

## Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, December 16, 2015

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:40 pm at the Widmer Restaurant on December 16, 2015.

Present were: Adam Grimshaw, Greg Gustafson, Ken Parker. Not attending: Gabe Farkas and Jane-Clair Kerin.

October and November minutes were revised and approved. No financial report...Gabe Farkas not present.

### Membership Report:

It was agreed that Board members will continue exploring ways to draw in more people to become members of Cascade Zydeco. Ken will contact Randy Pratt about organizing meet-ups to bring people to our events.

### Event Planning:

Ken stated that a Jeffery Broussard event in April is a possibility.

Dikki Du is also a possibility in April or May.

Vickie L is planning a Celebration of Life event for Marcia at her home...on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Adam will look into the possibility of a house party at the Grimshaw residence sometime this year.

### Dance Workshop:

Chere Weiss has made great progress in arranging this event. It is set for March 5-6. Sean Donovan will provide instruction at Polish Hall from 1-6 pm on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Too Loose will play from 7:30 to 10 pm that night. There will be a Zydeco Brunch at Tapalaya Restaurant on Sunday morning on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Greg will contact Chere and offer assistance. The price of this event will be \$70/person...cost for the dance only will be \$10.

Metrics for Success: a couple of items were discussed...nothing decided.

The possibility of doing the Board meeting by video conference (Skype?) was discussed. Ken and Adam will follow up on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

The next Board meeting will be on January 20, 2016 at a location to be determined.

Greg Gustafson, Secretary (alternate)

## Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2015

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:40 pm at the Widmer Restaurant on November 18, 2015.

Present were: Adam Grimshaw, Greg Gustafson, Jane-Clair Kerin. Not attending: Ken Parker and Gabe Farkas.

September minutes were approved. October Retreat/Meeting minutes were not yet ready for approval by the Board. No financial report...Gabe Farkas not present.

The Board acknowledged and accepted Steven Zander's resignation from the Board.

Dance Workshop: The Board discussed and generally approved having a dance workshop with Sean Donovan again this year. The last one was organized by Chere Weiss and was very successful. Chere has indicated that she is willing to take the lead again in organizing this event.

The idea of an Anniversary Party was discussed; there was a sense that this idea may not pan out.

Gumbo lesson-session with Jane-Clair: Jane-Clair stated that she would be willing to do that sometime...Gumbo season in upon us. There was discussion about who to invite...newbies? dedicated volunteers? dance teachers?

Membership Report: 108 members as of 11-18-15. Estimated that CZ had 140 members last year (July-July is CZ year). Jane-Clair will compile a list of former members from CZ's Gmail account. Given the way CZ's gmail member contacts are listed and organized by year, former members can be gleaned from those annual member lists.

Brainstorming about how can we increase membership:

- Enroll helpers for membership recruiting
- Offer a first time member discount
- Pro-rate late-comers if joining late in the CZ year
- Contact people who were members last year who have let their membership lapse
- Reach out to meet-up groups, Louisiana interest groups, etc.
- Use the CZ newsletter...emphasize why membership is special (tax deductible, supports Oregon Food Bank, supports having Zydeco music at the Waterfront Blues Festival)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Jane-Clair Kerin, Secretary

## Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2015

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 12:10 pm at the home of Adam Grimshaw on November 18, 2015.

Present were: Adam Grimshaw, Ken Parker, Greg Gustafson, Jane-Clair Kerin, Stephen Zander (Gabe Farkas arrived later).

September minutes were discussed, modified and approved.

### New Venue Search:

High hopes for success today...Curly Taylor at the Eagles on Hawthorne...if we have 80 attendees we will deem it successful.

CZ's venue wants: affordability, availability (ongoing), beverage choices (i.e.: cheap beers!), sound system quality for bands, centralized location, outreach to other dancers, bathrooms, venue's reputation, Parking!

CZ's venue don't wants: no dancefloor, poor sound system, lack of parking, safety concerns

If one has venue ideas, it is requested that you (the one with the idea) look into it – find out contact names, availability, costs, etc.) – and then you (the one with the idea and the information) present it to the board.

