

Ypsilanti Community Band Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

June 1, 2009 @ LakeShore Apartment Meeting Room

Call to Order 7:15p.m.

Present: Carter Adler, Paul Vaughn, Catherine McMacken, Aaron Taratsas, Beth Askew, Julie Becker, Trink Benedict, Marge Taylor

Absent: Jerry Robbins, Mark Jeffers, Alan Aldworth, John Kennedy, Howard Fillmore, Jim Wagner

*MOTION: to approve minutes from May Board Meeting: Aaron, Beth (6,0,0). Trink will edit Jerry's retirement date.

REPORTS:

1. President (Carter): No Report

Appointments/Reappointments -- We are still looking for someone to chair the Publicity Committee. Other committee chairs are: Treasurer, Alan Aldworth; Secretary, Marge Taylor; Fundraising, Walton Hancock; Property, Aaron Taratsas; Library, Erica Levitt; Personnel, Beth Askew (Beth just volunteered at this meeting).

2. Treasurer (Alan): No Report

3. Conductor (Jerry): No Report (on vacation)

4. Business Manager (Paul): HVA concert went well. The feedback was positive and people want to play there again. Mr. Barry (HVA) may not ask us to play next year, but mentioned returning in 2011. Paul will keep the lines of communication open with the HVA. Also, the HVA Color Guard liked the drum cadence we used and would like to use it. Paul is getting final approvals for the June 18 and July 1 concerts.

- a. July 1: Last year, the transport system (train) was slow. If we can't get this adjusted, YCB members must adjust their schedule in order to arrive on time.
- b. We are all set for rehearsals at Whitmore Lake H.S.
- c. June 18 ("Animals") concert: Final approval by the City of Ypsilanti to allow animals in the park was denied.
 - Carter emailed folks at the Humane Society to see if they could attend (no word yet). Beth said she could contact the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary.
 - Paul wants everyone to wait until he checks with Eric before contacting other organizations to attend. Not sure if they can set up tables.
 - FYI: per Carter – Thursday nights are "Cruise" night in Depot Town and they close off Cross Street. People may have to go in the south side of Riverside Park for our concert.
- d. Paul's new cell phone #: 734-717-4046. Carter will change it on the YCB website.
- e. Conductor search: Paul asked to put this on the agenda for another time.

5. Personnel: No Report. Beth Askew volunteered to chair this committee.

- a. Red Cedar listening party: Beth asked what happened to that event? Jen L. volunteered to host it, but it "fizzled out". Jerry R. has the tapes. Beth will talk with Jerry and Jen and try to arrange a listening party. Aaron offered to lend the listening equipment he has on hand.

6. Library (Erica): No Report

7. Property (Aaron): Stand lights are missing (about 80 of them) and he thinks they were left at Pease Auditorium after the holiday concert. Aaron called EMU Convocation Center, but nothing was turned in. Aaron

recommends looking for a more durable light; also, encourage YCB members to bring their own stand light until we can find them and/or they have been replaced.

- a. Hamilton stands: the goal is to get boxes to hold the stands. The new stands will be marked. Right now, we'll stick with the portable stands. We own 67 stands at this point.
- b. Repairs: No major repairs to equipment needed. Would like to replace the xylophone stand this year – may need a new frame and it could be expensive.
- c. Inventory: Need to schedule an inventory for insurance purposes.

8. Fundraising (email sent by Walt Hancock):

- a. Donation boxes: We now have a system that's working. Donation envelopes were reprinted with modified information.
- b. Email addresses: 60% complete (former donors). Will use these email addresses to inform donors about concerts.
- c. Contacted 36 businesses to place ads in our programs.
- d. Looking for volunteers for this committee; announcements at rehearsals have not been successful. Walt asks Board members to be more proactive to help get volunteers. Discussion about difficulty all committees have getting YCB members to volunteer. An effort was made last fall to provide an area on the membership cards for all members to sign up for one committee; haven't provided that since last fall. Carter will check his emails – there should be a list of the committees and which members signed up for them. Walt doesn't have that list.

