



FRASER VALLEY SQUARE & ROUND DANCE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the General Meeting September 11, 2021

Kennedy Hall

88th Ave and Scott Road, Surrey

Chaired by Blair Wallace

Meeting commenced at 11:05 AM, following the joint VC&DTC/FVS&RDA meeting

Welcome – Blair welcomed everyone to the FVS&RDA portion of the day for our General Meeting.

Attendance: **Century House Squares** (Jim Brown), **Chuckwagon 8's** (Brian and Gerry Catterall), **Motiv8ors** (Dave Hammer), **Royal Swingers** (Peter Slinn), **Stardowners** (Mary de Cario), **Surrey Square Wheelers** (Donna Lonneberg), **Swinging Hubs** (Norm Cox), **Swinging Singles** (Ron Fleck, Pat Gerbrandt), **Wesburn Wranglers** (Caitlyn Brendzy), **White Rockers** (Diane O'Hara), June Fitchett & Al Gibbs, Betty & George Langtry, Blair Wallace, Maureen Wilson

We have a quorum.

Absent: Abbotsford Grand Squares, Brent's Bunch, Chilliwack Rhythm Reelers, Delta Sundancers, Diamond Country Dancers, Guys & Gals, Quicksteppers, Town 'n' Country Dancers, TW Twirlers, Valley Promenaders, Wheeling 8's, Don Allan, Alex & Jean Galbraith, Eva Matheson & Nelson Baranow, David McVige, Ron Robertson, Dianne Wilson

Moved/Seconded: Diane O'Hara/Pat Gerbrandt -- To approve the agenda as circulated -- CARRIED

Correspondence

A \$50 donation in Ken Crisp's memory was made to the BC Cancer Society

The following have been sent since the last meeting (May 22) (4 cards):

Sympathy cards to the families of:

1. Irene Parker (Swinging Singles)
2. Laura Matrick (SSW)

Thank you cards and flowers were sent to:

3. Alex and Jean Galbraith (retiring FVS&RDA president couple)
4. Barb Tryssenaar (retiring FVS&RDA vice-president)

Moved/Seconded: Pat Gerbrandt/Ron Fleck -- To approve minutes of previous meeting (May 30, 2021) as circulated -- CARRIED

REPORTS –

a) Treasurer's Report – Don Allan -- absent (*financial report attached separately*)

Blair referred to Don's report as circulated. No one had any questions to send back to Don. However, Norm Cox commented on balance saying that we need to spend it!

Moved/Seconded: Norm Cox/George Langtry -- To accept Treasurer's Report, as circulated -- CARRIED

b) Vice-President's Report – position is currently VACANT

c) Valley Circle/Webmaster – Blair Wallace

Valley Circle

- Blair will be posting the September issue online, but is not sure about the October or November issues at this point.
- Renewals will be rolled over to Oct 2022 -- Please provide Blair with new addresses of any dancers who have moved since the original subscriptions were issued.
- Valley Circle 'In Memoriam' -- Please let Blair know of any club members who have passed away

Webmaster

- Blair did send request for a list of executive and will update this list. If you have not done so already, please get that list to Blair, as soon as you can.

d) Promotion Committee – Brent Mawdsley - It was noted that a balance of \$8235 needs to be added to the report.

1. Facebook Groups Promotion

- The objective is to reach the public through posting on various community Facebook groups based on the FV region on a regular basis to increase awareness of square dancing and invite them to attend new dancer classes when classes are available
- Greg Dahlgren has identified ~90 groups and has approval to post on ~40 of them
- The posts provide an email address to contact for more info
- A recent post received responses from 6 couples interested in square dance classes
- Greg has passed those contacts to the club contacts that may hold new dancer classes in the areas of interest
- If you are planning on having a new dancer class, contact Brent (brent.mawdsley@gmail.com) to let him know and Greg will post the information. In return, Greg will send the information of interested parties your way.

2. BC Square Dance Federation Promotions Grant of \$5000

- The FVSRDA has asked the Joint Promotion Committee to apply for the funding on their behalf.
- Brent emailed all members of the promotion committee, VDCTA members, and Fraser Valley club reps to request input on an advertising plan. A few people have provided feedback suggesting radio advertising and an improved website.
- Does anybody know anybody in radio advertising or website design that could assist us with this?

