

AACTMAD Friday Night Swing Committee

September regular meeting: 09/03/2009

8:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Called by: Holly Ackerman; Notes: Holly Ackerman; Location: 811 Hillcrest, 48103

Attendees: Holly Ackerman – Communications
Jeff Ziemba – Treasurer
Janna Kryscynski – Music Coordinator
Matt Oonk – Teaching Coordinator
Jennifer Bird - Hospitality

Observers: Brooke Ratliff – AACTMAD Treasurer
Matt Schmees,
Jesse Metcalf-Burton, Zach Williams - JaZdance

Agenda topics

8:30 – 8:50	"New" lesson syllabus	Teaching Coordinator
8:50 – 9:00	AACTMAD Fund Raising "Party" for new building	AACTMAD Board
9:00 – 9:15	DJ Training/On-going education	Music Coordinator
9:15 – 9:30	Any other business/updates? <i>New space downtown - possibilities?</i> www.a2phoenixcenter.com <i>FNS Swing scheduling with upcoming events:</i> - Bill Borgida workshop by Andrea Yun: Sept 18 - 20 www.bbinaa.com - DETLX by SwingDetroit: Nov 13 - 15 www.swingdetroit.com - Pirate Swing by JaZdance: March 12 - 14 www.pirateswing.com <i>Next Meeting? Monthly?</i>	All
9:30 – 10:00	Individual discussion	All

Other:

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20 minutes	"New" lesson syllabus	Teaching Coordinator
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Discussion: Intermediate lesson not working as is – ideas for improvement

3 types of responses to inquiries 1) ok as is: do you come? - No 2) Progressives – hard to find availability for same teachers entire month 3) Special topics – hard to DJ and still keep beginner friendly

Blues – what do you do? Perhaps have lesson later in evening?

Perhaps ask mailing list – survey of what they'd like to see? (JaZdance had good response from survey – see below)

Hardly anyone comes to beginner lindy hop – need to market it more or do a different format

Beginner – 1) too frequent: once a quarter may be better 2) should be a series (progressive)

Drop in should not be a series (discourages brand new people from starting)

Intermediate should be East Coast – geared towards those who take beginner east coast

<So, when do we teach Lindy?>

Switch between East Coast & Lindy (ref: SAA intermediate always assumes you know Lindy Hop)

Coordinate with SAA to plan series? (so people don't need to wait too long for Lindy)

Good that beginner lesson is always East Coast for retention – more "true" beginners than on Weds

Jazdance survey – 75% Lindy Hop; 50% Charleston; 50% Blues

Conclusions:

Start by conducting survey, continue to revisit monthly

Action items:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Send email to poll membership what they want for lessons	Matt O	9/30
Give access to AACTMAD email for committee members	Holly	done

10 minutes	AACTMAD Fund Raising "Party" for new building	AACTMAD Board
<p>Discussion: AACTMAD Swing late-night on Oct 2 & questions on new AACTMAD facility</p> <p>Fri, Oct 2 – 8:30 – 9p demos 9 – 10p contra & English; 10:30 – 11p: Swing demo & lesson; 11 – 11:30p – Swing dance</p> <p>Would Oct 2 be ok for a late night? WCLX weekend – less advanced dancers than usual in town</p> <p>At the party: Trying to get AACTMAD membership to try different dances</p> <p>Late night party 11:30 – 1am (?); FREE (hat will be passed for fundraising) – at the new space – whole event will probably run late - 2amish end time suggested to bring in people from Friday Night Swing and feel that they get enough dancing</p> <p>Not sure yet if need DJs</p> <p>Help with cleanup; need floor lamps</p> <p>New Building questions:</p> <p>Do we need to rent it every week? – must we use it? – no group is forced to reschedule its weekly events</p> <p>New building – must haves, why missing? PDF is on-line which lists answers – natural light, multiple events – partitions</p> <p>Loans vs. fund-raise – are no interest loans avail \$30,000, Pittsfield open bank \$10,000 certificate, but want to see how much can fundraise first</p> <p>Rent can help pay a loan once ballroom is available for dances</p> <p>Bid expires in November – probably add another month</p> <p>Business Plan shows facility rented out 52 weeks – goals, not expectation – 1st year may not break even (per Brooke: may take 3 yrs to break even)</p> <p>AACTMAD can buy up to 49% from Greg & Gretchen – or AACTMAD can decide to opt out</p>		
<p>Conclusions:</p> <p>Friday Night Swing would like to support AACTMAD in its proposal to construct a new community dance space, but will most likely *not* use the space for its weekly dance, but may for special events (especially if cost is competitive with other large spaces)</p>		
<p>Action items:</p>	<p>Person responsible:</p>	<p>Deadline:</p>
<p>Are Friday Night Swing DJs needed for the late night on Oct 2? (will work with Janna if so)</p>	<p>Brooke</p>	<p>9/18</p>
<p>Promote Oct 2 plan: end promptly @ 11:45p – progress over there – Free but pass the hat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advertise until 2AM ish - ask email list about cleanup help 	<p>Holly</p>	<p>9/18</p>

