



Vancouver
dance scottish



RSCDS Vancouver Branch - Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
July 25, 2020
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM or Earlier Followed by a Picnic
Heather's Garden at 3776 Quesnel Drive in Vancouver

Attendees: Heather Hankin, Christine Cardinal, Sandra Anderson, Vicki Downey, Tereza Cabral, Janet Mason, Stewart Cunningham, Gillian Beattie, Sue Biddle, Barbara Kisilevsky, Frances Caruth

Regrets: None
Guests: None

Recorded by: Sue Biddle (I-X) and Frances Caruth (XI-XVI)

I. Call to Order

Heather called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

The members were presented with tartan facemasks hand made by Gillian Beattie and Janet Mason.

- A. **Approval of Agenda:** Fran moved to approve the Agenda; Janet seconded the motion. Carried
- B. **Approval of Minutes for June 6, 2020:** The minutes of the meeting were corrected. Barbara moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Gillian seconded the motion. Carried
- C. **Approval of In Camera Minutes for June 6, 2020:** Sue read the In Camera Minutes. Vicki moved to approve the 'In Camera' minutes; Fran seconded the motion. Carried
- D. **Business Arising**
 - 1) **AGM – September 18:**
 - a) Reports all in
Heather has received all Board member's AGM reports.
 - b) In person, virtual, or hybrid format:
The Board decided that a Virtual meeting would be the best choice. The Board will decide if only members will receive an invitation to the meeting.
Action - Heather
 - c) Directors and members must renew
An email will be sent out to remind members to renew before the AGM.
A quorum is currently 10% of the membership.
Action – Gill

- 2) **Calendar of Monthly Tasks from each Director:**
Heather has received some information from the Board and will pass it to Sue to create a master calendar of major monthly tasks to be completed.
Action - Heather
- 3) **RSCDS Plans – Attachment #1**
The attachment addresses ways of keeping members engaged in Scottish Country Dance through the Summer Celebration Event from Monday, July 27th, through Saturday, August 1st.
- 4) **Bumper Sticker:** The approximate cost of a bumper sticker is \$1 per sticker. The Board decided to go ahead with the bumper stickers and would like the Branch logo to appear on the sticker.
Action - Tereza

Barbara made a motion to go “in Camera”; Gillian seconded the motion. Carried

The Board came out of ‘in camera’ and resumed the regular meeting.

II. Branch Administration

A. Vice-President’s Report

Vicki has cancelled all event bookings at the SCC from August through December. She asked about signing authority at the bank so she can be added. Vicki made a suggestion that the Minutes of the Board Meetings include the attachments when posted on the Website. The Board agreed to add this suggestion to next month’s agenda.

Action - Heather

B. Treasurer’s Report

1) Financial Statement (including Darrell McLeod’s Annual Invoice Paid and Heather Ball 2020 Donations

There are some small changes to the June financial statement. \$700 has been received in membership fees; \$420 was paid for computer services; the Heather Ball donations have been receipted; and there has been a small gain from the investment funds.

2) Insurance Liability: The Branch insurance coverage is insurance against a liability incurred by the RSCDS and therefore RSCDS first has to be held liable.

3) Insurance Coverage – keep or cancel: Our present insurance coverage expires on September 30, 2020. Stewart will consult our insurance agent regarding renewal of the policy with the current COVID-19 restrictions. Stewart will report back to the Board and the Board can decide on the future of insurance coverage

Action - Stewart

C. Corresponding Secretary’s Report

1) Delegates to RSCDS AGM November 7 at 2:00 PM BST (6:00 AM PDT)

The Board has appointed five delegates to attend the RSCDS AGM.

Heather asked for a volunteer to replace Gillian who would like to retire. Fran has volunteered. The delegates will be Heather Hankin, Vicki Downey, Stewart Cunningham, Sandra Anderson and Fran Caruth.

