



2019-2020 Season – June 11, 2019 – Board Meeting

6:52 pm Call to Order

- Board members present:
 - Mike Ramirez (President)
 - Laura McNulty (Vice President – newly elected)
 - Angela Sass (Secretary)
 - Carolyn Knittle (Treasurer)
 - Hoang Bui (Social)
 - Krista Baskerville (Membership Oversight – newly elected)
- Carl Johnson (Music Director) was also present.
- Board members not present – James Sasek (Fundraising)

Presentation of Board duties by Current Officers and Election of New Officers

Membership Oversight and Vice President are the positions on the Board vacated by Loren Stoneberg and Derrick Hawks. Board duties were discussed. The Vice President position oversees the non-Board positions and performs the volunteer coordination. The non-Board positions include librarian, website administrator, advertising, programs and potentially a personnel manager. The Board slate was presented as follows:

- Mike Ramirez - President
- Laura McNulty - Vice President
- Angela Sass - Secretary
- Carolyn Knittle - Treasurer
- Hoang Bui - Social
- Krista Baskerville - Membership Oversight
- James Sasek - Fundraising

The full slate was accepted, with no objections from the floor. New officers are as noted above.

Secretary's Report – Angela Sass - Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes were reviewed as posted on the DMCO website/distributed via email. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted into official record.

Treasurer's Report – Carolyn Knittle

The Treasurer's report was distributed via email.

Regarding the Ballet:

- We received the check from the Ballet for \$1000.
- The cost for the ballet music was split between the Ballet and DMCO - \$3500 each. The Ballet typically covers the cost of the music – but now in this case DMCO owns this music and has permission to play this music in future concerts and ballets. When we perform this ballet again, the Ballet will not have to pay for music so a larger check may be received from the Ballet.
- DMCO paid \$1000 for the harpist who played in the ballet. In the future, perhaps James can write a grant specifically for funding for the harpist. A different harpist played for free for the Gamer orchestra. **Carl Johnson will ask this harpist if she would consider playing with DMCO.**

We received the bill from Drake for Spring concert, which was discounted. The cost was \$925 for both rooms for both days which is less than prior concerts. Drake prices have increased over the years. Franklin Junior High was mentioned as becoming more of a venue in town, but it is still very much in process. If Franklin does become a music venue, we may want to consider this space for our rehearsals and concerts. We will need to have an idea of our footprint to figure out if the space would work for us.

The Treasurer's report was accepted into official record.

Grants Report – James Sasek

James will need to start putting together a grant for the bells. Two years ago we received a grant from Prairie Meadows – we could try for this grant again for the bells. **We should also concentrate on a grant for a live harpist, if the harpist for the Gamer orchestra is not interested in continuing with DMCO.**

The Bravo grant is for operating expenses. Bravo does have another grant that is for capital expenditures, but the dollar amount has to be \$25K or above.

Membership Oversight

No report.

Social report – Hoang Bui

Very few refreshments were left at the Spring concert, but there were some left – the correct balance was found between ordering too much and not enough.

Old Business

A comment was made during the Annual Meeting that lighting is not ideal in the Performing Arts Hall, and that Drake should be made aware of this. **Carl Johnson said he will discuss with Dani Peters for the time it happens again that we perform in PAH.**

Regarding advertising:

- We need to be more proactive regarding advertising. For the Gamer orchestra concert, Aaron Barker appeared on TV with both KCCI and WOI. There were posters downtown in the skywalk and many other places around town. Around 280 people attended the Gamer concert – a very good crowd.
- It would be worth discussing creating large colored posters that would catch people's eye.
- It may also be worth looking into public radio, as in doing a one-year trial and ensure we maintain audience statistics to be able to come to a conclusion if it is working or not. Mike Ramirez moved to pursue this if the expenditure does not exceed 120% of \$600. The Board voted to pursue this option and do further research. Mike will own this action item and will put to an email vote with the Board over the summer.
- **Mike Ramirez will be seeing Jackie from WOI in two weeks and will discuss DMCO advertising with her.**
- **Carolyn Knittle has connections with Van from WHO and will discuss DMCO advertising with him.**
- **Angela Sass will discuss with Brian Kinnan and Fred Lange the advertising that is done for the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble.**

The discussion continued about the need to deaden the sound in our rehearsal space at Grace. This could happen with carpet. We are currently looking for a good source/price for 2000 square feet of carpet squares (12 inch or 18 inch). They need to fit tightly so we can wheel a piano across the room. We should be able to get a crew together to lay it down. Once we have a source/price, we need to present this to Grace. Kris Shay and Carl Johnson have already visited a variety of stores. **Julie Watson had expressed a potential contact at the annual meeting, Angela Sass to contact Julie. Hoang Bui will also ask her husband.**

Mike Ramirez had noted during the annual meeting that an email was received from John Sens, our DMCO webmaster, who is inquiring if there is any information missing from the DMCO website. John redesigned the website, which went live this season. Members had the following comments:

- The history of our prior concerts (programmed music mainly, dates) was included on our old website, but is not on our new one.
- The extra playing opportunities is included on the new website but is not very intuitive to find. The video gamer concert is not on the new site.
- Soloist bios and program notes would be interesting information for the website. Soloist bios should be available about 4 weeks before the concert.

The information could be extracted from the program information that is due to Standing Ovation.

- The question was asked if this is a public site or a site for mainly internal DMCO member usage. If it's a public site, we should add more content that would be interesting to the public.
- Are rehearsal schedules posted? Yes, they are on the site, John would just need the rehearsal information to post it.

Mike Ramirez will own getting back to John Sens regarding these thoughts on the website.

During the annual meeting a member asked if our concerts being recorded? They are being recorded, Mike is facilitating this effort. Two year of concerts are on SD cards, they just need to be processed. Mike asked if anyone has the capacity and knowledge to take the raw files and process them? They need to be cut into tracks. Rich Gordley said he would be happy to assist with this, as he has done this for us in the past. **Mike Ramirez will own working with Rich Gordley on this.**

New Business

The Board discussed the need to count audience attendance at concerts, ideally two people. Laura McNulty will own this task.

Eric O'Leary (string bass) owns a flower shop and has offered to donate flower arrangements with recognition in our programs. Carolyn Knittle will contact Eric.

Tim McMillin (music professor at Simpson College) has been asked to be the guest conductor for the 2019 Messiah.

Carl Johnson commented that we need more chairs for our rehearsal space. If there were around 20 more chairs, the rehearsal space for Grace's choir could stay set up along with the orchestra's.

Carl Johnson asked who is in charge of stuffing and unstuffing programs. For the Spring concert, Carl took the envelopes and surveys out of 600 programs. Someone needs to own taking everything out of the leftover programs, including bringing them to the next rehearsal to see if anyone else wants a program. **Laura McNulty is owning ensuring the programs are stuffed and unstuffed.**

Carl Johnson spoke about the 2019-2020 season:

- Fall concert is shaping up. The Fall concert includes a couple of band pieces that Carl is adding string parts to.
- Winter concert – Carl spoke with the Iowa Shakespeare Experience contacts again regarding doing a collaborative concert.

- Ballet – Wizard of Oz
- Spring – new pieces concert – planning on a piece for handbell choir and orchestra. The Des Moines Concert Handbells will be joining us.

Date set for next meeting – Tuesday, August 6th – 6:30 pm – Gilroy's

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.