Venue committee volunteers: Kenneth P. and Jane-Clair K.

Concern expressed that too much variability may reduce our audience.

Some venue options: Spare Room, Hawthorne Eagles – and many more! When the PPAA closed, there was a venue committee that generated a summary file of venues on Excel – dig that up

What communities would we connect with at other venue locations?

### Band Compensation:

Many bands come through in March/April (part of their circuit for tours and festivals) At PPAA, CZ was able to be generous with Bands; CZ must pay less to allow CA to break even. Desire to go back to old policy of guaranteed minimums, hotels, meals. Policy switched in March 2015. Concern that CZ can't afford to provide all that to bands anymore. CZ has standard rates of pay, which has been refined over time.

Jeffery Broussard event possibility in mid-April – he may ask for a deposit.

Band compensation suggestion: minimum guarantee, promise of an up-side (\$ payment expecting 80 attendees, plus add-on for additional attendees).

### Volunteer Coordinator with Closing Down:

Kenneth P. sent an email asking CZ for help and got 10 volunteers.

Gabe generated an excel spreadsheet and sent to volunteers – we are covered through February. Except for December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Terry-Jo and Rick teach on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Marjorie teaches

Blues Dancing on the 30<sup>th</sup>. It's financially sound to hold the dances, so it was agreed to keep those dates happening.

#### Membership:

Discussion of what to do for newbies at Wednesday night dances; maybe have something identifying them, or welcoming them; could offer zydeco beads.

Cards, flyers – brand/logo – most current is silhouette of Roland and Janene.

Website has lots of alligators. Patty is amenable to modifications by board

Monthly member highlight for newsletter/website, Steven will lead this.

Send welcome and thank you message to anyone who pays (per proof of payment)

Revisit Sadie Hawkins Dance idea (“lady’s choice”). Jane-Clair K. should draft Sadie event for newsletter

#### Board Retreat Activities

Item #1 – Burkhoff (tracks zydeco dances worldwide). We could tap into this information resource to track zydeco/Cajun bands who come to this area.

Item #2 – soft skills, strengths. Handouts, webpage references, resources. Communication styles, handout of leadership styles

Training - three stages: forming (unconsciously competent), storming (conscious, incompetent), norming (consciously competent).

Adam G’s take: four stages in learning dances: unconscious incompetent (bad and don’t know it), conscious and incompetent (do know how bad), conscious and competent (begin to develop skills), unconsciously competent.

Beginning dancers – elevate their skills – CZ used to have 6 week classes and workshops. Most dance classes use 6-4 lesson stints.

The Board discussed how we might evaluate whether our organization had a good year.

Kenneth suggested putting metric on membership, on bank balance, # of special events, # of live band dances, attendance at CZ dance and live music dances.

Jane-Clair K.’s idea: KRVS zydeco brunch

Steven Z’s idea: promote zydeco and Cajun culture events.

Adam G’s idea: Monthly Sunday brunch: jam + potluck +dance

Adam will draft goals for next meeting.

#### Growing The Membership:

What percent growth is reasonable? 50%?

How to attract leads? (15 more per dance?). Many ideas were discussed: Meet up groups (there are 1,000 meet up groups in town), Cascade Prime Timers (if you keyword search for CZA, they actually mention CZA)

Adam G. – Dance workshop with Sean Donovan in January. Chere is also available to lead that special project.

Gabe F. – Put out sheet at dances that say “what would you do to make these dances more successful”, for submission.

#### Assignments:

Budget Committee – Gabe F. and Adam G.

Metrics for Success – Adam G.

Growth Ideas (membership) – Jane-Clair K. and Stephen Z.

