

Ypsilanti Community Band Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

September 14, 2009 @ Lake Shore Apartment Clubhouse

Call to Order 7:10p.m. (Quorum of 5)

Present: Carter Adler, Paul Vaughn, Julie Becker, Howard Fillmore, Jerry Robbins, Trinka Benedict, Marge Taylor, Walt Hancock

Absent: Alan Aldworth, Jim Wagner, Mark Jeffers, Jon Kennedy, Aaron Taratsas, Beth Askew

***MOTION**: to approve minutes from August Board Meeting: Trinka, Julie (5-0-0).

REPORTS:

1. President (Carter): No Report
2. Treasurer (Alan): No Report
3. Secretary (Marge): No Report – provided copies of August meeting minutes.
4. Conductor (Jerry): Jerry emailed his report and handed out copies to those present (see attached document).
5. Business Manager (Paul): Paul passed out the updated YCB Rehearsal & Performance Schedule through 12-31-2010. Previously, the concert schedule was approved up until May, 2010. New points of discussion were:
 - a. The Holiday concert is on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Paul will correct the day on the schedule.
 - b. The Red Cedar concert is on February 27. We will submit an application as we have in the past.
 - c. The Ensemble concert is scheduled for Sunday, March 21 @ 2:00 p.m. (Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence building atrium).
 - d. Paul is checking into a joint concert to be held on March 25, in Livingston County or Novi.
 - e. Rehearsals at Whitmore Lake High School are set for another year.
 - f. The Town Band will rehearse for the next couple Tuesdays at WLHS @ 6:30pm. Paul is confirming this with Mike @ WLHS.
 - g. Update on the part-time "Development Director" position:
 1. There are 3 interviews set up for Thursday, Sept. 17. Should have the final candidate ready to be introduced to the band on the following Tuesday. The Board should be prepared to stay for a quick "stand up" meeting after rehearsal on Sept. 22.
 2. The payment will be \$500/mo. for 6 months with an option to extend if additional funding is appropriated.
 3. The person selected would be asked to primarily work with publicity/marketing, help update the website, and work with the personnel and fundraising committees.
 - h. Paul asked for input about next summer and the number of concerts we should schedule. In the past, we have performed in 6 summer concerts -- 2 of which produced income for the band (Milan, UA). If

the fireworks @ Lake Shore happens (no rain), that would be another source of income. Points of discussion:

1. Heritage Festival in August -- in place of the entire band playing, we could provide visibility by having a presence in the parade, a booth at the festival, or have a small group (the Town Band) play. Jerry would have to work through some logistics for the Town Band; also need to see how many players would be interested. There is a meeting soon by the Heritage Festival planning committee for next year; they want to "re-heritage" the festival (provide a more historical/authentic "flavor").
2. Look for summer events that have "built in" marketing, similar to Milan's "Concert in the Park" series. Some suggestions were: Manchester chicken broil, Farmer's Market, Celtic Festival in Saline. Paul will look for events like this and encourages board members to make suggestions. Carter suggested we continue to play 6 summer concerts and, in addition to the Milan concert, try to get 2 more scheduled that are part of an already established summer event.

***MOTION:** To approve the rehearsal and concert dates scheduled through December 16, 2010 with the possibility of adding more dates. (Trinka, Marge: 5-0-0).