III. Membership

- A. 2020 – 2021 Dues Paid since July 1st, 2020
There are 20 members as of July 24, 2020 plus 8 life members.
There are 10 single members (9 x \$55 and 1 x \$65) = \$560
There are 5 joint members (4 x \$90 and 1 x \$100) = \$460
Paid to RSCDS:
Single 18 pounds x 10 and Joint 29 pounds x 5 = 325 pounds or \$557.83
The Branch retains a net of \$462
- B. Board Directors to Pay before AGM:
Most Directors have paid. All dancers must renew their memberships by paying their dues online as soon as possible in order to vote at the AGM.

IV. Recruitment and Retention Committee:

- A. Meeting with Club Presidents/Reps on July 21st – **Attachment #4**
The clubs shared information on what they are doing to stay connected with their dancers and how they plan to proceed in the fall. The group discussed how the Branch could give value for their renewed memberships.

V. Archives:

Tereza has been researching the archives

VI. Publicity

- A. Publicity Director Report: There are three new members on Meet Up. Janet felt that it was important to keep the existing members (over one hundred). Janet made a motion that we continue our membership with Meet Up for another six months at a cost of \$98 U.S.; Sue seconded the motion. Carried.
- B. Facebook: no activity
- C. Dem Team: no activity
- D. Visits to Clubs: no activity
- E. White Cockade and Website: The Board will discuss at the August 29th meeting whether or not the attachments should be posted online with the minutes.

VII. Equipment: no activity

VIII. Dancing and Teacher Development

- A. Dance Coordinator's Report – **Attachment #2**
 - 1) Branch Teachers' Meeting on July 12 – **Attachment #3**
The Teacher's Meeting addressed the issue of Scottish Country Dancing during the Corona Virus Pandemic. Three options were explored: Solo dancing, Scottish Country Dancing with Six Feet of Separation, and Virtual Scottish Country Dance. The Teachers put forward recommendations to the Branch.
Fran made a motion 'that there be no Branch sponsored, 'in person', dancing through the rest of 2020, and that the situation be reviewed in November 2020.' Barbara seconded the motion. Carried.
 - 2) Use of Vouchers for Colin Dewar and Alasdair Macleod
Colin Dewar and Alasdair Macleod are available in January and February 2022. Their airline vouchers are valid until April 20th, 2022.

It was suggested that they play for the Love to Dance workshop and perhaps arrange a concert the following day. Heather will confirm with them.

Action – Heather

- IX. Events:** The decision to suspend all “in person” dancing for the year has resulted in the cancellation of many of the following events.
- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| A. | Welcome Dance – August 24 | cancelled |
| B. | Ceilidhs: | cancelled |
| C. | Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance: | cancelled |
| D. | Betwixt & Between – December 28: | cancelled |
| E. | Burns Supper 2021 – January 16 | Evaluate in November |
| F. | Love to Dance – February 20 | Evaluate in November |
| G. | Heather Ball 2021 – March 27 | Evaluate in November |

In case the Heather Ball 2021 is cancelled, Sandra will contact Marion Anderson now to see if she is available for the Heather Ball 2022.

Action - Sandra

- X. News of Members:** Beth Armour’s younger son Douglas passed away. Cathrine Conings and Sheila McCall received certificates at TAC for their 25 years of service. Heather will write congratulatory notes to them. Isobel Hyde is doing well.

Action - Heather

- XI. SCCS:**
When we are allowed to dance again, Janet suggested we should apply for the Scottish Cultural Education Funding.
The RSCDS Vancouver Branch is entitled to two positions on the SCCS Board. Currently Stewart Cunningham and Duncan Mackenzie represent the Branch. Stewart is retiring and Duncan who is also the Treasurer for the SCCS would likely retire as a Director if the Branch proposed a suitable second candidate for a Directorship. The Branch must identify one, or preferably two candidates to serve as Directors on the Board of the SCCS.

