

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2016 □

The monthly meeting of the Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:40 pm at the Prost Tavern on October 19, 2016

Board members present were: Adam Grimshaw, Sara Olson, Gabe Farkas and Greg Gustafson. Jane-Clair Kerin, David Seitz, Ken Parker were absent.

Minutes for the September board meeting were not available to be approved by the Board.

Treasurer's report for September was approved by the Board. Renewal of liability insurance (12% of the annual budget) was discussed...reviewing what is covered and at what cost. The Board agreed to renew the policy for another year. An item of special emphasis: be sure that any member assigned to pick up a band has paid-up auto insurance.

Membership issues:

- Membership on October 19 is at 100.
- There are about 30 people who were members last year who have not yet renewed. Sara agreed to organize our effort to contact each person in this group of 30.
- Some time was spent brainstorming on how to boost attendance. All agreed to put extra effort into making attendance at the Wednesday CD dances more warm and inviting.

Vice President and Band Coordinator Report:

Prior to this meeting, Ken sent out a 1-page summary of issues around the coordination of live band events. This will be discussed at length at the Board retreat next month.

Board Retreat:

The annual Board retreat will be held on November 5th, from 11 am to 3 pm. It will be a potluck. Adam urged everyone to be thinking about goals for the year, and how to maintain focus on those goals throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

Greg Gustafson, Secretary (alternate) □

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2016

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order.

Present were: Mr. Adam Grimshaw, Mr. Kenneth Parker, Mr. Gabe Farkas, Ms. Sara Olson, and Ms. Jane-Clair Kerin

Officers' Report

Treasurer report: Mr. Gabe Farkas

Reviewed Live Band Fee. Suggestions to modify the budget – goal is to have more money to spend on bands. Consider coordination with Seattle, Bay Area for live band tours stops. Website for Zydeco Events nationwide – board will check this out.

Comparison of Profit and Loss with anticipated budget. Membership fee year ends July 1st.

Treasurer's report approved.

Membership Update: Ideas discussed for getting more members. Ali G may be willing to coordinate. Use social media, e-mails, CZ website, search engine authorization (?). Work towards replenish membership via former members. Appeal to past members – Gabe made list (Action Item! Board will split and message these former members about rejoining)

Vice President and Band Coordinator Report: Mr. Kenneth Parker

Based on experiences at the Curley Taylor I (KP) am recommending that we recruit and identify a "Door Coordinator" for our live music events. The Door coordinator/manager will provide logistics and details regarding money (money box, change, and credit card) and standby volunteers. We discussed the possibility of providing free admission for this effort.

Particulars for the MZD event are in place. Ripp will drop off backline for band. In addition to bands performance fee we will provide them with a nights lodging and transportation to Seattle. We should break even on this event if we duplicate the Jeffery Broussard attendance of 130 admissions.

We have engage Tooloose to play Halloween & Christmas parties at The East Portland Eagles Lodge. Dates are Oct 30th and Dec 11th. We would like to turn these two events into festive parties vs just plain dances. Chere(with assistance from Sara) has been engaged to plan the party element of the dances and given a \$150 decoration budget per dance for this effort. We may explore the idea of expanding the entertainment for the parties by having Jacob Pennison perform also.

I (KP) am pursuing the idea of having bands for our live events do a 10 15 video promo ... to generate energy for the upcoming events.

President Report – Mr. Adam Grimshaw

Grimshaw's 20 year anniversary of teaching Zydeco (and marriage!). Adam want to teach (intermediate and advanced) and celebrate at the Eagles. CZ will do special promotion.

First Wednesday in November and beyond w/Roland and Janine.

Swamp pop – maybe get a dance lesson for this genre's dance style.

Board Retreat dates discussed for November – 5th, or 12th from 11am to 3pm. Hope to discuss things the board can do, goals, social media strategy, membership strategy, budget goals, dance attendance, band goals, and opportunities for fun, board team building. Jane-Clair will bring a Cajun dish or two.