3. Hall Signage Project

- Permanent signs saying, "Square Dance Here" _advertising square dancing with the 1-800 number and "DanceForFun.ca" _URL are mounted at Aldergrove OAP Hall, Abbotsford Social Activity Association Hall, and Atchelitz Hall in Chilliwack.
- The 1-800 # has received a couple of inquiries about square & line dancing from the Chilliwack & Abbotsford signs.
- The sign for Kennedy Hall will be mounted Sept 25, 2021.
- We are looking for more halls where the sign can be put up. Ray Brendzy will talk to his contact at the City of Burnaby about permission to put up the signs at the Burnaby venues where our clubs dance.

4. New Website for the Non-Dancing Public (DanceForFun.ca)

- Planning for a new website to promote the benefits for square dancing and where to find lessons
- Brent emailed all Fraser valley reps, VDCTA members, and the promotion committee providing some suggested websites and asking for feedback on creating something new and has received a few comments back with ideas for templates and hosting of the website.
- If you would like to help or know anybody that would be interested in designing and building this website please contact Brent (brent.mawdsley@gmail.com)

5. Facebook Paid Advertising

- The BC Fed has run paid Facebook advertising for BC clubs for the past couple of years.
- This has been replaced with funding grants to associations

6. FVSRDA & VDCTA Joint Promotion Committee

- The committee needs more volunteers interested in helping promote square & round dancing
- Please contact Brent (brent.mawdsley@gmail.com) about joining the committee or offering short term help on a project.
- an in person meeting will be scheduled in the next month

e) Driscoll Award – Ron Robertson -- no report

- Caitlyn Brendzy mentioned that there has been no teen festival meeting, as yet
- Norm mentioned that they may discontinue the award because people don't know who the Driscolls are. Perhaps a new award will be set up in future.

f) BC Federation – Betty Langtry (*grant applications and BCSRDF newsletter attached separately* -- see also Don Allan's explanations above)

The following was reported in the joint V&DCTA/FVS&RDA meeting:

As Director at Large of Region 2 for the BC Federation, Betty shared about the Restart Grant and the Class Advertising Grant, two new grants of \$500 each to help clubs get back to dancing. She encouraged clubs to be informed about these resources and the

rules for eligibility to receive them. Then she talked about the Promotions Grant for \$5000 for associations to advertise activities in their regions. The New Dancer Class Funding Grant is still in place that we have had for many years.

- g) Financial Resources of the Fraser Valley Square and Round Dance Association: Blair Wallace
- FVSRDA has 2 grants. New Dancer Class Grant and The Swinging Singles Building Fund Legacy Grant. He also encouraged clubs to find out about these resources.
 - Blair impressed upon all to make applications, as there is lots of money available (see grants)

- h) Canadian Dancers Society – David McVige -- has no report

- i) Gala – Dave Hammer

The PHO directive Phase 4 which was to begin on Sept.7th and would have permitted an intense activity such as dancing has been postponed indefinitely due to the surge of the Delta variance. Some other concerns discussed were;

- a. Some clubs especially the plus, mainstream and beginners may not start up until January 2022
- b. The Gala was to be plus level dance
- c. At this time the FVSRDA doesn't have a firm idea of how many clubs will be actually starting up even in January or how many dancers will be returning, and
- d. A March dance doesn't give club members enough time to review or learn enough plus moves to have a fulfilling dance in 3 months

Considering the above concerns, the FVSRDA Gala Committee felt that March is too early to have the Gala and decided to postpone the Gala until the Fall 2022. No specific date was recommended; but there will be another meeting in January 2022 to review the situation.

Suggestion: Due to the amount of time that has passed since anyone has danced, it might be a good idea to consider the gala as a mainstream dance -- Dave Hammer will bring this suggestion up at the next gala committee meeting

- j) Vancouver & District Caller/Teachers Ass'n – John Corrigan
- John was not available as he was attending the V&DCTA meeting, which was happening at the same time.
- k) Scroll of Honour – Position is currently VACANT
- Barb Tryssenaar has officially stepped down from the position.
- It was pointed out that the position is typically filled by someone who has previously been awarded the honour.

Moved/Seconded: Pat Gerbrandt/Diane O'Hara -- To accept items B to J as presented -- CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS –

- a) Information on COVID-19 and the Restart Plan: Blair Wallace (COVID Report sent as a separate attachment)
- b) The following refers to Blair Wallace's COVID 19 Back To Square Dancing Committee UPDATE that Blair Wallace gave to the V&DCTA/FVS&RDA joint meeting held earlier -- Notes taken by Wendy Krueger - BCSRDF secretary)

Background: Blair's job is as health and safety supervisor for businesses. Development of COVID-19 Safety plans has allowed business to continue. He has worked with this daily.

