

Tamworth Outing Club minutes, May 27, 2024

Present: Amy Berrier, Mark Fournier, Teresa Fournier, Wyatt Berrier, Pam Hayden, Sharon Morrison, Suzanne Balomenos-Morgan, Kit Morgan, & Barb Bloomberg.

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM, following a delicious potluck dinner at Wyatt and Grace's house.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from April were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Trailer Use Inquiry (*follow-up*)

Wyatt met with Shannon Cake soon after the April TOC meeting and showed her the snack trailer. She is interested in serving specialty sandwiches and he suggested that a tent might be a better option for this. As of yet, TOC has not received a business proposition from Shannon, as requested at the April meeting. Once again, several members of the board expressed concern about liability, damage, etc. if the trailer were to be used by a non-board member.

Second Saturday Dance Finances

Amy presented a proposal to the board for consideration to raise the amount that TOC pays to bands and callers. (*See proposal at the end of these minutes*). There was discussion about the dances. Teresa provided financial reports showing that the dances made a net profit of \$464 in 2023 and a net profit of \$286.65 from January-May 2024. Amy pointed out that even if a few dances are losing money during the year, the August and New Year's Eve dances draw large crowds and more than compensate in income, as shown by Teresa's reports. These dances are self-sustaining. The board agreed that bands and callers should be paid more than the \$300 currently. A motion was made to increase the door charge from \$8 to \$10 and to increase the payment to bands/callers from \$300 to \$400. This motion was amended to require that there be at least three paid performers at each dance (any combination of musicians and callers) in order for them to receive \$400. The amended motion passed. This will be effective starting with the June 8 dance.

Logo & Branding:

Wyatt shared draft logos of the “hands four” concept and proposed color schemes. These were put together by Grace Downey. The board voted for “THAT” by pointing to the version and color scheme of choice on the draft sheet. The logo chosen shows light hands/arms with a darker background. Coming soon to the new TOC website, letterhead, stickers, etc.

Snack Trailer

June 8

Rob and Wyatt will be working the snack trailer at the June 8 Arts Council of Tamworth event, “Afternoon by the Swift.” A motion was approved to allocate up to \$250 as a budget for the food at this event. They will purchase fifty burgers, fifty hot dogs, buns, watermelon, and drinks. Several people volunteered to bring baked goods. There will also be onions and cheese for the burgers and dogs.

Fireworks (July 5)

Mark and Teresa will take charge of the snack trailer at this event. Possibly Kent will assist as well. Bakers needed!

Family Day 5K Race:

Sharon gave an update and noted the need for more volunteers. So far, thirteen people have signed up. She encouraged board members to help put up flyers and tell friends and family about the race. Suzanne will post flyers at Hobbs and other places. Barb will take care of the Post Offices. The poster has a QR code for sign up (both volunteering and participation) through Ultra. This is a very easy process. Sharon has created a form to be used when soliciting donations, which can be used for all TOC events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01!

Next meeting: Monday, June 24, 6:45 @ Cook Library

Note: Dylan will run this meeting, as Wyatt will be away.

Minutes submitted by Amy Berrier, TOC secretary

TOC Second Saturday Dance Band & Caller Payment Ideas

- The TOC board should consider the question as to whether the Second Saturday Dances should: A) break even, B) make money, or C) be subsidized by TOC if the band cost is greater than money received at the door
- Currently, TOC pays \$300 per dance, which is divided between musicians and the caller. In some bands, the caller is one of the musicians. Other bands hire someone who just does the calling.
- Admission is \$8/person. Kids are free, but we rarely get any kids these days.
- With these figures, we need to get 37.5 people @ \$8 each to cover the \$300 band/caller fee.
- Many of our musicians travel from places like Canterbury, Dover, Wolfeboro, Conway, and for some even farther (Freeport, ME, for example). And, of course, there are musicians from Tamworth who don't have far to travel 😊
- Other dances in the region charge \$10-\$15. Some suggest a sliding scale for entry, or do it "by donation."
- According to one caller who has researched this, the Tamworth dance pay to bands/callers may be the lowest in the region.
- Feedback from musicians and callers who come to Tamworth:
 - More money would make it easier to hire a separate caller, thereby freeing up the musicians (who often play and call) to play a wider and more interesting array of tunes.
 - More money would be welcome, especially for bands with a larger number of paid players who would split the money. Some bands have up to five or six people.
 - Offering better pay might enable our band/caller booker, Dexter Harding, to attract a wider array of groups to come to Tamworth from afar. Currently, he says that some people are not interested in coming the distance to Tamworth for \$300, from Maine or Seacoast NH, for example.
 - There is concern by some of our regular musicians that TOC not "lose money" on our dances. Many current bands and callers would continue to come to Tamworth for what we currently pay.
 - Payment that musicians and callers receive for performing at a dance covers travel, practice time, musical and sound system, and the general wealth of knowledge and talent that they bring.

Proposal A:

- Keep payment at \$300

Proposal B:

- Raise payment to \$400 and keep door charge at \$8
- \$400 was suggested as a fair amount by at least two band leaders, when asked
- Break-even for this would be 50 people @ \$8

Proposal C:

- Raise payment to \$400 and raise door charge to \$10
- Break-even for this would be 40 people @ \$10

Proposal D:

- Raise payment to \$400 and offer sliding-scale admission, from \$8-\$15 for example

Proposal E:

- Raise payment to \$400 and solicit “dance partner” sponsors to help defray the cost. This was done in the past with mixed success and more work.

Proposal F:

- Any other ideas.....