Venue Spreadsheet – Kenneth P. and Jane-Clair K. – note Kenneth P. or Gabe F. will email preexisting venue data sheet.  
Newsletter Blurb – Sadie Hawkins – Jane-Clair K.  
Zydeco Beads for newbies – TBD  
Anniversary Party/return old members – Greg G.  
House party – Kenneth P.  
Too-Loose/CZ Holiday December Party – Jane-Clair K.  
Talent – lots-o-Curley Taylor – explore other bands – Bay Area/ Seattle – Dikki

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Jane-Clair Kerin, Secretary

CZ board meeting  
September 2015  
Overlook Restaurant (Lounge)

Present: Kenneth P., Gabe F., Greg G., Steven Z., Jane-Clair K.

Called to order by vice president, Kenneth.

July minutes up for approval. Jane-Clair confirmed TooLoose's Leherer gig time for October 4<sup>th</sup>. It's from 3 to 6. Minutes approved.

August minutes up for approval. Noted to use "Vicki and Marsha's place" for future reference. Minutes approved.

Finances by Treasurer, Gabe.

Adam had questions about the cost of the workshop. Treasurer provided detailed itemized file of financial report (both printout and digitally via email).

Rent, Parking, and Utilities also on itemized file of financial report.

Storage space also itemized on report.

Insurance expense – also warrants discussion. Ideas to eliminate auto and property while keeping liability. Changes might be able to save \$.

No annual budget established because it is impossible to predict what comes up throughout the year.

Each CD dance, on average, makes the CZ \$.

Each Live Band Dance, on average, costs the CZ \$

Two major expenses: Insurance and Annual donation to the Waterfront Blues Fest

CZ banks with Chase – charges will be incurred if low balance.

CZ is not registered with the State of Oregon as a company. Therefore, no paperwork should be required to open an alternate account.

A non-profit organization is a 501-C3. CZ is a 501-C3.

Currently steady with financial balances.

Membership discussion:

Some duplicates on the list of members on the gmail account is due to couples being at one e-mail address. The duplicate is the name of the significant other.

Jane-Clair noted she was not on the list – got confirmation from Gabe that she (and hubby) were indeed paid members. She will add accordingly.

Currently 98 members. (update! 103 as of 10-4-15)

New members can join any time of year.

Applications are available online. Annual membership renews each July (just in time for the WFBF).

Membership growth and ideas for fun:

Get new faces to the dance.

More followers than leads – can be a struggle.

Emulate a more welcoming attitude at dances. Think: Southern Hospitality.

Teachers encourage newbies (first timers) at all dances to dance.

For Newbie recognition: wear a sticker or badge – or ring a big-ass bell.

Get more men (ie: leads) involved.

Use existing membership to bring in new members.

Give free pass to newbie's second visit.

Try a Sadie Hawkins-themed dance or session within a dance. That is where the ladies (ie: followers) ask leads to dance with them.

Welcome messages to newbies – Stephen will ask Patti to collaborate on a message that can be e-mailed. Sending welcome cards to newbies was suggested by Steven, but CZ does not collect mailing addresses. Perhaps a reserve of welcome cards can be held on-site to provide to newbies.

Levels of membership was discussed – basic and higher – what type of tiers and when to implement. Provide options during a membership drive.

### Publicity

Get people to “chain” the invite to Curley Taylor via fb.

Email list is sent to over 500 people.

Patti makes excellent flyers and cards.

No desire to devalue our product.

Maintain consistency in creating our brand – consistent font, colors and logo on all fb/flyers/website/newsletter products.

### Big Issue:

Susan F. coordinating front desk – there is a problem with end-of-evening volunteers.

4 or 5 people alternate opening and desk setup.

Missing: a “helpful Dave” – One who would setup chairs/tables. Need volunteers to put away chairs at the end of the night.

Put away money and associated tasks (counting, documenting, securing).

No guaranteed person at end of evening to take out garbage, bring in sign, put up chairs, and lock-up.

No guaranteed person at end of evening to take care of money tasks.

We must recruit people – members? board?

Put up a sign for end-of-shift clearly stating shift starts at 9pm. (come up with incentives or ask please and let them know help is needed).

