.

9. 2019 Milonga Rotation Planning Thoughts

- Second Saturday Vs Fifth Saturday Milongas
 - Scott continued the discussion on Second Saturday Vs Fifth Saturday Milongas. Board noted that doing 12 Milongas a year made it difficult to make the Milonga a unique experience, and more difficult to attract dancers. Whereas 4 or 5 Milongas a year allowed more time for unique themes and the ability to advertise those Milongas all year.
 - Motion was made by Terry to forgo the 2019 second Saturday Milongas and move to the fifth Saturday Milongas, augmented by two additional Milongas. Motion was seconded by Sandra Uri, and all Board members voted for the motion. (See Addendum below)
 - Natalie Aiello agreed to develop a draft 2019 Milonga schedule and forward it to the Board to review.
 - Mark asked what difference there would be in revenue between 12 vs 6 milongas. Mark agreed to talk to Jennifer Wang forecast the potential differences.

MOTION: Forgo the 2019 second Saturday Milongas and move to the fifth Saturday Milongas augmented by two additional Milongas. Passed.

ACTION: Natalie Aiello will develop a draft 2019 Milonga schedule and forward it to the Board to review.

ACTION: Mark will contact Jennifer and work on forecasting costs differences between 12 vs 6 Milongas.

ADDENDUM: In the weeks following the Board meeting, several Board members indicated to both Corinne and Terry that they were inclined to change their vote. Corinne noted that a vote had not been included on the agenda, and although not required, it is a matter of good practice. Corinne also noted that a board member has the right to change their vote, until the vote has ruled as final, and as the vote had not been published, it was not final. Was agreed by the Board to readdress the vote in the August meeting.

- Change, Eliminate or Replace Lessons
 - Board discussed lesson attendance, noting that normally only 1 or 2 new dancers attended, and those new dancers rarely returned.
 - Scott proposed paying local teachers to train local dancers to do a performance, intent to do a well-executed (technique, presentation, musicality, flow from one element to another, etc.) performance. Scott noted that such a performance could be choreographed, partially choreographed, or entirely extemporaneous - as long as it is well-executed. The intent of such a performance, would not be to entertain or inspire milonga attendees, but to develop some presentable, interesting, exciting dancers who, in exchange for the TSoM financed partner-based training would agree to be available for public performance in the hope of attracting new folks to tango. Board discussed how this process might work.
 - Board noted that if pre-Milonga lessons were eliminated, the Board could still promote still local teachers and hire them for other events.
 - Motion was made by Natalie to forgo the 2019 lessons prior to the Milonga. Motion was seconded by Scott, and all Board members voted for the motion.
- MOTION: Forgo the 2019 lessons prior to the Milonga. Passed.

10. TSOM Sound System

- Scott shared that Teachers and DJ's have been unable to connect to the new TSOM sound system using iPhones and other new devices. Scott cannot resolve the connection issue and requested assistance. Terry agreed to email Michael Kane and Paul Lohman to see if they could provide assistance.

ACTION: Terry Holten will contact Michael Kane and Paul Lohman to see if they can resolve the sound system connection issue.

11. TSoM Outreach Committee

- Terry noted that Michael Kane had purchased a used portable dance floor which he would be willing to rent to TSOM.

12. Membership update

- Jennifer communicated via email, that as of July 26th, there were 151 active members.

13. Next Meeting

- The next Board meeting is Thursday August 23rd at the Northeast Lunds-Byerly's Community Room, 25 University Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Holten, Secretary