

August 19th, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: Board

Meeting Called by: Edmonton String Players Association

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Ascension Church



Attending:

Karen Hipson, President

Tony Tucci, Treasurer (attended online)

Andrew Hoskins, Vice-President

Christine Regehr, Secretary

Guillaume Tardif, Member at Large

Judit Jenei, Member at Large

Patricia Estabrooks, Conductor

Miriam Ferguson, Conductor

Karen Hipson called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

MOTION: Karen Hipson moved to approve the agenda. Andrew Hoskins seconded it. All in favour.

REPORT: Judit Jenei reported that MEP cannot count on casino funding this school year.

ACTION: Judit Jenei will follow up on bingo dates and confirm if they are currently operating and the timeline.

MOTION: Christine Regehr moved that MEP will respect Alberta Government COVID-19 guidelines, keep in compliance with Ascension Church's guidance, and align mask protocols with Edmonton public schools unless otherwise directed by Alberta Health for performance activities. The president will monitor and adjust the policy. Karen Hipson seconded it. All in favour. Carried.

Currently, the church recommends hand sanitizer use but masks are not mandatory, and physical distancing depends on comfort level. The board decided to sanitize hands but not chairs/stands. Sanitizer will be available for those students who wish to wipe stands or chairs.

REPORT: FASE (Foundation for the Advancement of String Education) approved a grant for 7 student scholarships for orchestra. Debbie is sending forms that we can complete. The total amount

ACTION: Patricia Estabrooks and Miriam Ferguson will tell teachers about the available scholarships for worthy students who are unable to afford orchestra.

ACTION: Conductors will nominate candidates. The board will approve them via email. If Debbie doesn't have forms, then Karen will create them.

REPORT: MEP has 26 students registered in children's orchestras. There are 3 adults registered. Emails went out to 64 music teachers, and every single junior high school in the city.

ACTION: Miriam and Patricia will re-initiate a campaign to notify potential families.

REPORT: Tony Tucci provided a report of the current financial situation. The board accepted the results. The financials are attached. He believes that MEP could survive another year based on projected numbers. He said that MEP would operate at a loss but not run out of money during the year. The treasurer will use the same accountant this year, but he will update the amount of our instrument value,

ACTION: Andrew Hoskins will ask Petar about a set of criteria to work with for the viability of Singing Strings. Andrew will ask Petar to actively recruit students and he will ask about the use of space at the University.

ACTION: Christine will ask Karen Louie to be on the board. If singing strings doesn't go ahead, she would be released from this role.

ACTION: Andrew Hoskins will meet with Patricia Estabrooks to prioritize recruitment of board members and will divide a list by August 31st between Karen, Christine and Andrew for recruitment. Vacant positions include treasurer, Vice-President, Casino chair, and secretary.

ACTION: Karen will sort out location and details for parent volunteer meetings.

ACTION: Andrew will follow-up with board members to finish writing job descriptions by August 31st.

The board decided to wait for the next board to pre-set board dates.

MOTION: Andrew moved that if orchestras have to be put on hold because of COVID-19 next year, conductors immediately offer something on an online platform. Karen seconded it.

ACTION: Andrew will talk with Petar about the expectation of replacement online programming.

MOTION: Andrew moved that after review of the current situation against the criteria set out in the sustainability report that the board should defer the decision to proceed with the program until the next board meeting, when student numbers are clearer. Evidence suggests that we are going to be continue

to be able to keep operating even though at a loss. Christine seconded the motion. All in favour. Motion passed.

ACTION: Karen will communicate to parents in a welcome email the details of the first rehearsal, both that all students will first meet together and that a parent meeting will be held simultaneously. She will remind families about the AGM. She will ask for parents to share the idea of orchestra with a friend. She will also inform them that if they have played for a year, they can apply.

ACTION: Karen will check on church space for the AGM.

ACTION: Christine will ask Thomas Schoen about students, both younger students and older students from Augustana.

ACTION: Karen will email posters to conductors to send out. Patricia will deliver a poster to TAN music store. Miriam will deliver to Bella. Christine will deliver to Myhres Music.

The next Board meeting was set for September 2nd, 2021.

The meeting ended at 8:09 pm.