Will try to have a skype-meeting rehearsal.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Jane-Clair Kerin, Secretary

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2016 □

The monthly meeting of the Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:32 pm at the Ecliptic Brewing Restaurant on August 17, 2016

Board members present were: Adam Grimshaw, Sara Olson, David Seitz, Ken Parker, Gabe Farkas and Greg Gustafson. Jane-Clair Kerin was absent.

Minutes for the July board meeting were approved by the Board.

Treasurer's report for August was approved by the Board. Adam suggested that we focus on increasing our annual revenues...let's try to go from \$10,000/year to \$12,000/year. It was also suggested that we ask all members to request their employers to donate to Cascade Zydeco.

Planning for Cascade Zydeco annual membership meeting to be held at Ben's Farm on August 27th from noon to 4 pm. Discussion focused on several items:

- Sign-ups are looking good...we expect that about 50 people will come
- We need more people to do clean-up
- Sara will coordinate ice chests
- Adam is preparing a list of topics he will go over at the picnic/meeting
- Other logistics were discussed and assignments made

Membership issues:

- Lots of discussion on the need to increase our membership
- Suggestion – put the request for membership at the top of Patty's weekly CZ email for a few weeks
- Let's figure out how to get the membership up to (or above) the 120 we had last year. It was at 72 at the time of this August 17 Board meeting...currently at 93 (as of September 14).
- Gabe volunteered to take the lead in contacting the 30-40 who were members last year but have not paid for 2016-2017.
- Sara volunteered to take the lead in figuring out how to use social media to bring in new members.

Vice President and Band Coordinator Report – Ken is busy working out the details for 3 (and maybe 4) live band events in the next few months:

- Curley Taylor in mid-September
- Motor-Dude Zydeco in late September
- Too Loose at the Eagles around Halloween
- Too Loose at the Eagles in mid-December is a possibility
- Ken mentioned the possibility of an event with Motor-Dude in January
- There was some discussion about having a workshop again this year with Sean Donovan and a band. Adam will contact Chere and see if she might be willing to coordinate this event again

Board Retreat:

- Adam will propose prospective dates (in October and/or November) and a location by email. He requested that board members respond within a day or two with information about their availability so we can put this on the calendar.

The possibility of donating money to Louisiana flood victims was raised. After some discussion the Board agreed that we would collect money from our members at the Annual Picnic and send it to an appropriate organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm

Greg Gustafson, Secretary (alternate) □

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2016 □

The monthly meeting of the Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:45 pm at the Ecliptic Brewing Restaurant on July 20, 2016

Board members present were: Adam Grimshaw, Greg Gustafson, Ken Parker and Gabe Farkas; Jane-Clair Kerin was absent. Cascade Zydeco members Sara Olson and David Seitz also attended.

Minutes for the June board meeting were not available, and will be reviewed and approved by an email vote of board members.

Treasurer's report was approved by the board.

Planning for Cascade Zydeco annual membership meeting in August. The Board decided that we will not have a band at this event. The Board came up with 3 options for the location and date of this meeting:

- Plan A – picnic at Frenchman's Bar on August 20th or 27th (Ken will check on availability with Vancouver Parks Dept. and report back)
- Plan B – picnic on August 27th at a park somewhere in central Portland (Sara will check on availability)
- Plan C – picnic on August 27th at the home of a Cascade Zydeco member (maybe the Grimshaw's)

President's report:

- The election of new Board members will be completed and announced in the next 2 weeks. The prospect that 2 highly qualified CZ members (Sara Olson and David Seitz) will be joining the Board is eagerly anticipated.
- Adam stated that a Board retreat will be held in the Fall...probably in October. He requested that Board members be thinking of items we would like to see on the retreat agenda.

