

## DCNW Board Minutes - December 20th, 2019 - 10:45 am - 1 pm

### Present:

Jon Mark  
Sheri Garzelli - Facilitator  
Nala Walla  
Kevin Haggerty  
Saffire Bouchelion  
Sherry Hoffman - Board Communications Liaison  
Brian Firfer - New Member  
Lily So-Too - New Member  
Maureen Freehill - New Member

**~~~~~ Next meeting date is January 10th, 8:30 - 10:30 am ~~~~~**

### Agenda (from Sheri Garzelli)

- *Welcome New Board Members!*
- *Decide date/time for next Board meeting*
- *Gratitude to Sherry Hoffman! This is her last meeting as Communications Liaison. Her service has been invaluable. Any ideas for how to recruit for a replacement?*
- *Define vision for Camp 2020, Some options:*
  1. *Keep everything the same, just tell folks that camping is limited this year, so if they want to tent, buy their tickets now (reserve some for POC/low income)*
  2. *Have a shorter, smaller, simpler Camp this year, with a registration deadline, sell out rather than taking anyone at any time, so we put out that kind of energy (get your tickets early because they will sell out)*
  3. *Take a year off to re-organize?*
- *Finalizing camp dates ASAP.*
- *Set programming vision*
- *Make decision about ticketing vision*
- *Create vision around financial stability to include budgeting and alternate ways to raise funds for camp instead of relying on ticket prices. Fundraising -- (including grant writing) and sponsorships, and decide about and set vision for using vendors.*
- *Work Exchange budget*

*From CCG (Renna, Eva, Bruce)*

*--- We propose that you invite the programming and marketing leads (once assigned) to board meetings related to their roles. We propose that you invite a CCG project manager, project coordinator, or program manager backup to attend board meetings. This needs to be someone very familiar with the CCG action plan.*

## Meeting Start

Sheri started the pre-meeting with sharing gratitude for Sherry for her role as Liaison and Sacred Scribe this for 2019 and Nala joined her in that appreciation. Sheri has posted on FB a job description for this role.

We also welcomed Brian Firfer back to the Board.

Sheri also shared that she, Jon, and Brian will be liaisons to CCG (Eva, Renna and Bruce C), and they are invited to the last part of their CCG meetings. The CCG will also send agenda items for the Board to discuss at board meetings.

Sadly, it was announced Oblio Stroyman has chosen to not return to the board this year.

Jon says Oblio is open to advising and helping with By Laws

Then Kevin led us in a group grounding exercise, which we appreciated him for.

Sheri welcomed everyone and shared how happy the Board is to have their new energy.

She said let's start by doing some 2020 visioning. She shared that through her communication with Ft Flager, we will NOT have Wagon Wheel campground. She spoke directly to Brian F about keeping the contact from year to year with Flagler. Brian supported her in continuing to be the point of contact and prefers it to be a Board member. Sheri says she has been using our bookkeeper Cherie Lee's address for legal paperwork and etc. Brian said his condo address is on some things and that may need to change if he sells this year. (Proposal to possibly get a P.O. Box - Brian)

Sheri asked for some clarity around visioning early in our call while Kevin & Brian were on the call. Decisions need to be made on camp dates, programming vision, camp pricing tiers for different folx and creating financial stability. CCG wants some clarification on Work Exchange budget in the near future.

Sheri reiterated dcnw values of having camp be affordable, and, at the same time, we need folx involved to run camp. We have used work exchange as an incentive to get folx in. Brian says he likes the idea of having people pay base cost of food and lodging per day if at all possible. Sheri has also been having this conversation with Renna who shared some ideas too.

Brian suggested having different levels of work exchange...almost like a sliding scale. His vision is we share our abundance and people actually pay what they can. Each work exchange has paid a \$200 deposit to ensure they show up, and then at the end of camp, they are asked if they will donate some of that to support dance camp.

Sheri and Nala have talked with festival producers that have said to not base our operations budget on ticket sales; to look at more revenue from vending and sponsorship. Nala said this seems to be a CCG task. Sheri added that fundraising and getting grants would be optimal. Brian shared that HONKFEST is 75% run by grants and 25% from donations and it would be pleased to see it move that way. Sheri says the Board comes up with vision and CCG will put it into action.

Sheri gave a shout out to Jon for his fundraising efforts last year!

Brian suggested we reach out to our extended community to see who might be experienced at Grant Writing. Sheri said we also need to form a finance committee.

Sheri brought up lodging options. She said we can hold all three dorms and they will hold 180 max. Brian says having limited camping space can be a good marketing tool. Also reserving some space for staff and low-income folx.

Sheri threw out having a smaller, simpler camp with the possibility of selling out instead of having folx showing up whenever they choose. The problem with that is last year we sold 50-75% of our tickets in the last two weeks.

Right now we have Hoskins (which includes 3 dorms and the dining hall), the Rec Room, and some cabins from Sunday August 9th to Sunday the 16th. Sheri has gone to many events that are only 5 days (such as the Orcas Island Jam, and the Port Townsend Jam). Brian shared that we have had a history of folx taking on too much and burning out, so finding ways to simplify/shorten could help with sustainability. Jon is in favor of having a discussion of what we want to bring the dance community and the right length will come out in that exploration. He has no energy for making it longer. Sheri would like to see more contact improv.

