

Ypsilanti Community Band Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

August 3, 2009 @ Lake Shore Apartment Clubhouse

Call to Order 7:20p.m. (Started with a quorum of 6; then it increased to 7)

Present: Carter Adler, Aaron Taratsas, Howard Fillmore, Julie Becker, Jerry Robbins, Trinka Benedict, Marge Taylor, Alan Aldworth

Absent: Paul Vaughn, Jon Kennedy, Mark Jeffers, Beth Askew, Cat McMacken, Jim Wagner

***MOTION:** to approve minutes from June Board Meeting: Aaron, Julie (6-0-0). (Marge will make a couple changes)

REPORTS:

1. President (Carter): No Report.
2. Secretary (Marge): No Report – provided copies of July meeting minutes.
3. Conductor (Jerry): Jerry emailed his report and also provided copies. Highlights include:
 - a. Town Band: very busy identifying Civil War-era music for the Lincoln event at EMU on September 30. Very time consuming, but fun. Rehearsals on 8/18 and other times TBD. Shirley Charbonneau is researching “garb” for band members to wear. Arranged several pieces for use by the Town Band.
 - b. Music for 10/22/09 concert is firmed up. Andrew Koeppe will perform a clarinet solo and Jerry is seeking band parts for his selection.
 - c. Prepared/updated numerous email lists, sent emails, attendance charts, summer rosters, press releases, updates to website, agenda items, conducted rehearsals & concerts, played in Sweeney Todd with other YCB members and also played with the AA Civic Band.
 - d. Band shell: The project is dormant at the moment. Erik Dotzauer plans to resume efforts if/when the Depot Town CDC is reinstated as “manager” of Frog Island and Riverside Parks. Looking for any donor who has \$80-\$100 thousand dollars.
4. Business Manager (Paul): Paul is having serious health issues and will try to make it to rehearsals in September. Immediate issues for the band are in good order – need to “firm up” some things for Spring, 2010. Eric Walters has agreed to take care of organization of the Ensemble Concert in the Spring. Carter will double check with Eric regarding arrangements. Aaron Taratsas has the access key for WLHS for rehearsals. Mark Jeffers is familiarizing himself with business manager duties and is serving as a back-up.
5. Fundraising: No Report to the Board. Walt Hancock is trying to sell ads for future programs and is constructing a long prospect list. He is asking for help to call people on the list. Many are business phone numbers, so must be called during the day. Jerry has a list of retired people he will send to Walt.
6. Library (Erica): Jerry reported that Erica & Bruce are doing most of the work; some YCB members come to help sort music. This committee is in good shape; however, we need to start looking for a back up for Erica. She will be here up until the Spring of 2010, then may be leaving town. The printer they are using belongs to the band. Scanning is getting done; Carter has an old laptop he can donate.

7. Property (Aaron):

- a. We now have 70 stand lights; however, we found out they are “battery hogs”. In order to save battery life, people have to turn the light off – but some of them won’t come back on. The lights were loaned out to 2 different groups and the lights do not appear to be reliable. Aaron will go through all the lights and check them with his volt meter. He will send back any “bad” lights. It is not recommended to replace them with the same style/brand of light. Aaron will look into upgrading to another brand. Aaron will also experiment with connecting lights to a power distribution bar; could ultimately replace using batteries.
- b. Folding stand container – still working on constructing a container for the stands. Some stands got wet after/during the July 1 concert.

8. Personnel (Beth): No Report.

9. Publicity (No committee chair yet): Marge said that Millie Irwin would consider acting as a chair or co-chair (with someone) on a part-time basis. Millie goes to Florida for 6 months of the year. Carter will talk with Millie.

10. Treasurer (Alan):

- a. Handout – the final 2008-09 budget worksheet numbers. All transactions have been deposited; all expenses in the checkbook are reconciled; the previous fiscal year (FY) books are closed. We spent \$6000 less than what we brought in with contributions.
- b. Handout – the proposed (preliminary) 2009-10 budget. Jerry will resend the spreadsheet to Alan because the formulas were not there. Alan will look at the formulas.
- c. “Editorial” changes to the budget: \$3000 for the part-time paid staff should be added; correct the balance forward number. These changes do not have to be voted on.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sudler Scroll Award: this is the award for the “best community band in the country”. When the 5-year plan was first put together, it looked as if we could meet the requirements to apply for this award. Now, Jerry doesn’t think we have enough time to put requirements in place by the fall of 2009 or 2010 (1 requirement: the conductor must be in place for 5 years prior to application). The next opportunity (with a conductor after Jerry) will be in the fall of 2016. Other requirements:
 - a. Collect several years of extensive newspaper articles about the band.
 - b. Testimonials from major community civic leaders regarding contributions by the band.
 - c. Submit testimonials from prominent musicians.
 - d. Submit a “live” recording (audition tape) – needs to be high quality.
 - e. This award is a nice “bragging piece” – no money, but national recognition. Helps with player recruitment and all other development activities.
 - f. We need to pull back and make this a strategic initiative for the future; need time to muster resources.
2. 2011 Assoc. of Concert Bands (ACB) Convention: Will be held in Muskegon. Do we want to seek an invitation to play at the convention? A financial expenditure is involved – would have to be in the next fiscal year.

- a. Political aspects: Many Michigan bands will want an invitation. Vince Chrisman is on the Planning/Selection committee for 2011 and can keep us in the loop. Jerry is developing a relationship with Gail Brechting, the host conductor.
 - b. Gerald Guilbeaux is the editor of the ACB Journal and is influential. Jerry has been submitting articles for journal publication and is also developing a relationship with folks at the Journal. Gerald liked the Paul Lavelle article and Jerry is working on a piece about the Lincoln/Civil War event at which the Town Band will play. Jerry encourages other people to submit articles to the Journal.
 - c. Should there be a Board action about this? Sometime last summer, the Board wanted to pursue it – the membership still doesn't know much about the convention. We still have time to raise the money, so it could be manageable. It could also build a lot of excitement in the band. A suggestion: the Board should show leadership and inform members we are going to try for an invitation (similar to what the Board did to get members to go to Red Cedar).
 - d. Discussion about what defines a “community band”: volunteer labor, mostly nonprofessional musicians, can be an “audition” or “non-audition” band. ACB lets bands self-identify; they like to have at least 1 band play that is more professional (i.e., a military band or such).
 - e. Now What? We need to create and submit a recording: the intent is to put our very best foot forward. We are not sure of the criteria. WLHS has some recording equipment – Aaron will see if he can borrow it. The “down side”: We are only “seeking” an invitation – we don't want to build up expectations. May bring up many questions we can't answer yet.
3. Part-time “Development Director” position: This is the position we will be advertising for – currently have a \$3000 budget line item for this position. After we “try out” the person for a 6-month period, we could extend the job further. We especially need help with publicity, fundraising, and keeping the website up to date.
 - a. Jerry proposed a position description and shared it with the Board for discussion. We would like to extend this position to band members first, and then send it to EMU, U of M, and other organizations (also place on Craig's List). Consideration of applications can begin August 19, 2009. Jerry will clear this description with Paul Vaughn. Paul will be screening the applicants.

***MOTION:** Accept the position description written by Jerry (with a couple additions) and to first send it out to the YCB member email list, prior to advertising to the above named organizations [Aaron, Alan: 7-0-0]

Meeting adjourned: 9:15p.m. [Aaron, Julie: 7-0-0]

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Taylor