



EDMONTON STRING PLAYERS ASSOCIATION
2022/2023 Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: Annual General Meeting

Date: May 13, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: M.E.P/Ascension Lutheran Church

Proposed duration: 1:30 hours.

Attendees

Karen Hipson, President

Maryse Bouchard, Vice-President

Liliana Filipoiu, Secretary

Kathy Walters, Board member

Jason Linton, Board member

Donna Sniegocki

Nicole Baich

Miriam Ferguson, Conductor

Patricia Estabrooks, Conductor

Yayne Aklilu

Arun Bhowmick

Elaina Babij

Heather Fehr

Rebeca Fehr

Corey Haberstock

Julie Zettl

Mike Zettl

Call to Order: 10:00 AM

It was established that the meeting has a quorum. Member attendance was recorded from the sign-in sheet.

Agenda Approval

MOTION: Elaina B. moved to approve the agenda. Arun B. seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adoption of October 2022 AGM Minutes

We had two AGMs this year because we held the AGM in October instead of May in the last two seasons. We are returning to the regular schedule.

MOTION: Liliana F. moved to adopt the Minutes from the last Meeting. Kathy W. seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

President's Report/Financial Update: Karen Hipson

- This past season, the enrollment was significantly higher than the year before. This year we had three ensembles for youth and two for adults. Currently, there are 34 adult students, 15 in the Fiddlinists group, 26 in Orchestra 1, and 23 in Orchestra 2.
- Some highlights of the year:
 - We held our winter concert in December 11, which was very well attended and gave all our students a chance to shine.
 - This spring, two of our ensembles performed at the Edmonton Music and Speech Arts Festival. Miriam's Orchestra 1 received a rating of Superior in their class, and the adjudicator said: 'You are all doing well, and your director is excellent. We really enjoyed hearing you all-very well done!' Jarred brought the Fiddlinists, they received a grade of 91 or Gold. Some of the adjudicator's comments were: 'Fantastic playing here, beautiful sound and ensemble, this was a truly inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable performance!'
 - The year-end concert from May 28, 2023, will be an occasion to celebrate all our students' hard work through the year.
- I want to thank all parents and students for their commitment which made the year go smoothly. I am extremely proud of all our kids for their willingness to roll with whatever life throws their way and just keep playing.
- Regarding our financial update, we must mention that the financial impact of the preceding two years has been quite significant. With no Casino and Bingo in 2020 and 2021, we had to rely on our financial reserves which were adequate to keep us operating. In November we were able to have a casino which brought in _____ and put us back on track for the future.
- In the last two years we started investing more effort into small fundraisers, with the help and direction of our fundraising coordinator, Kathy Walters. Our Fundscrip campaign in particular has been very popular.
- We encourage our members to be involved with our organization by attending, and participating in meetings, investing effort into things like fundraisers and grant writing, building community awareness, and helping with performances. You are always invited to bring forward your ideas about attracting new students to our orchestras and building a solid financial base for the future of the program. Our conductors are amazing, and our board is committed, but as a non-profit, member-run organization, MEP can't really grow and thrive without active involvement from parents and

students. We invest in ads, social media, email campaigns, and so on, but our greatest advertising asset is all of you.

- For the 2021/2022 season we budgeted for a net loss of _____ based on the expectations of our costs remaining fairly constant even though our enrollment was down. We had anticipated securing grants of about _____. We ended up with slightly higher registration than expected, but a lower grant amount than hoped for. We deferred some purchases, worked to avoid unnecessary spending, and ended the year with a net loss of _____ for the season.
- For the 2022/2023 season we budgeted for a net gain of approximately _____ based on an estimated income of _____ in fees, _____ in grants, _____ in fundraising, and _____ from a casino, and total expenses of approximately _____. Daniel has provided an updated budget with more precise numbers some a bit higher or lower than predicted, and our net gain for the year is _____.
- As of May 10, our account balances were: _____ in our general operating account _____ in our casino account, _____ in our bingo account, and _____ in our e-transfer account. We also had unprocessed payments of _____.
- As always, we will present updated financials at our first general meeting in the fall, and again mid-year, but looking ahead to next year, we don't anticipate significant changes to our expenses, except in a few small categories like computer hardware and office purchases. We don't anticipate being scheduled for a casino next year, as we are typically scheduled once every 18-24 months. One change that will occur in our financials is that our bingo account will be closed, as we have discontinued our bingo license.
- After answering all the questions, a motion to approve financial statements and budget will be needed.

MOTION: Elaina B. moved to approve; Mike Z. seconded. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Special Resolution-Bylaw Update

Updates that we are proposing today:

- Increasing the maximum number of Directors from 3 to 5
- Modifying the description of meeting notices
- Adding clarity to the policy on cheques writing
- Striking the section that allows the Association to take on debt
- Allow the meeting chair to call a vote and if supported to proceed with a meeting even if there is no quorum present. Revised after discussion: Bylaws to be updated to state that for General Meetings quorum will be established if at least 2 Executive members and 3 other members are present.

MOTION: Corey H. moved to approve the updates; Julie Z. seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Election of Board - Executive Officers and Directors

- Karen and Maryse are stepping down as President and Vice President
- Daniel is unable to continue for a second year as Treasurer
- Liliana is willing to continue her term as Secretary

🗳️ Nominations:

- The board nominates Donna Sniegocki for the position of Treasurer. All in favor. Carried.
- Liliana Filipoiu is willing to continue her term as Secretary. (uncontested).
- The board nominates Julie Zettl for the position of Vice President. All in favor. Carried.
- The board nominates Kathy Walters for the position of President. All in favor. Carried.

🗳️ Elections of Directors of the Board:

- Jason Linton is willing to continue as Director/Volunteer Coordinator. There are another 4 positions open, please let us know if you can help. Corey H. will help with registrations as a volunteer on a need basis.

✚ Changes to Bank Account Responsibilities

MOTION: Karen H. moved to remove past executives (Karen Hipson, Maryse Bouchard, Daniel Spanu) from all Edmonton String Players Association bank accounts, and add newly elected executives (Donna Sniegocki, Julie Zetl, Kathy Walters) to all Edmonton String Players Association bank accounts. Maryse B. seconded. Motion carried.

✚ Appointment of Auditors

Two members of the association are to be appointed to complete an audit of the books, accounts, and records before October 31

Mike Zetl, Margaret Ushku, and Aron Bhomick volunteered for this position. (Not to be voted in).

Volunteer Report

- Nothing new, other than trying to add more structure to the events. Thank you, everyone, for your support during this last season.

New business

- No additional motions were brought forward before the meeting
- Patricia had questions about the final preparations for the concert, all questions were answered.

Meeting adjourned

- MOTION: Liliana F. moved to adjourn the meeting. Maryse B. seconded. Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:34AM.

