



Austin Swing Syndicate, Inc.
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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 18th, 2024

Present: Phil, Nicole, Nick, May, Kari, Sam, Amanda, Joann

ALX

- Phil is working on the budget, it's going to cost more this year, bigger bands
- Bands are starting to get worked out
- Next steps: committee and non-committee roles are outlined, we need people to fill those roles!
- Kickoff meeting, open to wider group of people
 - Need to schedule it and then announce (mid-late February, right after HRH)
 - Could depend on whether we do workshops or cancel classes one week in Feb
 - Want to have food
 - SCHEDULED: February 29th - add to newsletter
- Want to pay Jen D for graphic design

Volunteers/Perks Program

- May will handwrite class passes for now

Adopt May's official volunteer perks proposal (Nick/Nicole) - Passes unanimously

Backstage Organization

- Shelves seem okay for now
- Sign hanger is still backstage but not in use

Town Hall

- Same day as ALX kickoff meeting?

Membership Rate

- New QR codes laminated/pricing info, new form, website needs to be updated
- Change square buttons

Rental Contract

- Phil did it!!!

Teacher Training Workshops

- Trial period - when Jen wants to do it again we'll approve it
- Lindy plus - change to a routine or solo routine class - take it for a few months - Phil will run by Jen
 - Maybe something like every 3 months
 - Just want to get the vibes
 - Don't know who would teach it

NEW BUSINESS

Live Music

- Need to make procedures for FB/website/simpletix for live music events
 - Amanda/Phil will post, Kari will promote
- HRH 2/15 band - needs simpletix, graphic, updating website, send to HRH – ?? Who is doing this
- UT Jazz program director reached out, wants to make it more community oriented
 - Event weekend of April 4th - they want their student group to play at the Fed on April 4th with swing events
 - Book them as a main stage event, but it is a student band, donate to the program
 - Group rate for program, probably not full live band prices for regular attendees
 - How to position/price?
 - Put out tables that night to accommodate a different audience
 - Syndicate members should go to their other events
 - Maybe they don't play the full 3 hours, director has experience with it
 - We will discuss setlist with them
 - How much do we want to charge our attendees?
- New age jazz band from New York, Hot Toddy's jazz band interested in playing at the syndicate in July
 - Would we have a competing band that wants to play? Probably not
 - We'll listen to the band and decide
 - Would need to push anniversary dance to June or August
- Vic has another band for June or July - Lon, but tabled

DJ

- Battle of the bands on February 8th, Joanna sending out a schedule - DJs will tag off and play and people can vote
 - Could get a slideshow going about the bandleaders and DJs

- Everyone who comes in gets a token to vote for their fav DJ
- Joanna should send a description to Amanda
- DJ schedules
 - Want to publicize what people can expect from DJ music on a regular night
 - 9:30-10 - beginner friendly
 - 10-10:30 - expanding range
 - 10:30-11 - wider range
 - 11-12 - swing and swing adjacent genres
 - Joanna will send more info to Amanda, we need to add this to the about section of our website

Motion: Battle of Bands on 2/8 (Nick/Kari)

Passes unanimously

2 Hour Dance

- No one is sticking around from 11-midnight
- Need to push shim sham later in the night little by little because people leave after the shim sham
- If we normally only go to 11, then we can advertise the one night a month we go to midnight
 - Like a soul party, party hour, etc
- Board is down to try advertising a party hour, maybe combine with teaching a line dance
- Could try cutting half an hour - if you have too few people dancing, we could just close early
- 30min stretch section - if people are really feeling it we can go until midnight

More Blues Siderooms

- Blues wants another sideroom - we don't lose money, they think they have enough interest to do 2 a month
- 4th or 2nd week
- They should provide a volunteer to help setup
- West coast room? Attendance was dropping, competing event, didn't feel connected to swing dancing
 - Would need to put parameters in the future around "party hour" and what music we want to play

February Workshops - Black History Month?

- Could have a workshop on the 5th Thursday in February
- "Leap" year workshop
- Misha can do the black history month dance on the 29th
- Could do "workshop" on the history of lindy hop (Kari has some material) - could be a little bit interactive

- Once a month lindy hop history/vintage videos in the couch areas could be cool
- Check if anyone would give extra credit/advertise
- What do we charge?
- Don't want to mix it with something gimmicky
- Kari will work on a proposal

Election Committee

- Need to find people who refuse to join the board, need 2-3 people
- Cailin, Misha
- Make sure candidates know about all the commitments

Marketing

- Amanda will stop being live music coordinator and pass fully to Lon
- In order to focus on marketing
- Will write a proposal for a small marketing budget to pay an intern