

Corvallis Folklore Society  
Special Meeting of the Board    Sunday, December 11, 2022

MEETING CONVENED: 1:00 PM via Zoom, hosted by Jason

ATTENDING: Jason Schindler, CFS President; Van Fister, CFS Treasurer; Anne Smith, CFS Secretary;

CFS Board Members: Chere Pereira, Dick Thies, Linda Herlihy, Bill Pfender.

CFS Members: Beth Brown, Rob Gandara, Dave Rabinowitz

SPECIAL BUSINESS

- Proposed Corvallis Celtic Festival
- CFS sponsorship and application to Corvallis Parks & Rec department

Corvallis Celtic Festival: Beth Brown presented

- Overview of mission and goals for a local Celtic Festival in Corvallis
- Summary of what has been done so far and
- Description of what CCF requests from CFS.

Original proposal dated 11/14/2022

- Inaugural Celtic music event in Corvallis:
- Primary focus to be participation in a range of Celtic cultural activities:
- local musicians & bands, live performances, jam sessions, participatory sessions, workshops for learning instruments, singing & dancing.
- Events designed for all ages at little, to no, cost.
- Events could be held at local businesses/ venues.

Steering committee: Rob Gandara, Beth Brown, Leslie Glassmire, BJ Tighe.

- CCF representatives have met with City Parks & Rec director, James Mellein. Response was positive as the City already co-sponsors other concerts & events in Central Park.
- They also met with organizers of Fall Festival, but found the scale of that event was not in line with CCF vision for a small festival.
- City Parks would provide stage, sound, advertising in Central Park at no cost, including water, electricity, stage, and advertising in the Activity Guide. The city has fiscal responsibility for parks staff and their loss of rental fees for the park. However, the city will ONLY provide services as a co-sponsor with a sponsoring non-profit (such as CFS)
- CFS is requested to provide non-profit status for this event, as well as provide an insurance coverage rider. All outside contracts would be made with the Celtic festival or CFS

DISCUSSION

Timing: Mid-July is slow period for city events; city encourages using event spaces throughout city during slow time for local businesses.

Location/Logistics: Central or dispersed?

Dispersed options:

- Old World Deli, Majestic, Common Fields, Corvallis Community Center, Benton County Museum-downtown, Imagine coffee. City wants Starker Park to be used
- Con: Spreading out: divides the attendance; loses energy

Centralized option: use traditional venue but allow spill-over into downtown;

- Simpler set-up - could still use Arts center for workshops with some flow downtown

Workshops: local talent

- Professional fiddler- Cape Breton
- Laura Zaerr - harp
- Shari Ame

Bigger name band as draw?

- Bidly on the Bench- Irish band from Portland. Usual fee = \$800. Needs housing.
- The Fire?
- Bigger show could be produced as separate concert by CFS with no City involvement

Philosophy: First year festival should aim low to ensure success; focus on low-key participation

Festival needs sponsorship by CFS:

- The city requires sponsorship by a recognized non-profit (501c3) with insurance coverage rider on its insurance policy

### DISCUSSION

Insurance - are we covered for this type of event?

- Van will consult with CDSS about specific language in the city's contract and whether our current policy would cover the risks
- Emphasize goal of being small, local and free

ASCAP considerations:

ASCAP licenses vary; CFS pays the minimum based on numbers of events & participants.

CFS license: contra dance music was not addressed; so do not want to attract scrutiny

Clarify ASCAP relationship: emphasize festival as primarily an educational event featuring traditional music. Does ASCAP apply to educational uses

All CCF events are free, no charge = nothing to base % of sales for ASCAP

Example of Yachats Festival: ASCAP not considered because only Trad music

CCF Financing - Goal is to be budget neutral

NO Tickets - all events are free

Donations only - pass buckets; future grant writing

CCF vendors: Vending fee revenue (e.g. ~\$200 per vendor) will defray a lot of costs

CFS TO bear no financial liability in case of festival deficits

### PROPOSAL

CFS board will create a subcommittee to oversee plan creation & implementation to hold a Celtic Festival in Corvallis during summer 2023. Members of this committee will include Van, CFS treasurer, representing the CFS board and Beth & Rob representing the CCF executive committee.

### ACTION:

1. Submit written budget & timeline to CFS.
2. Contact CDSS.

Discuss language of city contract.

Explain CCF event; verify CDSS coverage

3. Contact city & clarify the conditional language in its application: "depending on the nature of the event". How could this affect CFS?

3. Clarify ASCAP requirements for event of this kind.

4. CCF appoint treasurer:

Coordinate with CFS treasurer; Handle donations collected by CCF,

Ensure funds from CCF are clearly tagged as separate from other CFS monies.

### NEXT MEETING PREVIEW

- Financial Reviews - Van (short notice?)
- Board member succession & recruiting
- Filling Board positions (Secretary, succession plans)
- Check-ins re Pandemic plans and Activities
- New systems for board communications and asynchronous voting

MEETING ADJOURNED 2:00 pm

Submitted by

Anne J Smith. CFS Secretary