Ken will draft a letter asking for end of shift volunteer.

### End of shift questions/discussion:

Does the money really need to be counted?

Treasurer, Gabe, expressed discomfort about taking money in an envelope that has not been counted. It eliminates the possibility of mismanagement. Wants two people count money to double-check and document.

Volunteer Chair – open position – recruiting volunteers.

### Curley Taylor event summary:

2 amazing events

Attendance was a little less than Ken projected

CZ paid band \$935 due to lower than expected numbers.

80 in attendance at house party

101 in attendance at the Lehrer

Curley returns Oct 16 – is available for CZ booking

Offer him via contract a door-only payment.

Lehrer tentatively agreed to sponsor.  
Heat has been an issue at the Lerher – maybe bring fans?

Additional items:  
Greg will be in charge of doing e-mail vote.

Steven believes board-related CZ emails have been too numerous.

Meeting time has ended – Jane-Clair suggested all in favor to adjourn say ai-eee.  
4 ai-eee's! meeting adjourned.

## **Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes August 12, 2015**

The meeting was held outdoors on The Grassy Knoll directly east of Polish Hall. Newly elected Board President, Adam Grimshaw, called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

Board members in attendance were: Adam Grimshaw, Ken Parker, Jane Kerin, and Greg Gustafson. Gabe Farkas was absent. Other members in attendance were: outgoing board chairman Chere Weiss, and Stephen Zander.

Stephen Zander volunteered to join the Board. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Stephen to the Board.

The opening discussion focused on who would take responsibility for various roles on the Board, and on the need for more members to step up and volunteer for the multitude of tasks that need to be done in carrying out the mission of Cascade Zydeco.

- Jane volunteered to be Board Secretary. Greg volunteered to be Jane's back-up.
- Ken Parker will continue as vice-president, and will take over the venue coordinator role.
- Stephen and Jane volunteered to be membership coordinators.
- Volunteer coordinator – nothing was decided on who would have this role.
- Chere noted that Susan Farkas will continue as front desk coordinator.

Upcoming live band events – The Board voted unanimously, with one abstention, to approve the terms Ken has negotiated with Curley Taylor and his band to perform at two events: a house party at Vicky Louthan and Marsha Esther's home on September 4<sup>th</sup>, and an event at the Lehrer Pub on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Some concern was expressed that the September 11 Curley Taylor event conflicts with a TooLoose event at Jimmy Mak's on the same evening. Because Cascade Zydeco has a close relationship with TooLoose and we want to continue nurturing that relationship, it was agreed that extra care will be taken in the future to avoid scheduling a live band event that conflicts with a scheduled TooLoose event.

The possibility of holding a Board retreat in September or October was discussed.

The Board agreed to hold its regular monthly meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, from 7 to 8 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Greg Gustafson, Secretary (alternate)

## Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes July 9, 2015

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:30 at Ecliptic Brewing, 825 N Cook St, Portland, OR 97227.

Present were Chere Weiss, Patty Kadel, Marie Torrillo, Greg Gustafson, and Vicky Barbur. Not attending were Ken Parker, Gabe Farkas and Ben Groce. New board members, Jane-Clair Kerin and Adam Grimshaw, also attended.

June minutes were approved with one correction. The Financial Report was accepted.

Committee reports:

Membership: Prior to the meeting, Gabe provided an updated membership list.

Publicity: The weekly CZ news emails is distributed to 651 people. The CZ web site was hacked four times. We are now paying the web host \$29 per month to help manage this risk. Patty will no longer be on the board, but be staying on as the publicity coordinator for CZ. Chere will continue to manage the CZ Facebook account.

Bands: Chubby Carrier played July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Lehrer. Curley Taylor will be at the Polish Hall Wednesday July 15. The Lehrer will book Too Loose for first Sundays in October, November and December, from 3 to 6 pm (we will promote). Ken informed us via email that Curley Taylor has preliminary plans to come back to the area in September and October. The Board agreed that we have Ken negotiate with Curley for a date in September at the Lehrer.