Vice President and Band Coordinator Report:

- Ken is working on plans for live band events once/month in September (Curley Taylor), October (possibly Too Loose) and November (exploring options)
- Sara and David each indicated that they have ideas for promoting our live band events.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- A request was received from a former member who was expelled from Cascade Zydeco in 2015. The request was that the Board review its decision and that his membership be reinstated. The decision-making process the Board followed in 2015 was reviewed by a sub-committee of the Board. The sub-committee found that all required procedures had been followed. By unanimous vote of Board members, the request for review of this decision was denied.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

Greg Gustafson, Secretary (alternate) □

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, June 22, 2016

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:30 pm at Ecliptic.

Present were: Mr. Kenneth Parker, Mr. Greg Gustafson, and Ms. Jane-Clair Kerin (all left-handed!)

Review of May Minutes, amended minutes approved.

Old Business

New CZ board members soon to join.

TooLoose's gigs to be updated.

Forest heights Homeowners Association – expected that Adam will confirm.

New Business

CZ members Sara Olson and David Seitz have agreed to join the CZ Board. Board voting of new board members will soon commence.

CZ board will assign a member to drive Skype tech for meetings (tbd).

Board terms of service were discussed, referred to CZ bylaws.

Blues Fest loose ends – will have promo stuff in the booth, Jane-Clair will bring LA books.

Chubby's party – July 4th.

Furniture movers will be needed! Will be Vicky's call with respect to timing of moving furniture. Greg will coordinate volunteers to move furniture pre-event. Potluck logistics done by Chere. Band logistics done by Kenneth.

Curly gig July 6th at the Eagles. Lesson included. \$10 cover.

Summer picnic ideas discussed.

Treasurer's Report – (Gabe not present)

Monthly review of expenses, income. Net positive income. Treasurer's report approved.

It was suggested that Adam could put out a president's report about the good \$ stewardship by the board.

Discussion about KBOO donation – board needs more info on what previous boards have done and incentives.

Meeting Adjourned.

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2016

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:35 pm at Ecliptic.

Present were: Mr. Adam Grimshaw, Mr. Kenneth Parker, Mr. Gabe Farkas, Mr. Greg Gustafson, and Ms. Jane-Clair Kerin

Review of April Minutes, amended minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly review of expenses, income. Positive income from May 2015 to May 2016. Treasurer's report approved

Vice President and Band Coordinator's report

Chubby Carrier! Fourth of July party at Vicky's house, picnic/potluck Monday afternoon (opting out of Tapalaya event that happened last year at the same time). Cascade Zydeco will bring tableware and cutlery. Discussion on how to extensively advertise via website/newsletter (not Facebook). Logistics, timing, potluck format all discussed. Considering charging \$10 or \$15 and will encourage tip jar. Chubby Carrier band is working for the door. Ken will forward details, fliers, promo stuff to Cascade Zydeco board.

Too Loose! When they book their own gig, CZ will promote it. Friday June 25th Too Loose in Skamania. August 11th Too Loose is playing a neighborhood party with Forest Heights Home Owners Association.
June 25th fais do do three night event at the spare room.

Check promo website for New Iberians and Bon Ton Roulet

For the August-September time frame, some options for acts are: Richard Thomas (guy from Seattle), Zydeco Rex (Another band in Seattle), Motordude Zydeco (Oakland, CA), Andre Thierry.

President's Report

Promo ideas- Cards vs. word of mouth. He thinks bringing in friends is the best way. Adam's hosting "introduce your friends to Zydeco" Sunday house party from 1-4:30 p.m.

WFBF Zydeco Draft Schedule!

Booth sign in – each board member does a shift.

Officer election, nominations in June! Expand board – needs more worker bees. Approach people and ask them to be on the board. Initial nominee ideas were discussed. Advertise need for board members. Gabe will stay on if needed, someone with Treasurer experience or someone with their own business might be a good replacement.

An idea: on each newsletter, link to a Zydeco dance clip of the week!

Committee reports

Four new members over the past week.

Identify the teacher for the first Wednesday at the Eagles. Debra Seeck on June 1st.

Alternate: the Grimshaws.

Volunteer of the Year – nominees were considered.

