CFOOTMAD Meeting Minutes, November 19 2018

Attendance: Nancy Reindl, Sam Smith, Christa Torrens, Steve Thomas, Mark Berte.

Also Present: Sharon Thomas

1. Personnel Business

<Recorded in separate file.>

1. Minutes from September were approved.
2. Addressing poor attendance at Denver dances.

* Since moving to the Scheitler Center, attendance has been low. This appears to be an across-the-board trend, rather than a result of any particular band or caller.
* It’s likely that we’re splitting attendance between the Denver and Zesty dances, since both are now at the same venue. However, shifting the Zesty to be opposite a Boulder dance raises questions of conflicts with Fort Collins dances and dancers.
* Other possibilities we discussed:
  + An earlier start time, since the dance gets very thin after the break.
  + The ever-elusive goal of effective promotions.
  + Dancer supply and demand—having fewer dancers means that more people will leave. Gender balance may be an issue here.
  + Hall quality. Some dancers are less keen on Scheitler as a dance venue. Duffy wasn’t able to find other venues that met our criteria, but this may be worth revisiting.

1. Inclusivity

* The larks-and-ravens experiment gave us some useful information, but much of the promotion and conversation surrounding it seemed to turn off experienced dancers, rather than steering the community in a more positive direction.
* The binders and posters Mark prepared don’t seem to be getting much use. (They were misplaced in the Denver move, and are just sitting on the front table in Boulder.)

1. Attracting New/Younger Dancers

* We discussed several possibilities for a new dance to replace the former Westminster. We’re still not sure what its guiding vision would be, or how it would balance the goals of inclusivity, attracting younger dancers, or leading-by-example for the broader CFOOTMAD community.
* Even so, the board would be favorably disposed to a proposal, emerging from the larks-and-ravens experiment and the collaboration with the Rainbeaus.
* Some other sources of inspiration:
  + Will Loving’s proposal for emphasizing Techno contras.
  + Drawing on the examples of successful youth-friendly Contra organizations, including the downtown Amherst dance and BIDA. Talk to Heather Carmichael about this?
  + Scott Rowe’s proposal for dances at the CU-Boulder Campus (and perhaps other universities?)

1. Improving our lessons.

* George Marshall’s visit showed us some of the weaknesses of our beginners’ lessons—especially those in Boulder. We’ve also had some complaints about the terminology used in lessons, and how welcoming they are to new dancers.
* We’d like to hold some workshops for lesson-givers and callers.
  + Would these be required?
  + Could these be part of the Rendezvous weekend?
* There was a proposal to invite Erik Erhardt up from NM, possibly in combination with asking him to program and call a techno-contra.
  + Does he have the pedigree/experience to teach such a workshop?

1. Rendezvous Weekend.

* Duffy is getting registrations already. Hurrah!
* Have we finalized decisions about scholarships?