Old Business: the Board voted to discontinue first Wednesdays at Lenore's, as that venue will no longer be available for first Wednesdays after September.

The Storage unit will be closed after the end of this month. Gabe will scan the paper records that have been stored there and Ken will attempt to sell the drum kit.

New Business. This meeting provided an opportunity to provide transition and orientation for the newly elected board members, Jane-Clair and Adam, who will officially become members of the board on August 1. The new board will to elect a new officers and determine who will hold the key and open to the Polish Hall among other things.

The annual meeting/picnic will be at Ben's place on August 15. We need to recruit volunteers for the pot luck. The Board voted on this year's Gator award, which will be presented at the picnic.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The New Board will determine the dates and location of future Board meetings.

Marie Torrillo, Secretary

## **Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, June 10, 2015**

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:58 at the Overlook Restaurant on June 10, 2015.

Present were Chere Weiss, Patty Kadel, Gabe Farkas, Ken Parker, Marie Torrillo, Greg Gustafson and Ben Groce. Not attending was Vicky Barbur.

May minutes were approved. The Financial Report was accepted.

Membership: Gabe provided status on membership.

Publicity: Patty reported that CZ news emails sent out weekly with information of the multitude of Zydeco-related events coming up.

Bands: Ken reported that all arrangements have been finalized for bands coming up. Dikki Du will be at the Lehrer Wed June 24; Chubby Carrier will be at the Lehrer Wed July 8. Curley Taylor informed Ken that he will be in the NW through mid-July and wants to play for us again. Board agreed to offer Curley the door receipts for playing on July 15 at the Polish Hall

Venues: We can have the first Wednesday in September at Lenore's only if Eric hasn't signed regular usage for first Wednesdays to another organization.

Brad Lehrer wants to start up Sundays with local Zydeco bands beginning in September and once a month after that. Lehrer will book and pay the bands if we promote it.

The storage unit will be closed after July.

New Business. The ballots for the Board elections will go out Monday, June 15. Members will have one week to vote (until June 19).

The annual meeting will be at Ben's place on August 15. We need to recruit volunteers for the pot luck. At the next Board meeting, we also need to decide who will receive this year's Gator award.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Next Board meeting will be Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup> at a location in Vancouver to be announced. (Subsequently, it was decided to meet in Portland at the Ecliptic Brewing at 825 N Cook St 97227).

Marie Torrillo, Secretary

## **Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes May 13, 2015**

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was held at the Overlook Restaurant at 6:30 on May 13, 2015.

Present were Vicky Barbur, Ken Parker, Marie Torrillo and Ben Groce. Greg Gustafson wasn't in attendance but provided a fifth vote immediately after the meeting for the three items voted on during the meeting. Not attending were Chere Weiss, Patty Kadel, and Gabe Farkas.

April minutes were approved. The Financial Report was accepted.

Membership: Three new members joined last week.

Publicity: Patty's publicity report was read at the meeting: Web page and calendar have been updated. The Lehrer made big posters from Patty's flyer design and they are plastered all over the Lehrer. The Curley Taylor event is listed in the Cascade Blues Association monthly newspaper and on their web page. Patty is updating the website weekly to keep the next current dance(s) at the top of the main page. The board meeting announcement is on our "contact" page. The mailing list is remaining stable. We have not yet formed a zydeco meetup group, as it was pointed out that a couple of members already have/bring meetups to zydeco. Patty will need to coordinate with those members so we don't work at cross purposes. Patty plans to update the folded brochure that we used at blues fest last year to include our newest prices and info. There have been zero complaint about our new pricing.

Bands: Ken reported that Curley signed the contract for the Lehrer. Curley Taylor will play NEXT Wed May 20 Lehrer, lesson 6:30-7, dance 7-10; Dikki Du Wed June 24 Lehrer; Chubby Carrier Wed July 8 Lehrer.