Meeting Adjourned.

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, April 19, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Ecliptic Brewing Restaurant on April 19, 2016

Present were: Adam Grimshaw, Greg Gustafson, Ken Parker and Gabe Farkas. Jane-Clair Kerin was absent.

March 2016 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report highlights:

- Treasurer's report was approved.
- Revenue from membership dues is roughly \$2,500/year
- Revenue from Wednesday dances is about \$5,000/year
- Our finances are in "pretty good shape" – increase in the CZ account of about \$1,500 over the last 12 months

Event Report and Event Planning:

- The possibility of a Chubby Carrier event at Vicki's home on July 4 was discussed. Discussion of what time of day is preferred: 4-6:30 may be best; 7-9 pm might also work.
- Greg asked whether we should look into the possibility of a Too Loose event at the Rose Room in late May. Greg stated that he would follow up.
- Adam mentioned a potential summer band event organized by the Forest Heights HOA on August 11. More details to come.

President's report:

- Adam stated that the classes with Debra Seeck at Dance With Joy were a success.
- Adam will take steps to do a survey of CZ members on the willingness to attend a progressive dance class (intermediate Zydeco) at the Dance With Joy studio.
- Adam raised the question of whether we should continue doing first Wednesdays at the Eagles after June. The Board tentatively agreed that we would restart in September.
- A CZ house party on May 22 is a go at the Grimshaws!

Membership report:

- Gabe expressed concern that we have no (too few?) volunteers to close at Polish Hall on Wednesday nights...it's a problem. Adam stated that he will make a personal appeal to encourage people and get some new people in the habit of being a closing volunteer once/month.
- Ideas on how to increase membership in Cascade Zydeco are needed. Greg presented some brainstorming ideas that he and Jane-Clair came up with:
 - ✓ Think about what we can do to make the Wednesday CD dances more attractive...maybe illuminate the CZ sign with a clip-on light (Board liked this idea...approved spending \$15-20 on 2 lights). More ideas needed.
 - ✓ Maybe design and promote members buying and wearing CZ t-shirts
 - ✓ Ask other dance groups to announce our live band events

- ✓ Get 10 to 20 members to post a well-designed CZ postcard at their favorite hangouts (coffee shops, etc.)...this is a Cyndie Kosky idea.
- ✓ Look into Meet-ups...get info on the meet-up group that showed up at the Jeffery B event at Duffs
- ✓ Word of mouth is our most effective tool for growing the membership. Encourage people to “bring a friend to Zydeco”

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

The next Board meeting will be on May 18, 2016 at Ecliptic Brewing.

Greg Gustafson, Secretary (alternate)

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, March 16, 2016

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 7:05 pm at Ecliptic.

Present were: Mr. Adam Grimshaw, Mr. Kenneth Parker, Mr. Gabe Farkas, Mr. Greg Gustafson, and Ms. Jane-Clair Kerin

Board reviews January and February board meeting minutes – some minor changes noted by Adam.
Minutes Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Workshop statement – overall profit. Gift card to workshop organizer, Chere.

Quicken Books – request to purchase new program for \$150. Current version used is old and updates are no longer available. Approved by Board.

Band Coordinator's Report

Discussion of upcoming Jeffery Broussard show at scheduled April 15th Duff's. Show timing, sound check, no opening act, possible other venues if location falls through.

No live bands yet scheduled for May or June.

President's Report

Weekend CZ workshop event was very successful, good times (bon temps) and lots of smiles!

Brunch at Tapalaya was very successful. Newbies marvel at our welcoming demeanor. Talk of another CZ brunch around July 4th.

Blues Fest Sponsorship – CZ Board approved sponsorship of \$2,500.

Zydeco Buddy Pass available via Dick Brainard's e-mailed link – “Best bargain in Zydeco!” (Greg G's testimonial)

Dance Classes

Debra Seek – first Wednesday at Eagles for Cajun two-step and Cajun swing classes

Roland and Janine – live dance first Wednesday in April

Adam and Ali – first Wednesday in May – Cajun waltz

Debra Seek – Cajun 2-step first Wednesday in June

Music/Door details – no need to do sound there (at Seek's class?)

