

Minutes Board Meeting: June 26, Monday, 5:30 - 7 PM Zoom

Present: Cino Adelson, Fran Howley, Kathya Dawe, Eduardo Drake, Rob Peterson, Jack Levi, Joe Bowman, Gerald Girouard, Mary McKeon, Cathy Petersen **Absent:** Terri Davis, **Guest:** Scott Chase

1. Approve June 2023 Agenda, approved. Other items to be added to the agenda were suggested by Eduardo – more live music at TSoM milongas, promote more mingling at TSoM milongas,
2. Approve May 2023 Minutes, approved.
3. Sheer Dance magazine (Scott) (2 minutes) SEE BELOW #12-Scott asked Eduardo if he's been in contact with the lead at Sheer Dance. Scott and Eduardo have been asked to communicate. Does Scott need to submit ads, then tell Eduardo? – Fran advised no. Scott recommends that TSoM submit articles that are in interview format; Fran asked that Joe and Eduardo work with Scott regarding the articles.
4. Treasurer's Report for June (Budget updates) (Rob)
The Saturday June 10th, milonga receipts produced a net gain of \$78.72. Total attendance: 43
Itemized Income and Expenses:

June 2023 Net Income:

+ \$ 78.72 June 2023 Milonga
+ \$ 133.91 Prepaid Rent – Venue Expense paid March 2023
+ \$ 380.86 June 2023 Practica Sessions
+ \$ 215.48 Membership Payments (9 total)
- \$ 516.64 June Operational Expense
+ \$ 292.33 June 2023 Net Income

6/23/2023 TSoM's account balance: \$17,411.71

Rob's and Kathya's numbers don't always match due to methodology of reporting. Rob advised that we must maintain a record of percentage of revenue from members vs nonmembers due to the legal structure available to TSoM per IRS and MN regulations. The practica budget shows that there will be a reasonable rent increase by CFPA for the space. **MOTION:** Rob made a motion and Cino seconded to approve the budgets. Kathya said that this is the first time TSoM has adopted a budget; we must be aware that there needs to be some flexibility as we go forward with our decision-making regarding expenses and earnings. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Membership Report, Membership Committee, (Kathya, Cino)
May - Total attendees milonga: 41 | Renewals: 7 | Free at milonga: 7 | Total number members: 153
Kathya explained that a discrepancy between her report and Rob's is due to the payments made by individuals on PayPal prior to the milonga who don't attend the milonga. It's counted by Rob in his numbers of payments, but not by Kathya as an attendee.

Survey Update - Cino / Kathya (5 minutes) Kathya and Cino are developing the membership survey; they hope to release it to the membership by July 2024.

6. Utango and Denver festival (Rob)

Utango students are raising money to attend the Denver tango festival. Eduardo questioned their interest in going as they don't usually attend local events to learn how to navigate on the floor. Kathya supports the students going although there haven't been many attending local events. If they want to show an interest in tango and they want our support, they should be attending the TSoM milongas and practicas. Kathya recommends the students be asked about their local participation. Jack suggested that we ask Rebecca about this request. Cathy suggested that there be volunteer expectations of the students if they are funded by TSoM. **ACTION:** Jack will contact Emilie and Rebecca this week.

7. Community Bulletin Board for Travel Buddy Finders, Member Loneliness, etc.:
(Eduardo, 3 minutes)

This idea emerged out of a conversation initiated by Michael asking if others are interested in going to Chicago for a festival. Kian responded that she experiences loneliness when traveling. Eduardo suggested an electronic bulletin board. Mary Pearl suggested examining other travel sites that are members only; this might be an approach to use as a model. Gerry recommends that if we pursue this to keep it simple as a community bulletin board, and that it be included in the TSoM news once per month. Jack saw the email initiated by Kian, perhaps a conversation with her would be beneficial between her and Eduardo. Kathya states that the need is real. **Action:** Eduardo to contact Kian.