Venues: Status of First Wed and Lenora's room for June is uncertain

New Business. The election will be in June, so please be recruiting people to run for the board. Patty prepared an information sheet for members who are interested in running.

Ben has offered to host the annual meeting at his place. The board voted to set the date for August 8 (however, subsequent to the meeting, the board voted via e-mail to change the date to August 15.)

Eric Singer will to host a Zydeco workshop at Lenora's on Saturday, June 27. Sean Donovan will teach a workshop on Zydeco/Blues/Whiskey River Jitterbug, followed by an evening dance DJ'd by Sean and Ken Sargent.

Next Board meeting will be June 10<sup>th</sup> in the lounge of the Overlook Restaurant at 1332 N. Skidmore at 6:30 pm. Marie Torrillo, Secretary

## **Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes April 8, 2015**

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was held at the Alibi Restaurant at 6:30 on April 8, 2015.

Present were Vicky Barbur, Ken Parker, Chere Weiss, Patty Kadel, Gabe Farkas, Marie Torrillo and Greg Gustafson. Not attending was Ben Groce.

March minutes were approved with a correction.

Financial Report was accepted.

Membership: Five new members have joined in the past month.

Publicity: Patty will set up a CZ Meetup group. Weekly CZ emails are well received. Web page has been updated.

Bands: Ken reported that there are letters of agreement with Chubby Carrier and Dikki Du. He's not heard yet from Curley.

Venues: We can have the first Wednesdays for July and August at the Polish Hall. Patty will talk to Eric to see if we can have the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays for May and June at Lenore's (Subsequent to the 4/8/15 meeting, the board agreed via email to use Lenora's room on the first Wednesdays in May and June.)

Membership revocation hearing: The board discussed the process for a membership revocation. A hearing is scheduled for next Wednesday.

Storage unit: Rip is willing to take our amplifier on permanent loan. After Chubby plays, we sell our drum set. Chere and Vicky will go to the storage unit to see what's left. After July, we can close the storage unit.

By-laws: Proposed changes to our by-laws were drafted. The board unanimously agreed to accept the proposed changes.

Board elections, June 2015: Marie will prepare the ballot. Current board members will continue to encourage CZ members to run.

Next Board meeting will be May 13<sup>th</sup> in the lounge of the Overlook Restaurant at 1332 N. Skidmore at 6:30 pm.

Marie Torrillo, Secretary

## **Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes March 11, 2015**

Present were Vicky Barbur, Ken Parker, Chere Weiss, Patty Kadel, Ben Groce, Gabe Farkas, Marie Torrillo and Greg Gustafson.

The February minutes and financial report were approved/accepted via email by the Board prior to the meeting.

This board meeting focused on strategic planning. The 2014 Live Band Summary and the Budget Proposal for April 2015 – December 2015 was distributed prior to the meeting.

CZ income for the period March 2014 through February 2015 is at minus \$3876.39 with our current balance in reserves \$10,030. When we were at the PPAA, we made around \$200 per night which was how we funded live bands. The rent at the PPAA was less than the Polish Hall and storage was included. At the 2013 & 2014 Annual meetings, our members told the Board that they wanted us to spend down our account by having more live music. Since the 2014 annual meeting, we have had 11 live music dances.

Ken suggested that we might save money using different approaches to negotiating and scheduling bands. Ken will discuss with Roland. We want to be good Zydeco ambassadors, providing fair and adequate support for Zydeco bands while at the same time, being efficient with our funds.

The Board agreed to the following regarding raising cover charges and membership fees:

- The cover for CD dances will increase by \$1 (\$5 for members and \$7 for non-members). This should increase our proceeds by \$40 to \$50 for each CD dance.
- The Board agreed to eliminate the couple's membership discount. Membership fees will now be \$25 per person. Patty will revise the membership form.
- The Board agreed that the cover charge for live music dances will not increase.

Recruiting new dancers:

- Our members need to make sure that new attendees at our dances get enough practice so that they will return. Possibly, we can provide name tags that say something like, "I'm new. Please ask me to dance."
- We need to come up with additional ways to get the word out about Zydeco. The Board agreed to sponsor a Zydeco Meetup group. Patty will set this up.
- We'll think bigger in our focus to reach out to other organizations (e.g., Mystic Krew of Nimbus, Cascade Blues Association, etc.) to promote each other's events.
- Form a "Troubadour" group where 6 to 8 of our members will look for opportunities to demonstrate Zydeco. Ken volunteered to take the lead in implementing this.
- The Board agreed that first-time members who join on a Wednesday night will not have to pay a cover for that night. We need to remind the volunteers at the front door to talk up membership.

Storage: Projected costs for storage for the up-coming year are \$1008. The most valuable items being stored in the unit are a large amplifier and a drum set. There are also bins with paper good,

decorations, etc. We will explore ways to eliminate the storage (e.g., sell the drum set and rent a set for traveling bands when necessary; let Rip keep the amplifier on permanent loan.)

Funding for Oregon Blues Festival: The Board agreed to continue to make our \$2500 donation to the Blues Festival.

Chere asked if anyone was willing to chair the membership drive campaign. No one offered.

The meeting was adjourned. The remaining budget items on the agenda will be discussed at the April meeting.

Next Board meeting will be April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Alibi.

#### Addendum

Subsequent to the March 11 meeting, the Board discussed via email whether or not to approve spending the funds for three live music dances, since we ran out of time at our meeting to approve next year's budget. The Board generally agreed to the following:

- Curley Taylor on May 20 – try Ken's suggestion for a reduced offer without lodging, if Curley isn't interested, offer to Lehrer to hire the band, and if Lehrer is not interested, cancel the dance.
- Dikki Du on June 24 – book the dance as proposed.
- Chubby Carrier on July 8 - try Ken's suggestion for a reduced offer, if Chubby isn't interested, offer to Lehrer to hire the band, and if Lehrer is not interested, cancel the dance.

## **Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes February 11, 2015**

Present were Vicki Barbur, Ken Parker, Chere Weiss, Patty Kadel, and Ben Groce. Unable to attend were Gabe Farkas, Marie Torrillo and Greg Gustafson.

January minutes were approved with correction.

Financial Report: January – February 2015. Gabe notified Chere that a correction was needed with regard to the Winter Workshop/Dance/Brunch. Profit was approximately \$775. He will correct the statement before it is published to the website. The financial report was approved with the correction.

Membership: Several new members have joined in the past month. Patty was asked to include a welcome to new members in the CZ newsletter.

Publicity: Patty reported that all financial reports and minutes are up to date on the website. Quite a few photos have been added to the CZ Flickr account. Chere reported that she has been experiencing quite a bit of activity on the CZ Facebook page.

Venues and Events: Brad Lehrer of the Lehrer Pub has been pleased with Cascade Zydeco events and commented on the courteous and friendly people and upbeat atmosphere and has offered to host our events with no venue fee. He also suggested that we book a Saturday night event in the future.

First Wednesday Zydeco at Lenora's Ballroom in February was not attended as well as we hoped, but we didn't have much lead time to publicize it. Roland suggested that he might bring his own speakers to the March 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at Lenora's Room to improve the sound.

Too Loose Cajun/Zydeco Band is scheduled for the Lehrer Pub on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Penny requested that we try to avoid scheduling Sunday events that end that late since Vancouver Zydeco begins at 7pm.

Chubby Carrier is tentatively scheduled for July 8, 2015, possibly at the Lehrer Pub.

### **Old Business**

Chere has consulted with our liability insurance representative to make sure we have taken appropriate board action in response to a series of correspondence from a CZ member. An email address, specific to the Board of Directors, has been created and posted on the website in place of board member's personal emails. The new email account will be checked at least weekly by Chere and the executive committee will be notified of the password.

### **New Business**

Chere and Gabe were informed that a copy of Dick Brainard's Louisiana Trip Raffle flyer was mailed anonymously to the Oregon Department of Justice. Since the raffle is not associated with Cascade Zydeco, Dick has been notified so he can resolve any issues with his raffle directly with the Oregon DOJ.

Chere suggested arranging for an audit of the CZ books, but confirmed that she is confident that we have conducted our finances with good due diligence. Chere also suggested scheduling a strategic planning meeting. Vicki suggested sending the minutes and financial report in an email prior to the next board meeting that we can approve via email, thereby saving time at the meeting. The board agreed to this and to postponing “old business” so we can focus on strategic planning at the March board meeting. Chere asked for topics.

Vicki suggested varying the Wednesday lesson occasionally. Possibly teaching a line dance or some variation other than basic zydeco.

Annual meeting: Ralph Olson will not be hosting the picnic. Other venues will need to be considered.

Board elections, July 2015: It was suggested that current board members may want to encourage people to run for the board in the July 2015 elections.

Next Board meeting will be March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Alibi and will be reserved for strategic planning.

## **Cascade Zydeco Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 14, 2015**

### **BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chere Weiss, Ken Parker, Patty Kadel, Greg Gustafson, Gabe Farkas, Vicky Barbur, Ben Groce and Marie Torrillo.

### **MINUTES:**

December's board meeting minutes were approved.

### **TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

December's financial report was accepted.

### **PUBLICITY REPORT**

Our web site was hacked. Patty is re-constructing it and has eliminated many cumbersome and inefficient sections. Patty has placed calendar listings on the Portland Dancing and Cascade Blues web sites. Curley Taylor flyers are ready.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Winter Dance Workshop: 40 people have signed up for the Jan 17 winter workshop. The registration is closed. We have a good balance of follows to leads. 45 people have signed up for the brunch on January 18. The Saturday night dance is open – cost is \$10.

Curley Taylor will play on the last Wednesday in January (Jan. 28, 2015) at The Lehrer.

Approximately 130 people attended our holiday dance on Sunday, Dec. 21.

Brad Lehrer has asked to renegotiate our arrangement for using the Lehrer. Roland and Chere will meet with Brad to discuss.

We haven't pursued the electronic petition to Peter Damman regarding the Blues Festival. We no longer believe that the Zydeco portion of the festival will be cut back.

We will schedule a budget/planning meeting next month to discuss a number of budget issues:

1. Option to increase cost at the door for Wed nights and live dances (we are the cheapest drop-in DJ social dance in Portland)
2. Decrease live bands. (Live bands are the heart and soul of CZ and it's the Wed night dances that fund them, if we have fewer live bands would that impact our following? )
3. How do we recruit new dancers especially leads?
4. Consideration of Lenora's ballroom: fewer nights a month, higher rent but possibly increase attendance in the long run due to cross pollination of dancers and opportunity to advertise our events and decreased administrative tasks for our volunteers.
5. Our annual contribution to OFB/Blues Festival is \$2500, with our current reserves are we prepared to do this? If we can't, will it have a negative impact on the festival?

NEW BUSINESS:

Venues: Eric Singer has approached us again about the possibility of having our Wednesday dances at Lenora's ballroom, and has lowered the amount he would charge us for rent. The board agreed to try Lenora's on the first Wednesday dance for February.

CZ is now a member of the Cascade Blues Association. The Cascade Blues Association monthly newsletter, 'Blues Notes' has a letter to the editor written by Chere promoting Cascade Zydeco.

We need to start thinking about recruiting future board members or officer positions.

The board agreed to establish an email addressed (to be linked on our web site) for the CZ Board, rather than to continue to include personal email addresses.

A participant of Cascade Zydeco activities has researched our accounting practices and offered a detailed list of recommendations. The board reviewed his suggestions and in due diligence, which included contacting our liability insurance provider, we are now aware he is not a licensed CPA in the state of Oregon where Cascade Zydeco is registered as a 501(c)3. The board unanimously agreed to decline his offer to advise us.

Next Board Meeting: February 11 @ 6:30 pm at the Alibi restaurant.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.