Sherry asked for more voices. Saffire likes a more contained camp, he said it can be expanded by adding some other things like vending....he would like it to be a more three dimensional experience. He likes size and length but something added to make it more enticing. Nala asked what that would be. He said some kind of vendors, side shows, etc. Something different from class, to dining, to campground etc. More expanded somehow. Brian supported that and mentioned having a tea house and things like that.

Kevin chimed in and said we have limped along depending on ticket sales to exist. That makes it feel too big for us. Today we are talking about the necessity of expanding beyond that, which would result in that scarcity mentality going away. That may be a new committee and it will really shift the conversation. Kevin is in favor of a shorter camp for focus and getting as many people to come as possible. Before Kevin left the meeting, he said Friday and Saturdays are best for him and before 10:30 am.

Momo added we have had times with more interactive installations on landscape. altars and in other rooms/cabins. Jon said that what was good for him was things happening outdoors like group singing and movement. He also liked the medicine wheel / dream altar that was created last year. Momo chimed in about the eclipse dance ritual event in the mid field and the Planetary Dance in the playing field behind the Theater. Nala supported that...having more chill spaces, and a fun and exciting market place area. Sheri voiced how much she appreciated the Squish space in the theater for relaxing and connecting. Nala said that big field could be used for so many things. Also, we could find ways to make it feel even more like a village. Perhaps incorporate village into the theme as well. Sherry said she got feedback from a new guy that was surprised at lack of dance options on some days, and she encouraged him to have a voice with Programming. Can we be more of a Dancing Village? Also not just offering one thing with no other option - maybe a workshop with and a dance option.

Nala said we decided last year we needed to pare down Programming as a result of overwhelm and exhaustion. She said we got feedback from participants and teachers that longer workshops were desired so the offerings didn't feel diluted. She said we were aware we would put off some folx by offering workshops that really required campwide participation to work well. As people who are pushing the social and artistic edge in our dancing body, we want to be careful about pandering to "what the crowd wants." This is not a popularity contest. We are producing a specific festival which is itself a work of art. Lily spoke to folx processing through their body and when you have something like Grief Lodge, sometimes there is a need to work it through your body with perhaps a dance following.

Sheri responded to Nala that we entered into a rich area of process, and it can look different and dance is a part of it. Lily said a teacher can create a container for social justice while guiding a movement exercise. Nala brought up the awareness that were losing young people a couple of years ago by being just a “dance” camp. We needed to include social change and juicy stuff like Beloved. There are spiritual dimensions and other things that people are hungering for and reflecting the culture we are desiring and that we can do it through dance. It’s incumbent upon us to have that theme well communicated and to be clear on what we are doing. Sherry applauded Nala for pinpointing the words “pushing social and artistic edge in our dancing body.”

Jon noted the infrastructure changes like Safer Braver for reteaching and inquiry. These make it something he definitely wants to attend. Continue to improve our infrastructure and “all means all.” Sherry added that it would be wonderful to resurrect Safer Braver to continue the amazing cultural change that Dance Camp has experienced.

Nala noted the importance of using specific language with teacher invitations that honors movement and our theme of the village and growing awareness of cultural change.

Momo said she is all for what’s been said and it can be equally edgy for social justice oriented teachers to focus on classes that are less verbal, and more fully dance and embodiment focused.

Sheri said we need to have CCG look at financing and see how that fits with the vision that the Board is creating. It’s the Board’s job to hone the vision and yet the work of setting it up is CCG.

Sheri proposed looking at dates again. Jon recommended starting on Monday night and ending on Sunday morning.

Momo sees keeping it the same length could also be simpler in some ways due to not trying to crunch everything in and using similar programming template as in past years.

Sheri says she doesn’t want to conflict with other festivals like Singing Alive (the dates for that are Aug 7th - 10th). Sherry let the group know the last day is usually a Market Place day and falls on a Monday. Momo asked if its ok that some people - who register/pay for full camp --can self choose to come a day later if they want a pause between events? Jon asked that we ask Programming to have something outdoors that

is celebratory as a group activity. Momo is all for more outdoor oriented programming overall -- supporting that is one of her main visions for being on the Board this year.

Sheri said the piece about making it shorter is financial feasibility, and also feeling it energetically in her body. Lily said to take care of ourselves transmits to the larger body of dance camp. Sheri then spoke to burnout and feeling tired. There wasn't as much energy to get camp started last year. Sheri let Lily know she wouldn't be part of CCG this year and that would be her self care.

Jon honestly thinks the financial thing is going to be fine whether we have the same length of camp or shorter. Explained what CCG was. In the past Board members have done everything. Now we have a fully separate Camp Coordinating Group.

He said the Board's job is to seed the vision like expanding time for Grief Lodge. Jon also brought up some folx on the Board will be transitioning away from the Board, like Oblio, who is stepping away and will be a Board Advisor. Board members are desiring a smoother transition for new Board members this year.

Jon also spoke about the bylaws. Oblio is helping him to gather/find some bylaws from another not-for-profit group.

Nala evoked a victory dance because we already have a CCG that is meeting every two weeks...this has never happened. And applauding our new board members. This is a huge victory! She also thinks that shortening camp is not necessarily going to make it more financially feasible, so she is not in favor of shortening. Momo agrees.

Spoke of other board positions and need to recruit for Board Communications Liaison. Sherry said it would be helpful to find someone who had a very flexible schedule.

The group agreed to keep Camp the same length as last year.

Sherry asked the group to review/edit the minutes no later than midnight December 26th.

**~~~ Next meeting date is January 10th, 8:30 - 10:30 am**