6. Fundraising (Walt): The campaign to call people for donations has not been successful; at least 25% of the businesses are no longer in operation. Other fundraising events are:
 - a. The Kroger program: we could get up to \$1000-\$2000 from this program, but we have to push more to get people to sign up.
 - b. Passing the hat at concerts: has been successful. Want to do this again at the Oct. 22 concert. Carter will be getting ushers from the EMU music fraternity and can get a head usher. We will need about 4-6 collection plates.
 - c. Using a G-L script: this is a new program Walt is investigating which could provide about \$20,000/year. There is a fundraising meeting on Sept. 16 and he will get more information about this program.
 - d. All remaining concerts this year are sponsored. Walt will work on a sponsor for the Ensemble concert on March 21.
7. Library (Erica): A report was sent by Erica via email and is attached to these minutes.
8. Property (Aaron): Aaron was called in to work and could not attend; he will email an update to board members.
9. Personnel (Beth): No Report. At the first rehearsal this month, 49 members were registered and 55 players were in attendance in the room.
10. Publicity (No committee chair yet): Marge provided a copy of the August 25th publicity committee meeting minutes and summarized what was discussed (see attached document). Other discussion items were:
 - a. People giving presentations: Shirley Charbonneau has been attending the Ypsi Chamber of Commerce "1st Tuesday" breakfasts. Walt went with her to the one in September. Walt also belongs to the Ypsi Rotary organization and volunteered to talk about the YCB to that group. We should encourage others to volunteer for similar outreach.
 - b. Ypsilanti's 1st annual "Jamboree": the YCB had a substantial presence at this event during the Labor Day weekend. Shirley C. and Jerry Robbins spent a lot of time at the event. Marge helped set up on the first day and worked for several hours, along with a couple other YCB members. The event was not well-attended, but we handed out a lot of information and "give-aways". It would be nice to purchase a little "tent" for these kinds of events. Paul V. will check with Aaron T. about getting a tent.

- c. Publicity Chairperson: Carter has approached several people directly and has not been able to get a volunteer to serve as chair for this committee yet. Millie Irwin has stepped in as a temporary chair, but she will be in Florida for 6 months, beginning in late December. The new part-time development director can help out in this area.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Consideration of an "animal-themed" concert for next year: Since there were too many obstacles for this type of concert in Riverside Park, can we find another location? Suggestions were: the Humane Society, veterinary clinics, Riverview, somewhere in Milan. Paul V. will talk with folks at the Humane Society first, then check with others to see if we can find another location.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A new art center in Tecumseh: Julie Becker has been working with people in Tecumseh who are creating a center for the arts, on 30 acres of farmland, containing 2 outbuildings. They are looking for groups to include in the center. Julie will talk with Paul V. about this and forward the website address to him.
2. Holiday Concert meeting: The YCC is calling for a meeting for the holiday concert planning committee for Thursday, Sept. 24 @ 5pm. It will be held at Val Kabat's workplace -- the same location as last year. Nathan Sparks has volunteered to organize people from YCB to attend planning meetings this year. We need representation at these meetings. Nathan, Jerry, Paul will attend -- Trinkka will try to go. Marge will send the notes from the "recap" meeting from last year to all those who are going to attend. Paul said we are on track with arrangements for using Pease Auditorium.
3. Future YCB Board meetings: Lake Shore Apartments will allow us to use the meeting room for as long as we want. Paul will confirm with Lake Shore that we'd like to continue meeting there until further notice.
4. Jerry's email to the Board and his future plans: Jerry sent an email to board members and committee chairs, listing his concerns about the band's direction and his estimation that goals in the 1-year and 5-year YCB plans will not be met. He is contemplating resigning as conductor prior to the Spring of 2011. Discussion points were:
 - a. We are growing in our wants, needs, etc. and not growing in our membership. We keep going to the same people as volunteers and committees are having trouble getting help. We cannot meet goals when volunteers are spread too thin. Ultimately, we cannot do all the work ourselves and need people who are not in the band to help (non-playing members). The part-time development person will help, but we need to tap into some other sources.
 - b. We need to put a procedure in place in case Jerry resigns. Carter talked with the assistant conductors and they are willing to step in until we can search for a new conductor.
 - c. The board needs to plan a special session to address Jerry's concerns and to revisit the band's vision and our long-term planning. The next board meeting is Monday, Oct. 5 -- we will have a special session at this time. Carter will talk with Jerry and tell him about the special board session to address his concerns. Carter will also contact all board members and ask them to attend the meeting on Oct. 5.

Meeting adjourned: 9:40p.m. [Julie, Trinkka: 5-0-0]

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Taylor