Action – August 29th Agenda

Stewart reported that there was serious consideration being given to selling the Centre. He thinks it could happen within the year. As well as dealing with all the physical changes associated with the sale of the building, the SCCS Directors would be responsible for the management of the proceeds of the sale.

The Board must decide how it will address the loss of dance space and consider the need for a new geographical/physical location to support our “Identity”.

Action – Board Members

The seven member societies of the SCCS are:

- St Andrews and Caledonian Society
- B.C. Pipers Association
- Sons of Scotland and Benevolent Society
- RSCDS
- Murray, Nairn and Banff Association
- Gaelic Society of Vancouver
- B.C. Highland Dance Association

The AGM for the SCCS is held in November.

XII. USCS

The Highland Games were cancelled and currently, due to COVID, there are no plans for gatherings.

XIII. USSAL

Nothing to report

XIV. Additional Business

No additional business

XV. Next Meeting

Saturday, August 29, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

Gill Beattie made a motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Attachments

#1	RSCDS Plans	Andrew Kellett / Heather Hankin
#2	Dance Coordinator's Report	Frances Caruth
#3	Scottish Country Dancing During the Corona Pandemic	Frances Caruth
#4	Recruitment & Retention Committee	July 21-20 meeting
#5	'In Camera'	

Attachment #1 – RSCDS Plans

A Summer Celebration Event

While we cannot re-create the magic of a Summer School online, the Society is looking forward to hosting a virtual celebration of Scottish dance from **Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July**.

Please remind your members that there will be 5 live evening sessions taking place from 20:00 to 21:15 BST Monday – Friday, featuring a mixture of dance, music, information and global connections with additional chat time. These sessions will be recorded and made available for those in different time zones.

The finale to the week, on **Saturday 1 August**, will be a Summer Social with a dance playlist chosen by our members. Members have until the 17th of July to vote for their favourite Jigs, Strathspeys and Reels - please remind members to [vote now!](#)

Over the week there will also be a series of musicians' workshops each containing some broad hints and tips about playing for dancing. Each workshop will have a theme – Jigs, Strathspeys, Reels – and each will come with music, backing tracks, help sheets and commentary from our Music Director.

Email from Andrew Kellett on July 14

Heather

Thank you for getting in touch and good to know that Vancouver Branch is making plans for the near future. It is so important to keep dancers active and engaged with the RSCDS.

The RSCDS Board has been delighted by the success of *Dance Scottish At Home* and the weekly podcast and on-line class. It has given us plenty of food for thought about how we communicate with members, the wider Scottish dancing community and the public in future. Things will not be the same. However, it is too early to say how they will be. In the next month or so we shall seek the preferences of members and branches on how they would like to receive information from Coates Crescent.

What has been decided is that following *Dance Scottish - A Summer Celebration* at the end of July, *Dance Scottish At Home* will be published once a fortnight. The team behind it have been working flat out and deserve some down time. Plus, in many places restrictions are beginning to ease and we are not quite so dependent on electronic communication for a social life. The Zoom class, though, will continue on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future and teachers have been booked for several weeks ahead.

Hope that helps.

Andrew

From: Heather Hankin <heatherhankin@shaw.ca>
Sent: 14 July 2020 00:37
To: Andrew Kellett <chairman@rscds.org>
Subject: Autumn Continuation of Virtual Classes

Hi Andrew,

Many of us in British Columbia are enjoying the weekly RSCDS classes online through Zoom. In addition to exercise, they provide excellent instruction for Scottish Country Dancing. They also emphasize the importance of the social and friendship aspects of our favourite activity.

Our Branch Board is now looking forward to the fall to formulate plans for classes. Please could you tell us where the RSCDS Board is in terms of continuing the Zoom classes and Dance Scottish at Home? Are there other initiatives in the pipeline? Whatever you can share with us at this time will be most appreciated.

