

Austin Ballroom Dancers
Special (Conference Call) Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2020

Due to unforeseen events related to the occurrence of coronavirus COVID-19 cases in Austin, ABD President Margaret Melton arranged a special Board Meeting via a telephone conference call.

The meeting was initiated at 5:00 pm through telephone calls by Margaret to the other Board members.

Board Members Participating: Margaret Melton, Mark Coughran, Fred Ferate, Fredric Rhoads, Sonia Rhoads. Quorum was established.

Purpose of the Meeting:

To decide on a path forward with respect to the continuation of Session 3 ABD classes scheduled for March 17, 19, 24, and 26 at Hancock Recreation Center, and the ABD Saturday Dance scheduled for March 21 at Austin Uptown Dance.

Background Information:

1. General concern about the possible presence of COVID-19, and recommendations for protective measures from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention), which include maintaining a distance of 6 feet from other persons.

2. The news that one of the ABD instructors recently gave a private lesson to persons who were later designated as exposure risks, and then (before that information was available) to two ABD members.

Decision: Although Board members differ in their assessment of the risk of COVID-19 contagion, they voted unanimously to discontinue public ABD events, including the remaining Session 3 classes and the Saturday March 21 dance, during the rest of March.

Consequences:

1. The instructors for Session 3 were paid at the beginning of the Session.
2. ABD will negotiate with Hancock Recreation Center to pay the Center only for the classes which have been taught during Session 3.
3. The ABD Board considers the present situation to be an unforeseeable “Act of God”, and is not in a position to offer refunds to Session 3 students. However, depending on how the public health situation with respect to COVID-19 works out, it may be possible to offer those students partial credit for future classes.
4. ABD will notify everyone on their “Friends” email list of these decisions by the end of Monday, March 16, and post notice on the ABD website.
5. The ABD Board will continue to evaluate the situation, and will again post on their website and notify everyone on their “Friends” list by the end of March 30 as to whether they feel it appropriate to continue with Session 4 classes and the scheduled April 2020 ABD Saturday Dances.

The conference call was adjourned at 5:37 pm.