

April 10th, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: General
Meeting Called by: Edmonton String Players Association
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Online



Attending:

Karen Hipson, President	Derrick Schmuhl
Tony Tucci, Treasurer	Kay Oladele
Andrew Hoskins, Vice-President	Petar Dundjerski
Christine Regehr, Secretary	Doris Lunardon
Courtney Cline, Registrar	Zhiyuan Fu
Guillaume Tardif, Member at Large	Karen Louie
Miriam Ferguson	Tracy-Lee Kong

Karen called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Tony Tucci made a motion to approve the minutes from the Jan. 30th general meeting. Karen Hipson seconded it. All in favour. Motion carried.

Andrew suggested an amendment to the agenda to note that the fundraising committee needs to be struck now, not later. The amendment was accepted and Karen Hipson made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Tony Tucci seconded it.

President's Report by Karen Hipson

Updates or motions passed since the last general meeting:

1. The board passed a motion to sell the remainder of our rental instruments and cancel insurance on them.
2. The board has been working on a sustainability report and will give an update today.
3. The board is re-evaluating the current job description for the registrar/office administrator role.
4. MEP's season has been extended until the end of June.

Covid-19 Update

1. At this time, we can continue but are staying on top of updates.
2. Parents willing to help with sanitizing/supervising can let Karen (or Petar) know
3. The board has been working on a sustainability report and will give an update on it today.
4. At this time we can continue despite Covid. Parent volunteers are not counted in numbers allowed. Please email Karen Hipson if you want to volunteer for one of the weeks.

Sustainability Committee Report by Andrew Hoskins

1. The board is aiming for 60 students in three separate orchestras next year for the sake of finances.
2. We have lost money this year but need to plan for next year.
3. We will budget for three conductors to provide the services next year.
4. The Music Director position is no longer going to be funded.
5. We are creating additional volunteer guidance with a better system.
6. We have made a budget to get us from now to September. There will be a loss financially. We still expect a loss in 2021/2022. MEP sits in a position with considerable strength, including assets we can access. We can't have a loss every year though.
7. We will continue to do casinos.

8. We may consider removing bingos because volunteer time might be better spent on other fundraising efforts.
9. If we don't have 60 students by Aug. 15, the board will re-evaluate.
10. The sustainability committee is proposing a new position, a communications officer, to create an online presence and to communicate with instructors and potential students.

NOTE: The financials in the Sustainability report do not reflect the same thing as the treasurer report because they are based on a different year start and end date and because we expect a casino every two years but haven't had one.

Treasurer's Financial Report as of Apr. 9th 2021:

Casinos/Bingos

Karen reported from Judit that our earliest Casino would be next spring (2nd quarter of 2022). It could be scheduled for summer or fall, depending on when they begin and any interruptions.

Bingo dates are tentatively set for Mon. Oct. 4, Mon. Nov. 22, Wed. Dec. 15, Thurs. Jan 27, Wed. Feb. 16.

Fundraising/Grants

The MEP board is looking for a fundraising coordinator or members of a committee in order to track down grants, organize online fundraising, or make cold calls to public relations departments of large organizations. We have copies of previous grant applications that can be re-worked.

Karen Hipson has set up a facebook non-profit account and is pursuing a Skip the depot fundraiser.

Andrew added that we are desperate to fill fundraising roles this year. The organization isn't able to sustain itself without additional grants.

Zhiyuan asked if there is still a chance to finish volunteer work. Karen answered that people can still help out by sanitizing at rehearsals, setting chairs, wiping down, etc. For singing strings, parents need to contact Petar about scheduling for cleaning.

Upcoming Dates

ACTION: The board will discuss whether the AGM should be scheduled for May or October and set a date.

Next general meeting –May 15th (1 pm tentatively).

Orchestra registration opens May 15th.

Andrew asked the board to write job descriptions for themselves.

ACTION: Board members will write out their own job descriptions in the next few weeks.

Karen moved to adjourn. Meeting ended at 1:40 pm.