15 minutes	DJ Training/On-going education	Music Coordinator
Discussion: Music – DJ Training and new CD players		
<p>Training DJs – used to just ask for set list – concerned not providing enough guidance New program – peer program where sit with established DJs; have yet to hold DJ forum Sundays in Sept may be best because of football Would like to do in Dakota – to review equipment as well as train; 2nd DJ is supposed to be able to close the studio Sept 27 possible? CD players – SAA ones may be available for purchase Janna has talked with equipment people – info about what to get) Training process – want to be fair to everyone How to get through faster? ½ hour set sitting with people? – to get more people in Only one person at a time – too confusing otherwise Making a set list not so helpful as actually DJing live? Current 3 people for sitting is good – Matt O; Janna; 3rd of their choice If have backlog of people – may do ½ set? What about people who aren't ready? If they're done with process – ask for another set list? Can we say if it just doesn't work? Yes we can... or may use late nights to get more experience? If willing to still work on it, keep them in the pool... are they paying attention to floor? Could they learn? DJ suggestion box – comments – way to poll the crowd – encourage to fill out cards when good – be as specific as possible to identify – date and time Certain rules that need to be followed for DJing (ref: SAA has guidelines – don't do class anymore) Janna does need more DJs – gets lots of feedback – balance between new and experienced DJs during month</p>		
Conclusions:		
Continue to revisit; start with comment cards; hold DJ summit by mid-October (schedule permitting)		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Summit: Forward Dakota contact to Janna	Holly	Done
Summit: Contact Dakota about scheduling (Sept 27 or Oct 11)	Janna	9/22
CD players: Ask SAA for price; let Janna know price and which models	Zach	9/22
CD players: Purchase ☺	Janna	9/30
Feedback: Music comment cards – go thru Janna – put box in lobby	Holly	9/25
Feedback: Talk about more music – how to get feedback – next time	Holly	Oct meeting

15 minutes	Any other business/updates?	
Discussion: Upcoming Events		
Bill B workshop		
DETLX – built around Big 3 – Nov 13 to 15 – probably hold FNS as usual, since Friday dance in Detroit may be cost/transport prohibitive (but talk to Paul about how to make this easier on those without cash/vehicles, e.g. student discount)		
Pirate Swing workshop – March Dakota may be too small; JaZdance will let us know as soon as they can; will reimburse FNS for that week's rental if space cannot be rented to another group. Will provide free beginner lesson on Friday from a visiting instructor *No* Friday late-night since classes start early		
New space downtown: A little bigger and same price? May consider moving, if can get weekly on Friday evening – may need to decide soon What about Parking and A/C?		
Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Sept 18 – Advertise 7:45pm Blues lesson with Bill B \$5 for lesson & dance – no beginner lesson	Holly	9/16
Sept 18 – How/when/who to open studio?	Holly	9/16
DETLX: Find out more info from Paul; invite him to Oct meeting	Holly	Oct meeting
Phoenix Center: new downtown space - discuss	Holly	Oct meeting