Many thanks,
Heather

Heather Hankin
President
Vancouver Branch
RSCDS

Attachment #2 – Dance Coordinator's Report

DANCING

We have not gathered for Scottish Country Dancing since March 11, 2020

Please see "[Scottish Country Dancing During the Corona Pandemic Meeting Notes, July 12, 2020](#)" attached to the Agenda for the July 25, meeting.

Unfortunately, the recommendation to the Board, is that there be no "in person" dancing through the rest of 2020, and that the situation be reviewed in November, 2020. The report also reviews some options and makes some suggestions for consideration by the Board.

The weekly virtual classes from RSCDS HQ continue on Zoom and an unknown number of Vancouver Branch members enjoy these. They certainly provide a focus for discussions among members. We know that these classes from HQ will continue for the foreseeable future.

Vancouver Branch Class members have been having a Zoom meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month. There are a group of dedicated dance friends (about 15-16 of us) who check in each time to say "hello" and share stories on enjoyable ways to entertain one's self during the COVID restrictions. Katherine Shearman has been offering a Zoom class to her beginners (the Scotland classes are too advanced for many of the beginners) and has been able to provide us with some first hand experience on trying to teach a physical skill, via video. Usually 3 or 4 dancers join her group on video.

At the Board meeting I will provide some anecdotal information on the way in which some clubs are dealing with this difficult situation.

There have been no other dance related activities in the past six weeks.

Fran Caruth
Dance Coordinator

Attachment #3 – Notes from Branch Teacher's Meeting on July 12th, 2020

Scottish Country Dancing During the Corona Pandemic. Meeting Notes – July 12, 2020

Present:

Heather Hankin – President of Vancouver Branch

Mary Murray – Senior Teacher Vancouver Branch

Katherine Shearman – Branch Teacher

Kay Sutherland – Demonstration Team Director and Step Dance Teacher

Alison Moen – Ceilidh Leader

Fran Caruth – Branch Dance Coordinator

Current Conditions:

We are still in the Pandemic (be it Phase 3) and new cases are still being reported each day.

The rules of physical distancing, masks and hand washing are still in place.

Gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited.

The WorkSafeBC protocols for the Performing Arts proposes that "if it is difficult to maintain physical distancing, install barriers such as plexiglass" (definitely a challenge for dancing).

There is no proven treatment for people seriously impacted by the virus.

Older people and people with pre-existing conditions are at greater risk.

Immunization against the virus is still an unknown number of months/year away and may never arrive.

It is a “known” that the risks of viral spread are greater when people are indoors and during exercise that increases the effort of breathing.

The risk of viral spread also increases as the contact time increases.

There is still the possibility of a second wave as we move into Fall/Winter and the activity of the Corona virus overlaps with the regular flu season.

Issues specific to Dancing at the Branch:

The Vancouver Branch is a legal entity with a responsibility to its members that requires it to be careful and conservative in any plans to bring members together for dancing.

The average age of the member community is over 65 (an estimate) and therefore the community is more vulnerable to serious health effects should they catch the virus.

Scottish Country Dancing is a “contact” form of exercise meaning that participants do breathe more heavily and do come in close contact with one another. Further, the dancing is normally done indoors and people are together, in close contact for extended periods of time (30+ minutes).

Options:

Knowing how much the dance community wants to get together and dance, but being cognizant of all the limitations, the group looked at options for Branch sponsorship of dancing.

1. Solo dancing – step dancing or “Scottish” line dancing

This was thought to be of interest and within the physical capability of a very limited number of Branch members. Step dancing requires significant balance and physical strength and in Vancouver we’ve had interest from only a small number of women dancers. SCD line dancing is not a current dance form and bears little resemblance to the art form of Scottish Country Dancing. More significantly, classes would have to be of very limited size allowing for all the distancing requirements, and the dancers would have to wear a mask which would be most uncomfortable when breathing hard.