BC government got the province into Step 3, with Step 4 expected in early September, but the rise of the Delta variant and people getting sick in large numbers now puts Step 4 no sooner than January.

What can we do? What should we do?

Can we start dancing—yes. Callers are dance instructors, and with a COVID Safety plan (which is only one sheet of paper) could start up a dance group and teach lessons to a class. The plan would cover entering the hall without crowding, showing vaccine cards, movement in the hall, movement when leaving. Distancing, capacity, shields, washroom capacity, hand sanitizer. Getting people to do the plan is key. Getting a copy of the hall safety plan and knowing and following its rules is part of it. Have the hall rules in hand first, then develop your club safety plan.

Government has recently initiated the vaccine card to help us get past the question of asking someone if they are vaccinated. This would be an issue under the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA).

If someone refuses to show the card, and perhaps behaves unpleasantly, your front desk person and club officers would have to deal with it. The club has to have a written policy so you can show the policy or give the person a copy and they have to leave.

The actual PHO order talking about events says no dancing. Our dance lessons are not under this definition. An event is a seated in-person gathering. And the government has given us their definition in an email that we are a fitness activity, a high intensity fitness activity.

So with a COVID Safety Plan, we can start anytime.

Should we? It is a membership decision. Are your people comfortable coming back? Everybody will be comfortable coming back to their activities at their own pace. You can ask the members. Some say during Step 4, some say never, some say only if everyone is vaccinated.

And could we square dance in masks? We will be required in some public facilities to wear our masks. In some places, the mask has to be worn till you are doing the activity, and then you can take it off. Are your members comfortable with that?

Blair told us about a strong healthy friend who became so extremely ill with COVID and lost much weight, strength, and physical abilities. We have to understand the severity of the disease.

Q&A

1. Are gloves needed? Not under the PHO order, but should we? It's up to the people. The science tells us the virus doesn't transfer that well on surfaces that dry quickly, like paper. It does transfer on surfaces that don't dry quickly. If you wear gloves, you get a false sense of security. If you don't wear gloves, you wash and sanitize your hands.
2. If somebody shows the vaccine card on the first night, do you write it down? If you have a PIPA compliance plan, you can record their personal information (to never be stored outside Canada, to never be shared beyond the club). Then the person at the door can record an individual has the valid card, the secretary can receive it and save it. Blair said we should have a PIPA compliance plan anyway, because we store people's personal information.

c) BC Fed Grants available (*3 COVID grants sent as a separate attachment*)

d) Don sent out the following report regarding the financial grants (*sent as a separate attachment*) that are available:

Financial Grants available to Clubs from Fraser Valley

The FVSRDA has two grant programs that provide financial grants to FVSRDA Clubs. The DeSmit Fund Grants that provides grants to support "New Dancer" classes and the Swinging Singles Building Fund Legacy Grants for general financial support to clubs.

DeSmit Fund Grants

The DeSmit fund is a long-standing fund that provides grants to FVSRDA clubs to support New Dancer classes. The fund was created from a 1998 bequest to the FVSRDA from Irene deSmit. Irene was a square dancer from the Abbotsford Area. The fund has been in operation for many years and the application guidelines and application forms are available on the FVSRDA website.

Swinging Singles Building Fund Legacy Grants

This fund is a new fund that was created from a \$100,000.00 donation from the Swinging Singles

Building Fund. At the April 7, 2019 FVSRDA General Meeting, Sandi Poje, the Swinging Singles Building Fund committee chairman, presented a cheque to the FVSRDA for \$100,000.00. The first set of grants from this fund were distributed to clubs in the 2019/2020 dance year. Since this grant program is quite new, the FVSRDA has not yet defined any specific limitations on the usage of the grants. Clubs are free to request grants that "meet the overall goal of supporting clubs and recruitment of new dancers". Grant applications are reviewed by the FVSRDA Executive and if approved are presented at an FVSRDA GM for approval by the members. Application forms are available on the FVSRDA website.

Grant Application Timing

In normal years, there would be specific deadlines for submitting grant applications. Currently, there is uncertainty regarding when we can resume dancing and regarding any additional expenses that may arise from dancing in the COVID era (e.g. additional expenses for barriers, signage, cleaning supplies...). As a result, no timetable has been established for processing grant applications. Grant application dates will be determined when these issues are better defined.

