

Paws 2 Dance General Meeting January 9, 2011

In Attendance: Ray Underwood, Gail Walsh, Karen Eskilson, Lin MacDonald, Lydia Francescutti, Tristan Underwood, Jean Dawson, Debra Hampton, Bonnie Fergusson, Vickie Phillips, Jan Hodge, Nina Green, Ann Grue, Grazyna Pstrong, Joyce Johnston, Ann Reiland, Joan Strick, Sharon Lunde, Alison Trinkaus, Annette Granbois

Presentation to Brookwood Senior Centre: By way of thanking the seniors of Brookwood for allowing Paws 2 Dance to rehearse at the hall for extended hours leading up to the Gala, as well as allowing us to use the hall for garage sales and workshops, Bonnie and Lydia presented a cheque for \$1000 to the senior center. On hand to accept the cheque on behalf of the seniors were President Peggy Thomsen, Vice-President June Larsen, Past President Sheila Stach, and several other members. The funds will be used to replace the Brookwood signage. Peggy thanked Paws 2 Dance whom she called an inspiration, and said the seniors club will continue to support them. Mildred, June, Astrid and Sheila invited Paws 2 Dance to share in refreshments.

President's Message: Gail welcomed everyone, especially new members and thanked everyone for all their hard work over the past year.

Vice President's Message: Happy new year from Karen.

Treasurer's Report: All bills have been paid, leaving us with assets of \$13,400. (the \$1000 for Brookwood still needs to come out). Lin plans to separate show costs from general fund costs next year. Lin has a breakdown of report if anyone wants to see it.

New Play: As our first theatrical endeavor was successful, Ray aims to make the second one a little more complex, and give meatier roles to all dogs yet not stretch the dogs beyond their abilities. It will involve more group routines that require synchronization. In order to put them together and to music, Ray needs commitment from performers. That is, if one person doesn't want to rehearse, it would not be fair to the others. Before he choreographs entire sections, he needs to know who will put their heart into the production. He will take a few more risks, knowing we can put the effort into it. For "Escape the Darkness" Ray was not comfortable telling individuals if they were not pulling their weight. This time, he will. The sooner Ray and Lin know when members can not make the rehearsals, the easier it would be to work around the issues. We will hold two performances – an evening and a matinee.

Lin reviewed the commitment sheet. Let Lin know when you will not be available for rehearsals. Lin has a belly dancer friend who may come in one evening for a basic movement class. We will still build the set – Lin will structure some "take-home" projects and start soon so that we are not killing ourselves just before the event. Preliminary Budget: slightly higher because we have a little more time at the theatre. Income: on roughly the same number of sold tickets, we would still need to do about \$10,000 worth of fund-raising and Ray expects to bring in approximately \$20,000. In Corporate Sponsors. We will have to review fundraising ideas down the road. Lin also broke down our previous fund-raisers from most to least effective, giving us a good idea about how to focus our efforts.

Annette has already started with the costumes. Be patient. They will be done eventually. Don't count on cost being any less. Lin will set up some sort of payment system that she will track.

Elections:

Jan volunteered to stand as Demo Chair. No further nominations were forwarded.

Jan was elected by acclamation. Debra has volunteered to help. Demo February 11, Friday 1 p.m. in Richmond, in a carpeted indoor venue.

Lyd volunteered to stand as Show Chair. No further nominations were forwarded.
Lyd was elected Show Chair by acclamation. Karen has volunteered to help.

Acknowledgement: Jan thanked Vickie for all her hard work and for creating the many happy memories.

Vickie did a great job despite working full time and doing volunteer work in Africa. Jan hopes Vickie will be sitting close to the phone as she will need help from time to time. Lydia acknowledged all Annette's work over her years as vice-president. Among many other tasks, Annette carted music gear and mats to performances, hosted parties, made her home available to out-of-town freestylers, sewed costumes, carried "bling" through airports, and kept everyone excited about our Gala.

Archivist

Sharon has volunteered to be our new archivist. If anyone has photographs, newspaper clippings, or any other artifacts, please send them to Sharon. Thanks to Jan, our "First Ten Years" binder is now full, and a GALA Celebration binder has been started but may need some tweaking. Sharon will start a new binder beginning with 2011 events.