2. Scottish Country Dancing with Six Feet of Separation and Wearing a Mask

We are aware that some groups in other jurisdictions have tried this but again, it bears little to no resemblance to SCD. The dancers have to be six feet apart which means formations are either done with imaginary partners, or with such great travelling distances that the number of steps per formation is doubled and of course still no handing. This might be a fun party game for experienced dancers but it would not be possible to teach people to dance Scottish in a setting like this.

3. Virtual SCD Classes with Branch Teachers.

RSCDS HQ has been providing a weekly virtual class and these classes are now on the web so that dancers have the ability to “re-attend” any of the classes they found particularly enjoyable. At this stage, there is only anecdotal information about how many of our dancers actually view the RSCDS classes and even more significantly – actually get up and dance with all the ghosts that are required to make even a 2-couple formation. For less experienced dancers the virtual classes are very difficult because they do not have the experience to work with imaginary partners.

What to Do:

Recommend to the Branch that:

- there be no in-person regular dance classes through the rest of this year.

- that the incidence of cases and the advice of the Health Department be monitored and the situation revisited in November leaving time for the Branch to plan for the Winter term.
- that all social events for the Fall Term be cancelled (Ceilidhs, Lady Aberdeen, Betwixt and Between).
- The Branch contact HQ and find out whether they expect to continue the virtual classes beyond September (Katherine/Heather)
- That the Branch send a questionnaire to members gathering information on their preference for virtual programs that might help them stay in touch. *

*Zoom meeting options could include using existing SCD footage as a stimulus/starting point for a class.

For example,

- (a) all the basic steps and footwork of SCD have already been filmed and are available on the RSCDS web site but we suspect that most dancers are not accessing these. However, if they were included as part of a discussion group, they might be considered more interesting or relevant.
- (b) There are many videos of groups doing popular and well-known dances. Perhaps these could be used to offer a “dance along” tutorial and some dancers may even feel comfortable expanding their bubble to include three other friends and doing the dances at home.
- (c) If feedback from the membership indicated that pre-recorded lessons by Branch teachers, (in the style used by HQ) would really be viewed by a significant number of members, that may also be possible.

None of the above precludes dancers from creating their own little dance group. It is assumed that there would be many of our teachers prepared to provide music and dance notes if requested.

Fran Caruth
July 12, 2020

Attachment #4

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION (R&R) MEETING BY ZOOM: NOTES

Tuesday, July 21 at 7:30 pm

Present: Heather, Vicki, Gilli, Janet

According to Dr. Bonnie Henry the likelihood is high for a Coronavirus spike in the fall. This puts dancing squarely on the back burner until such time that it is safe to dance again or that a vaccine is available. There will also be the potential once more for restricted activity and perhaps a lockdown. We had all read the Vancouver Sun Saturday 18 July article “One Step at a Time” which put dancing at the very top of the dangerous activities list and reminded us that “we just have to be patient”. There will then be a need to keep our membership engaged through physical activity and social connections. Those who pay their RSCDS membership will expect more than simply our White Cockade magazine and the Edinburgh communications. The question is:

How does the Branch give value to the membership?

Heather had recently attended the teachers’ meeting where there was a discussion on offering on-line classes by our local teachers.

Following spirited conversation and many suggestions, it was agreed that it would be a good idea to plan some regular communications by Zoom to keep our membership connected and participating socially. This could take the form of, for example:

- Classes by some of the teachers to the membership in general followed by a social
- Classes by club teachers to their own club members (note: Katherine is already giving on-line instruction to her own beginners class)
- Talks of interest to dancers, e.g. the history of SCD and RSCDS (if Rosemary were agreeable to this)
- Invite a speaker to talk about the value of dancing as we age
- Videos of past events, etc. etc.

To coordinate such an effort, canvass for ideas and schedule the weekly, bi-weekly or monthly events, there would need to be a small group to take this on. Heather suggested a couple of names.

The question was raised about the need for the Branch to continue to pay insurance to cover classes which will not be taking place. Heather will check with Stewart.

The feeling was that the upcoming AGM on September 18 would most likely be held on Zoom although it could be a hybrid event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm