

Ypsilanti Community Band Board Meeting

March 9, 2009, 7:30 PM

Call to order/attendance:

Carter Adler

Nathan Sparks

Trinka Benedict

Howard Fillmore

Jerry Robbins

Beth Askew

Paul Vaughan

Absent:

James Wagner

Sandy Wagner

Jon Kennedy

Alan Aldworth

Aaron Taratsas

Marge Taylor

Call to Order 7:31 PM

Approval of previous minutes (February) (Nathan, Howard 3, 0, 1)

Reports:

- President: (Carter) The president's report is reproduced in full at the end of these minutes.

- Preservation of audio/video recordings- Aaron Taratsas has the reel-to-reel. Don Chaffin suggested people who did the Service City Recording. I have passed on that information to Aaron.

- Need a volunteer to collect/archive historical materials going forward. I am still trying to get a historian. EMU librarians have promised to give us some leads.

I have been in correspondence with Logan for a redesign of the website. Moving to a new host is discussed. It would have a password protection, a real blog and more controls. It would cost \$70-\$100 per year.

- Treasurer (Alan) The treasurer's report is reproduced in full at the end of these minutes.

Jerry wants us to invest for interest. Vince's \$100 was intended for the Bowman music fund and we need to reconcile the new music line. There may be an outstanding check.

- Secretary (Trinka) nothing to report.

- Conductor (Jerry) The Conductor's report is reproduced in full at the end of these minutes.

There is a tentative arrangement for Deanna (???) to play her tuba with us a year from May. I asked her to add on to her stay for a Tuesday night rehearsal. It's within the budget.

We have a goal of adding 32 more titles to the music library:
16 commercial items have been put in the library.
6 are on back order (???)

14 have been downloaded

1 Donated - Harlem Nocturne
1 Pat's piece counts
That makes us ahead of target.

- Business Manager (Paul) The Business Manager's is reproduced in full at the end of these minutes. The only issues are action items.

-See the Awards committee.

-Re-allotment of funds for Marge

Jerry- The 'Ypsilanti Parks' in the report are "Riverside"?
-there are no specifics as to which park.

- Publicity- No report.

- Fundraising (no report due to transition)

- Library- No report.

- Personnel- No report

We are over target in total numbers but we need to fill certain parts.

- Property- No report

- Update on music stands Paul should have pricing soon for collapsible Manhasset Voyager and will coordinate Aaron. The storage issue should be resolved if we build shelves.

- Band shell- No new report (covered in previous emails)

Beth- Van Buren Park has a band shell

Jerry- money is the big issue we will be involved in the design of the band shell.

- Website- Report included in the President's report reproduced at the end of these minutes.

Carter: We are thinking about going away from WCC and getting our own posting.

- Awards- (Paul) IN EMAIL???

Rebecca is willing to stay on in awards committee

The Blue Lake award announcement will be made at the April 23rd concert.
We will know the winner mid-April.

Old Business:

- 2010/11 recording project

- Recording rights (Nathan)

I have put together a list of publishers and will go to website to get info on where we stand as a nonprofit and will check with Matt about the 'non-stop-shop' website.

Carter- In the last 5 years we have played a musical at Red Cedar what permissions would we need to use those recordings

Nathan will call Red Cedar on this point.

Paul indicated that when you "donate" \$12 you get the Red Cedar CD.

Carter- We could use 'donate' instead of 'buy'.

Jerry- There is still the cost of 'clean-up'

Trinka- Recent emails have suggested that there are doubts as to whether we have chosen wisely to use "Show Tunes" as the theme for our CD. We need to do market research.

Trinka will get together with Marge and create survey cards to pass out with the programs.

Jerry- It may cost a couple of hundred for permissions if we use current show tunes. But what will the people buy?

Nathan will check into the cost of permissions and rights.

- Chronological list (Jerry)

The list has been emailed.

New Business:

- Appoint Mark Jeffers as Assistant Business Manager (Paul)

*Motion to appoint Mark Jeffers as Assistant Business Manager. Nathan, Howard (4, 0, 0)

Discussion: Mark is willing. Mark is to start immediately, coordinating work so there won't be a 'hole'.

-Finalizing the distribution of money for the ACB trip.

*Motion to distribute the allocated \$1,000.00 for Beth Askew and Marge Taylor, \$500.00 for each to use on the trip to ACB meeting in Houston, Texas. Nathan, Howard (3, 0, 1) Approved.

*Motion to move \$200.00 from the Business Manager's "Discretionary Fund", \$100 from the "Truck Rental/Gas" fund, \$100 from the "Copying of Music" fund to "Social Events" for the purpose of reimbursing Marge Taylor \$400.00 upon the production of receipts. Howard, Beth (4, 0, 0) Approved.

Discussion:

Reallocation of money to Marge for out of pocket for post holiday reception:

There was \$500.00 in non-payment from volunteers.

Paul volunteered \$200.00 from the Business Manager's discretionary fund.

Jerry supports the idea!

Paul- Truck rental/gas fund?

Carter- Copying of music?

Paul- \$100.00 each?

Carter: Next year we will have a new line in the budget for the post holiday concert party.

- 30th anniversary concert recap
- Special guests

Jerry- Lynn Cooper and his wife got to connect with people and an opportunity for many to meet with the audience. People pressed money into my hands.

- Reception

Carter- thank you to Beth for getting the reception food,

Jerry- The reception was well received and appreciated.

Beth- The music at the reception gave people a reason to stay besides the food.

General discussion:

Should we do this after every concert?

Results: Reception after Holiday concert and one other. (For May 2010- the guest artist concert- we should see if we can get an ensemble for the intermission) This does not prevent us from doing other social events throughout the year.

Aaron is bringing a CD tomorrow (March 10, 2009 rehearsal) – one of our best. Worked with the WCC technician, who followed a script, which helped.

Carter believes we should get an announcer for the indoor concerts- a 'name'.

Suggestions:

Nathan: mayor/Carl Levin/ politician

Jerry: Brian Mackie

Jerry: Somebody from city government

Paul: Ypsilanti city government made a resolution.

Carter: Can someone from Ypsilanti government do the announcing for the 30th Concert? Anniversary of 1

Paul will follow up.

- Red Cedar recap

Jerry was please with the musical performance and the feedback was good.

Logistics were good but off schedule because of the West Michigan Winds.

64 players were confirmed. 60 players were there, a slightly larger than normal turnout (58-59).

No issues were raised regarding transportation/carpooling.

- Next year?

There were complaints regarding the late hour of our performance.

Jerry will request (very positively) that we have an earlier time (middle of the day).

- Other?

Commercial website posting: There is \$50.00 in the budget. If we go forward next year, it will be more than that to do posting \$70.00-\$130.00/year. It will require an increase next year. It will allow us to do more 'stuff' with our site.

Most updates are done by Logan and a friend. Logan will have a mock-up will have same content, easier to navigate, and only advertisements we put there.

Features:

- Password protection section
- Real blog- email to site to post
- Comments section with or without approval
- Mailing list features- send bulk 'mail to' list.

Jerry will miss rehearsals: One in April, one or two in may, late Sept/early October and similar next year. The board can use these as opportunities to audition 'visiting' conductors- ostensibly, to conduct pieces in concerts following these absences, but also to find a replacement for Jerry when he retires.

HOMEWORK: Think of 2-5 names of people for guest conductors.

Coming up:

The Annual Review and re-appointment of positions.

June Concerts "animal"- Potential public relations possibilities:

Bring animals:

- Horses
- Pets

Creature organizations

Humane Society

Paws for cause, etc.

Humane Society is interested; it must be put in front of the City.

Beth has ideas for organizations to bring displays, photo contests.

Bulletin board-

Post contacts, phone President, Business Manager, and Conductor, Email for other leaders using ypsicommband.com if need be.

Adjourn 9:38 P.M.

YCB President's report for February 9 through March 9, 2009.

- Arranged to place five binders of YCB historical materials with the Ypsilanti Historical Society
- Chaired February board meeting
- Appointed the YCB portion of the 2009 holiday concert planning committee, consisting of Millie Irwin, Shirley Charbonneau, Nathan Sparks, and Marge Taylor, as well as myself, Jerry Robbins, and Paul Vaughan as ex officio members. Nathan Sparks will chair the YCB's portion of the committee
 - Appointed a new Fundraising Chair: Walt Hancock
- Sent email to all "leadership" people regarding availability of "@ypsicommband.org" email address
- Set up new a email address for every who has requested one
- Coordinated post-concert reception set-up and clean-up (thanks, Beth Askew, Marge Taylor, Sara-Marie Kuntz, Kim Graor, Julie Becker, and others!)
- Still looking for a volunteer (need not be a band member) to collect/archive documents going forward

Website:

- Created a Flickr photo-sharing group for YCB
- Updated "Concerts" and "Rehearsals" pages
- Posted links to YouTube videos on "Multimedia" page (thanks, Aaron Taratsas and Cat McMacken!)
- Uploaded scanned copies of 30th anniversary tributes (thanks, Pat Padilla!) and posted links to them
- Corresponded with Logan Walters about YCB website updates and hosting

CONDUCTOR'S REPORT

Ypsilanti Community Band

March 7, 2009

YCB Major Things I've done Since the February Board Meeting:

1. Conducted rehearsals at WLHS on February 10, 17, and March 3 and at WCC on February 24. Conducted concerts at WCC on February 26 and at Red Cedar Festival on February 28.
2. Prepared materials for the February 26 printed program and for the printed program, announcer, and stage crew, etc. for the February 28 Red Cedar Festival event.
3. Prepared music for, bought an alto horn and cornet for, completed player roster, and rehearsed the "Town Band" ensemble on March 3.
4. Prepared and sent several informational emails to the entire "greater" (app. 150 names) YCB mailing list, and made/distributed hard copies to those who don't get email; updated this email list with new members and contacts; prepared and sent several emails to Band Board on various matters.
5. Still no takers from request to have some relative(s)/friends(s) who would assist with YCB personnel matters. Have not heard further from/about an individual who offered to do volunteer work for YCB and who was referred to various committee chairs to try to "make a match."
6. Listened to judges' taped comments from Red Cedar Festival, made notes, transcribed notes, and furnished them to the greater YCB email list.
7. Have sent reminders to all YCB members and information about the forthcoming ACB Convention to some YCB members.
8. Have sent "thank you notes" to all the conductors/soloists who participated in the February 26 and February 28 concerts.
9. Hosted a party at my own expense at Pizza House in East Lansing for YCB members and various guests following the February 28 Red Cedar Festival.
10. Have made three more of Duane "Dee" DeButts' donated sax ensembles available to the YCB library. Others are in process.
11. Ordered additional music for WLHS joint concert, summer series, next year's concerts, and other possible uses. Have received part of this music, checked it for completeness and accuracy, entered it into YCB shared library files, and turned it over to the YCB Library Committee for additional processing.
12. Have had several email exchanges with Dr. Mary Schneider, EMU Director of Bands, and Chris Kuhn, student, re serving as guest conductors for YCB April concert. A number of details are outstanding.

13. Have worked with Mike Kirby and Paul Vaughan re (a) logistics for two March rehearsals at WLMS and (b) logistics for April 2 concert.

14. Have prepared and distributed solicitation for funds for the Ken Bowman music fund. One response so far, which has been acted on.

15. Have made personal music available for and have rehearsed with a YCB trombone sextet for ensemble concert.

16. Have taken a list of "show music"—some in our library, some not in library but in print, some out of print but could be located and borrowed—and arranged it in chronological order and provided to Board.

17. Contacted five possible "big name" professional soloists for either February or May 2010. Four responded. Three fell within the financial guidelines set by the Board. Have invited Deanna Swoboda, tuba, headquartered in Kalamazoo, for May 10, 2010. Have "cut loose" with all others for the time being, except that a young euphonium player from Atlanta, GA (Adam Frey) is extremely eager to play in our area, offered to cut fee, negotiate terms, do a home stay, etc. in order to get the opportunity. Currently in communication with Deanna Swoboda about an "add on" that includes a Tuesday night rehearsal (instead of a rehearsal on the "day of" the concert).

18. Made a trip to Spring Arbor area to pick up an instrument donated to YCB. I was hoping that this was an alto horn (suitable for "Town Band" use) but, no, it's a "peckhorn"—a piston valve instrument that looks like a single F horn. Not in great shape, but playable.

Band shell

19. The Depot Town Development Corporation's request for a "band shell" in Frog Island Park is on a state-wide list of projects under consideration for funding with federal stimulus money. After consultation with some politically astute YCB members, I provided Erik Dotzauer with suggestions about political figures to contact urging their support. No further recent information from/communication with Erik.

YCB 30-Season History

20. Five volumes of loose-leaf documents (programs, photos, minutes, etc.) concerning the YCB's 30-Season History in Documents were turned over to Band president Carter Adler at the February 9 YCB Board meeting. In progress is an article for the *Journal of the Association of Concert Bands* about YCB's 30th anniversary activities.

Some Professional Development Activities

21. Attended performance of Dodworth Saxhorn Band to get additional ideas for "Town Band" ensemble. Attended performance of "Sweet Honey in the Rock."

22. Served as one of two "judges" for mock festival concert by the Whitmore Lake HS band on February 19.

23. Listened to concerts by most of the bands at the Red Cedar Festival on February 28. Got a lot of positive (and negative) ideas for possible new music for YCB.

--Jerry Robbins