Money collection at door – who should have this task? Adam will ask instructors, and Susan could organize one of the door volunteers.

Dance with Joy dance lesson – Whiskey River Jitterbug and contemporary zydeco

CZ members get discount at Debra's class

April 1st – membership payments from this date will include the 2016-2017 membership year.

Consideration of sending out a survey to the CZ mailing list inquiring about progressive dance lessons – consider sending survey out to other dance communities.

Cajun Jams! This Sunday 1:00 – 3:30, also April 17th. Maybe tie in first Wednesdays (?)

House Parties! Dances as social events – May 22 tentatively set at Adam and Ali’s home – potluck and playlists.

Overall very positive feedback from workshop.

President’s message feedback – overall positive feedback

Suggestion of holding a free or donation night – give it a try – promote it and see what happens.

Suggestion of a Ladies or Gent’s night

Suggestion of shorter lessons (just 15 minutes rather than 45 minutes)

How to address the tempo of the music for lessons?

Committee Reports

Membership committee – mission is to attract and retain members. Thoughts on membership drives, how to get more attendees for dances. Higher membership numbers will provide more volunteers – draw people in by advertisements at dances – possibly in similar communities.

Review state regulatory requirements for membership revocation regs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm

Jane-Clair Kerin, Secretary

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2016

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 7:50 pm via Skype and speakerphone.

Present were: Mr. Adam Grimshaw, Mr. Kenneth Parker, Mr. Gabe Farkas, Mr. Greg Gustafson, and Ms. Jane-Clair Kerin

Board reviews January board meeting minutes – some minor changes noted – spelling corrections.
Minutes Approved.

Officers' Report:

Treasurer report –Mr. Gabe Farkas

Income for Zydeco workshop discussed.

Pulled \$ to fund workshop – upfront costs to pay Tapalaya and the Band. Gabe provided a check to Chere, who will relay the check amount for the workshop's follow-up. Workshop budget is \$ and less \$ has been collected to date (2-22-16). Some discussion about workshop numbers.

Treasurer's report approved.

Vice President and Band Liason Report - Mr. Kenneth Parker

Jeffery Broussard's contract – some of his rider requests will be honored, some will not. Tables at Duffs will be moved to enlarge the dance floor. Payment details, down payment by March 1st, also a 3-room stipend for hotel stay. Full band attending. Approve sign contract.(?) CZ providing backline and drums. Ripp, the sound guy, can provide backline? Confirm Ripp and backline details. Cover charge will be \$15 – expect at least 125 attendees.

TooLoose details closed. Inquiry about who will be working the door at this show.

Promo Push –

JC suggested offering Matt K \$150 to promote upcoming CZ events, invite him to CZ activities

Promo fliers at places where dancers will go – Lenora's, Viscount, Polish Hall, Vancouver coverage via Kenneth

President Report – Mr. Adam Grimshaw

Portland Eagles – in need of a sound system for Debra Seeck's lesson and dance to follow. Kenneth can bring it, set it up and Adam will break it down and take it. Eagles Door – any non member of the Eagles Club signs a register and pays the cover. Adam will be the door closer. No CZ membership fees will be accepted at the door, just the cover charge for that night's event. Eagles Hall rental – will be paid by check next Wednesday – in the future, we will pre-pay. Plan to mix Cajun and zydeco music for post lesson canned music.

Jacob Pennison – Cajun group – acoustic Cajun band, fast 2-steps (160 beats per minute). Adam will reach out and ask if he is interested in playing for CZ event. Concern expressed if live music does not jive with music for lessons (speed step wise).

Progressive Lessons – concern about involvement. Perhaps do a survey via survey monkey about progressive zydeco dance lessons by Roland and Janine. Best test is whether Debra Seeck's classes are successful or not.