Suggestion: Apply for the grants -- \$500 available to clubs, as well as the FV ones -- APPLY!!!

Time limit? -- The grants are good for 12 months from when time dancing starts

e) Vacant Executive positions (David McVige) -- absent
We need people to fill the following vacant positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Scroll of Honour

NEW BUSINESS –

a) FVS&RDA Club and Dancer Fees

It was recommended that the following motion, made at the August 14, 2021 FVSRDA executive meeting, be brought to the September 11, 2021 FVSRDA General Meeting for approval --

Motion #1: that FVSRDA fees for 2022 be \$5 per club and \$0 per dancer

Upon discussion of the motion recommended by the FVSRDA executive, the following ***amendment to Motion #1*** was made: ***Moved/seconded Diane O'Hara/Donna Lonneberg - that the FVSRDA fees for clubs and dancers 2022 dance seasons be set to \$0 per club and \$0 per dancer -- CARRIED***

Motion #2 --Diane O'Hara/Norm Cox -- that the BCSRDF \$10 Club Membership Fee be paid by the FVSRDA -- CARRIED

Don will circulate 'registration packages' to see whether they are dancing, or not.

Betty -- Grants are for clubs who have registered so make sure you send in your registration (no list of dancers required at this time)

GOOD & WELFARE

Norm Cox mentioned the ALS walk fundraiser that was held in support of one of our dancers. Update -- Team Yellow Rock was successful in raising \$6100 of the targeted \$6500.

Team Yellow Rock

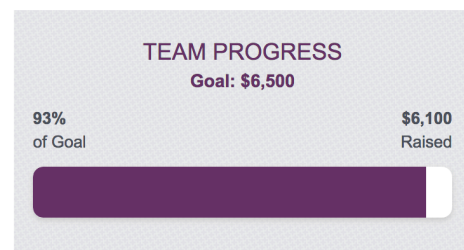


Team Yellow Rock was formed to support a special friend and family member of the Region 2 Square Dance Family. The square dance call "Yellow Rock" means that you give your corner dancer a hug. By donating to the Walk to End ALS you will help us to give a big hug to our friend Joyce.

Simply click on the green DONATE NOW button to the right to send your yellow rock to Joyce.

Your donation supports the best ALS research in the country (40% of proceeds) and enables ALS Societies to provide community-based support (60% of proceeds) to people and families living with the disease.

A big yellow rock to you for your support!



As of Sept 11, 2021, we have achieved 93% of our goal of \$6500.

Thanks to the very generous donations of the square dance community Team Yellow Rock has been able to raise \$6000 for the 2021 Virtual Walk to End ALS in support of Joyce Lucas and the BC ALS Society.

Many thanks go to Gloria D. for organizing 'Team Yellow Rock' on our behalf. Joyce L. has expressed her deepest thanks to those who contributed towards research that may, hopefully some day, find a cure of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Future of Dancing During COVID

Discussion:

- When clubs have meetings, maybe we should discuss the form that dances should take, depending on how many dancers there are who return.
- Apparently AGS had a discussion on how to restart "What would make your dancers comfortable coming back?"
 - a. They would feel comfortable if they dance with people they know or who have been vaccinated.
 - b. Suggestion: Maybe start with rounds first and do squares first
 - c. Maybe start with groups of 4 instead of 8
 - d. Dance without hands?
 - e. Learned to dance by definition like the teens who are comfortable dancing with ghost partners -- very commonplace for them
 - f. California twirl -- no hands
 - g. Find out what members want, and what hall will allow
 - h. Taking money is not an issue. Paper not an issue because it dries quickly. It's the wet surfaces that pose a problem -- Get rid of COVID by getting rid of fat get rid of moisture. Also the COVID virus doesn't survive well on hard surfaces
 - i. We need to get our heads around future dancing not what is now -- people panic
 - j. Depends on proximity -- STORES OPEN - restaurants are restricted -- people are closer together
 - k. Vaccine Passport is easy to scan
 - l. Government releasing an app to read the QR code on a smart phone or tablet

ORDER OF THE DAY - none

Discussion:

Diane O'Hara pointed out that 90% of the White Rockers are singles, and are mostly women, so trying to put a square together is a problem. Having to keep the same partner for each tip is not going to go over well.

NEXT MEETING – TBA

ADJOURNMENT by Norm Cox @ 11:56 AM