9. Publicity (Marge): Marge will be stepping down as publicity committee chair; will assume the duties of the Board secretary. She will still work on the publicity committee. Activities during May and ongoing:

- a. Polo shirts with the 30-year anniversary logo have been ordered and will be delivered to members who ordered them in time for the June 18 concert.
- b. "Give-aways": Refrigerator magnets and double-sided concert schedule cards were passed out to members and will be given out to audience members at concerts until they are gone. They were given out at the May 21 concert at HVA and appeared to "go over well" with audience members.
- c. Posters: Created posters with our schedule up to May 27, 2010 for distribution. The publicity committee will meet on June 3 and work on ideas for distribution. YCB members will be asked to help.
- d. Café Press: Carter mentioned an online service that allows you to upload images, set your price, and people can order items as they want. We could place this information on the YCB website. For people without computers, we could send this information out by regular mail and put it in the concert programs.

NEW BUSINESS

1. "Cabaret Night" with YCC and YCB: Jerry and the YCC president (Michelle Sanford) were talking about a joint fundraising event; a more "casual" event that was NOT a band/choir concert.
 - a. Could perform popular music; "show music". Could be smaller ensembles – no group larger than 4 to perform.
 - b. Charge admission (cover charge) & split the proceeds between YCC & YCB. Provide food/snacks/drinks.
 - c. No rehearsals involved. Each ensemble would rehearse on their own.
 - d. Would there be a big enough invitation list to draw a good crowd? The fundraising committee only has about 100 names.

- e. Will put this on the agenda to discuss further when Jerry is in attendance to provide further information & ideas.
2. DISCUSSION: What is the purpose/goal of YCB? Needs some serious thought & discussion. There are 2 “extremes”:
- I. A semi-professional group with auditions, challenge for positions in the sections & a goal to play for perfection; OR
 - II. A “club” with a purpose to provide an outlet for members to perform, attend rehearsals & concerts whenever they can, and play any part they wish within the section.

Discussion: We are somewhere in the middle between these 2 extremes. This feeds into many areas: seating within each section, concert schedule, difficulty of music, fundraising needs, etc. Some discussion topics were:

- a. How many people should be “allowed” in any section? Should there be some kind of cut off?
 - There are no auditions. Is there a way a player can play a different instrument (if able) at times when instrumentation is “lopsided”?
 - Should there be a “rotation” of parts for members who want to try a different part?

*MOTION: Per piece, the Conductor will determine how many parts are needed in each section. The section leader will assign the parts. (Trinka, Julie: 6-0-0)

- b. Attendance: We have a policy right now, but it has not been strictly enforced. Need to know how many will be in each section for Jerry to plan the music, for chairs to be set up, etc. Is 50% attendance prior to each concert a fair number? OR – look at 50% attendance PLUS attend the rehearsal before each concert – in order for a member to play in the concert.

*MOTION: Starting with the fall concert schedule (rehearsals beginning in September 09 for the Oct. 22 concert): A YCB member should attend at least 50% of all the rehearsals, PLUS the rehearsal before the concert in order to play in the concert. Also, it is up to the Director for any exceptions (i.e. attend less than 50% but attend the rehearsal before the concert). The motion (Aaron, Beth: 6-0-0) carried.

- Who will track this? The Personnel chair/committee along with the support of the section leaders.
- Board members need to help set the example.
- Carter will present this to the band prior to September.

- c. Section Leaders: Are appointed by the Conductor for a 1-year term, beginning June 1 (each year). Discussion occurred about how the section leaders should handle rotation of parts within the section and what to do if there are conflicts about who is playing what part.

*MOTION: In order to provide members with an opportunity to play a variety of parts, section leaders will rotate part assignments to those who express the desire to try a different part. However, some people may be required to rotate to allow an opportunity for others to play those parts. In the event of a dispute that cannot be resolved within the section, the conductor will be the final arbiter. (Catherine, Aaron: 6-0-0).

Marge will type the above motion and send it to Carter and Jerry. Jerry will send this to the section leaders for implementation prior to the June 18 concert. Carter will ask Jerry to present this option to the band at the next rehearsal.

Meeting adjourned: 9:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Taylor