House Parties – late March or April. Cajun Jam at Patti's on the 3rd Sunday in April.

Next Meeting scheduled for March 16th at 7pm. In person. At Eclpitic.

Consider doing a rehearsal skype – send skype contact info to Gabe.

Meeting Preferences: JC = in person, Greg =in person, Gabe = either, Ken = skype, Adam = in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Jane-Clair Kerin, Secretary

Cascade Zydeco Board Meeting Minutes, January 20, 2016

Regular meeting of Cascade Zydeco Board was called to order at 6:40 pm Ecliptic Brewing on January 20, 2016.

Present were: Mr. Adam Grimshaw, Mr. Kenneth Parker, Mr. Gabe Farkas, Mr. Greg Gustafson, and Ms. Jane-Clair Kerin

Meeting locations should be announced two weeks prior on the CZ website.

Officers' Report:

Mr. Kenneth Parker – Curley event booked for February 3rd. Curley will receive 100% of the door. CZ pays venue expenses (room, door, parking). Kenneth will be present for door's money count. Hawthorne Eagle's member must collect money at door.

Negotiations complete with Jeffery Broussard – his comp package is similar to others: flat \$\$ (with half as down payment), 3 double rooms, and split of netted profits. CZ providing venue, sound, drums. Date of event is April 15th, 2016. Venue is not yet selected – Polish Hall, Eagles (pay for rental and sound at both these places), Duffs, Spare Room.

March 5th, 2016 – TooLoose playing at Polish Hall during the workshop weekend.

Band in Seattle – Richard Thomas and the LA connection – they have an e-mail message in the general CZ gmail account. [note – JCK looked in CZ gmail to nov-15 and did not see a message relating to this topic]

Eagles give CZ the space the first Wednesday of the month for \$\$ - good opportunity for programs and organization building. Plan to conduct a 4-month experiment.

Acoustic Cajun Band?

Debra Seeck – wants to teach dances – perhaps an option for the 1st Wednesdays at the Eagles'.

Crowd at the Spare Room on Wednesday night (it was part of a music festival in town) – Cajun band was Caleb Klauder – approximately 200 people there approximately 30 to 40 years in age – CZ wants to harness this group!

Look into the Revelers (Cajun band).

Promo Push – marketing great live bands – good promo!

From an ad-hoc publicity push group – J-C will speak with Matt K (MKON's publicity hired gun)

Press release – news story?

Facebook invitees – share event.

Patty Promo – 3 events in next three months as a flyer.

Treasurer report – accept financial report as is.

Presidents Report – Mr. Adam Grimshaw - venue vote – formalize the conferred discussion/decision – CZ votes to stay at Polish Hall and not to transfer weekly activities to Lenora’s Ballroom – board’s reasoning for decision will be posted on CZ website.

There is a Cajun jam every 3rd Sunday – Lisa Orenstein (fiddler) is organizer (?)

House Parties / Dances as CZ social events. CZ President Adam and Ali are willing to host the first one. Anticipate people will have fun and make friends with each other.

Progressive dance classes: email from Rachel Linskag (dance for joy) – she is interested in Zydeco and Cajun dance teachers at her studio. Maybe Deborah Seek?

How about a swamp pop dance lesson?

Bylaw Review: CZ Board should announce location of monthly board meeting 14 days (2 weeks) prior. Every 3 months could be a meeting in person – and allow for skype meetings more often. Next meeting planned for skype – Sat, Feb 20th at 10 am.

A suggestion of an all member meeting in May at Adam’s home. May suggested to have it before the end of the member-year. We could recruit more board members. Consider outdoor meetings when weather is lovely.

Due to time constraints, Board will skip committee reports.

Old business – CZ needs more Leads for workshop (Chere’s request)

New Business – former member David K – sent certified letter to Treasurer – Treasurer has not collected letter from the post office. Discussions on how to handle. A sub-committee will be established to review these circumstances.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Jane-Clair Kerin, Secretary