Edmonton String Players Association
Board Meeting Minutes - September 8 2025, 6:45pm

Type of Meeting: Board Location: Ascension Church

Attendees:
Amy Archibald, President
Margaret Usko, Fundraising Director
Vanessa Kay, Secretary
Ryan Heit, Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator
Karen Kawulka, Vice President
Karen Hipson, Administrator
Patricia
Kathy

Regrets:
Liliana Filipoiu, Events and Social Media Director

Call to order: 6:45 p.m. Quorum is met.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting

- Vote to approve June 16, 2025 meeting minutes
  - Ryan motioned to approve, Margaret seconded
- July 21 2025 meeting notes received for information

Approval of agenda

- Margaret moved, Ryan seconded

Treasurer's Report

A. Current funds

- Ryan reported on current account balances including the balance of in the General Operating Account.

B. Members Audit to be complete in October – two volunteers

- Ryan will put out an email to parents offering this volunteer opportunity, as well as pointing to the meeting schedule and inviting parents.

C. Marvin was approved to be the new accountant

- This was approved by the board by email

Old Business

A. Meeting Schedule

- The meeting schedule previously approved online was discussed.

B. Different venue options for concerts 2025 as McDougall has sold

- The winter concert is booked for January 11, 2026, however McDougall cannot be sure to honour the commitment.
- Karen will reach out to McDougall to see if they
- Venue needs to see at least 500 people, be affordable, and have parking.
- Action – Ryan will include researching this, going to venues etc, in his email about volunteer opportunities

C. Fundraising schedule for 2025/2026 season

- Margaret reported there is no casino booked this year
- She is planning two fund-scripts, in December and mid-March.
    - No volunteers are needed as Margaret can print out the forms
- A silent auction was done last year, but a volunteer would be needed to organize it. The person who led it last year is not with the society anymore. She would perhaps be willing to walk the next volunteer through the process.
- Another option would be a raffle.

D. Social media update model and advertising website updates – Lilliana

- We have Facebook ,Instagram, X, and Linkedin
- Liliana noted by email that she is looking for ways to promote the program online, but some options require costs.
- Discussion - Facebook advertising is all in USD, so costs are higher in CDN. The lowest rate is $3/day, though this has a limited reach.
- Discussion of Instagram account, and options for volunteer efforts to take photos and posting. Noted that permission to post photos are part of registration.
    - Karen runs this account, but Liliana and Amy both have access.

Margaret motioned that Liliana could spend $250/year for advertising on Facebook, and report back on clickthroughs. Ryan seconded. All approved.

E. Bring a friend day for Sep and May - approved need to finalize dates

- **September 22 is Bring a Friend Day for all groups**
- **January 19 is Bring a Friend Day**

ACTIONS: Amy will tell the conductors.

<u>New business</u>

- **Chamber Group idea group**
    - 5 older youth, MEP alumni, are interested in meeting on Thursdays for an alumni chamber group (2-8 people, each person plays a separate part.
    - Patricia would volunteer to support this group if MEP would support with a practice location (preferably the conference room), insurance, etc.
    - Date would be Thursdays 7-8pm, less formally. Orchestra 2 practices 7-8:30 Thursdays, so during this time would allow access without additional logistics.
    - Karen noted that our lease with the church requires identifying what rooms are used for what, but there's no expectation rent would go up.
    - Discussion: support of an informal program for alumni as a pilot year, to be evaluated in the spring.

  MOTION – Ryan – to put forward chamber group as pilot year,
  Action – Patricia will report back to the board on how many people, what time, etc, and we need to register them.

- **Spending the Casino Account**
    - Karen reported that the 2023 Casino Account is on track to be fully expended, including on rent, Telus, Digitex, Accountant, Zoom subscription etc.
    - There has been approval to buy padded 40 chairs, which still need to be purchased.
    - Karen will report back at the next meeting.
- ACTION: Kathy will send Karen the information on what chairs the previous board had agreed to buy.

- **Proposal to invite a level 2 cello or bass to play with Orchestra 1 for free**

- Discussion – generally supportive.
- Kathy noted that the Suzuki school as a lot of basses and cellos enrolled at this time.
- Patricia raised potential connections with the YONA orchestra. (5 days/week, essentially after school care for children aged 7-12 with lower incomes, supported financially by the ESO) raised in 2022 though nobody has reached out since. The idea at the time had been full scholarships for YONA graduates.

ACTION: Kathy will reach out to the Suzuki group.
Karen will reach out to YONA

Next meeting

- Date of next Meeting – October 6 : 7:30pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 7:37p.m. (Amy motioned, Vanessa seconded)