Souvenir Scrap book: We had spoken earlier of a souvenir scrapbook for the gala. The cost would be approximately \$15 - \$20. There clearly is interest. Person to do this TBA. Lin has offered to work with anyone who would like to take this project on and help with the 'techno-geeky' bits! So far, Karen & Lydia have offered to form a committee. Anyone else?

Gala DVD: Gail introduced Ben, Justin, and Enzo, who are finishing the DVD. It will now take about 10 more hours to export it onto a DVD. They will give Lin 25 copies. For selling, Ben will write up a 'Usage Agreement' between the 2 groups. The maximum we can charge per DVD is \$30. Below 30: we pay based on the number of songs: \$170 plus tax. Over 30 – \$3.25 per copy. TV Promotion: We have been advised to see about fees closer to night. They would not be much. For YouTube & Website: we have been advised to keep the length to the current legal limit of not more than 90-second clips.

Moved (Jean Dawson/Karen Eskilson) to pay License fees for 100 DVDs. Carried

Moved (Joan Strick/Annette Granbois) to charge \$15 per each DVD. Carried

Discussion. Bonnie suggests giving a portion to charity.

Jean feels this idea is premature. We don't know which charity.

Karen suggests mentioning that we are proud supporters of "Critter Care" and Brookwood seniors"

By consensus, it was agreed that Cast members will also pay for DVD's.

In addition, we will create a short promotional DVD to provide to sponsors. Ben suggests watching the DVD first and then selecting the favorite parts and telling the videographers *exactly* what we want. They may be able to help if the selections match the documentary otherwise, they would not be able to do it for us. Karen mentioned after the meeting that her son, Ken is adept at that sort of thing and she could have him make the promotional DVD. (Ken has agreed to do that)

Show Name: Lyd had suggested calling our spring event "Dance the Skies." She has dropped the motion. The spring competition will continue to be "Prancing Paws."

Logo Colors

It was suggested by Lin to change the color of our turquoise Paws 2 Dance logo to the colors of the gala logo. Lin will play around with some blues to make sure she has color that is easy to see on the black paw. Joan & Jean also made the suggestion of using heather colored products (light ash grey) for T shirts, etc.

Modifying Brookswood fee payments

It was suggested by Lin to change the **Brookswood** fee P2D members pay at the Brookswood Senior's Centre to the following:

Regular Lessons (15 minutes once a week) \$45 per year, payable in January (in lieu of the \$1 per lesson)

Privates: \$2 per hour, pay on arrival

Dressage/Team/Rehearsals: \$2 per hour

-can pre-pay. i.e. for Dressage pay \$24 when paying for 12 sessions

Drop-In: \$2 per hour, pay on arrival *(Note: this is in addition to \$20 yearly membership)*

Moved (Ray Underwood/Jean Dawson) to adopt the new fee schedule.

Carried

Put envelopes with money or cheques in the kitchen drawer. Payable "Brookswood Seniors Centre"
(a separate email will be sent to help explain this)

Dates for General and Executive Meetings:

Gail suggests having four scheduled General Meetings with Executive Meetings preceding each one.

Moved (Gail Walsh/Jan Hodge) to pre-schedule four meetings: The second Sunday of January, April, July, and October. (This year, it will be the first Sunday in October because of Thanksgiving)

Carried

Executive meetings will be the first Wednesday of January, April, and July, and October (This year it will be the week before the October meeting because of Thanksgiving).

Minutes: Minutes of Executive Meetings will now be posted on our Members-only site, thereby keeping everyone apprised of what is going on. Also, any items up for discussion will be sent out to all members prior to the general meetings. All members are encouraged to come to any Executive meetings that they wish - please contact Gail so that she can let you know where we are meeting each time as it is often in a restaurant!

New members-only web site: Lin has done an excellent job. Have there been any problems accessing it?
Check it out. It's awesome!

Critter Care Presentation: Newspapers would prefer to take the photographs at Critter Care in order to include photos of the animals. Date: 1 p.m., Wednesday, January 12th at Critter Care.
Able to attend: Gail, Annette, Lin, Sharon, and possibly Jean.

Competitions: Checklist: Lyd will start tapping people. A list will be ready in a couple weeks.

Fun Match. Several people are interested in having one. People can have choice of performing as they would a competition (complete with judging) or use it as a training session. Lyd will try to organize one for before the April Competition.

Comportment committee: We will be revising the comportment policy. It will be up for discussion at our next executive meeting.

Next Executive Meeting: Monday, April 6

Next General Meeting: Sunday, April 10