8. Discuss pricing of TSoM milongas, with and w/o live music

Rob stated that there is a spread between the member (\$12) and nonmember (\$20) rates. The bands are not charging more than in the past. Gerry asked if we are going to increase the number of live music events. **MOTION:** Kathya moves that members pay \$12 and nonmembers \$20 for live music events. Cathy seconded the motion. Rob mentioned that we need to remain aware of the percentage of income we may receive from nonmembers. Cino stated the reason is to encourage nonmembers to join. Motion passes, but not unanimously.

9. July 8 milonga–Venue: Kodiak Park, DJ Bob Barnes; MC Kathya; Food Fran and Cathy; Gate Mary Pearl and Joe; PR Terri

10. Discuss a TSoM MicroGrant/Loan program to provide seed money (e.g, up to \$250 per event, and maximum \$3k for one year) to stimulate and support non-board-initiated tango events and activities, e.g., Friday Night Milongas, Sunday Milongas, etc. (Eduardo, 3 minutes)

There's a desire for more milongas like what was available pre-2020. Eduardo recommends that there be seed money to support those who would like to host a milonga, and he had wanted to introduce this concept. Rob sent the following points for board members to consider before our July meeting.

- a. In my last conversation with our insurance agent, he cautioned us about the practice of extending our insurance coverage to other parties. He said that if a claim were to be made on such an event there would be a close examination as to whether it was a qualifying event by TSoM where funds were collected by TSoM and not for the benefit of some other party. The consequences could include that we could lose our coverage, be liable for the loss and any additional related expenses, and that the organization and its Board could be liable for insurance fraud.

It is stated in our grant policy that “TSOM shall not bear any legal or financial liabilities for events, initiatives or programs that receive TSoM grants funding.”

- b. If we were to somehow use our insurance policy, who is going to take responsibility for ensuring OSHA safety for the grant winner? For example, some live music providers have a lot of cords that could be a tripping hazard.
- c. I am concerned that the amount is \$3,000 which is 20% of our current assets. Is the \$3,000 for one event, or the max for this micro grant program?
- d. Would the Board provide oversight for this grant money/process? Will there be a budget? Who approves dispersal of funds? If this proposal is intended to be a greater than arm's length program, how does it benefit the membership?
- e. I would like to see that there is no conflict of interest with sitting or potential future Board members receiving benefit from this proposal.
- f. If these grants are repayable loans, how does that impact the 35% gross receipts limit for non-members and the 15% non-member usage requirement?

Rob asked that this topic be tabled and addressed at TSoM's July meeting.

11. Website and Communication Committee (Eduardo, Gerry)

Gerry stated the most activity at the TSoM website is the calendar and the contact us area. The most popular time for TSoM's website is Th-Sun at 9 pm. Most traffic is local at 88%. Eduardo stated our most pressing need is to have a second person to support Ron T. It was recommended an announcement be made in TSoM's newsletter.

12. Sheer Magazine Article – Eduardo will be working with Dan Brown to write an article about why ballroom dancers should be tango dancers.

13. Practica to Open Streets Venue:

The only other Saturday Open Streets is in September. Eduardo suggested this be tabled.

14. Live Music – Eduardo

We should foster live music by TSoM adopting a policy to have every other TSoM milonga. Fran stated that this is a topic for discussion when TSoM develops its 2024 milonga schedule and TSoM's budget.

15. Onboarding New Tango Dancers – Eduardo

Eduardo suggested that there be 1 song tandas at the beginning of the evening instead of a 3 song tandas. Fran said the response from the DJs was overwhelmingly 'no' for several reasons.

16. Executive Board/President – Gerry

He would like to be considered for president of TSoM; he advised that he has deep experience in the nonprofit world and in dance event programming.

17. Board Meeting – Monday Practica – Gerry

Request that the meeting be held in person and via Zoom at the Eagles Club prior to the practica.

18. Breakfast – TSoM – Fran

Board Breakfast before TSoM practica on 7/29 at Victor's.

Next Virtual Meeting July 24, 5:30 - 7 PM