

NAPERVILLE CHORUS BOARD MINUTES VIA ZOOM – WEDNESDAY MAY 12, 2021

ATTENDEES: Joy Bozzelli, Shannon Sprunger, Matthew Sprunger, Courtney Nash, Paul Fries, Elisabeth Case, Henriette Pentz, Margo Jonah, Chuck Jonah, Sarah Sippy, Rachel Brooks, Keith Anderson, Wes Ague, Patrice Basso

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm.

Joy introduced Patrice Basso as a candidate for secretary. Motion was made to open voting and seconded. All present voted Aye and Patrice was welcomed to the board.

MINUTES: Minutes from the April meeting were not available and will be ready for approval in June.

FINANCIAL: A printed report was prepared by Paul Fries and emailed with the May agenda. There were no questions regarding the financial statements.

SPRING 2021 SURVEY: 75+ responses were received with a variety of answers. A clear majority were in favor of meeting for indoor rehearsals. John Warfel has the complete survey results and will make a decision soon regarding any summer singing. Joy noted that the city of Naperville had not opened the bandshell property to any groups as of the last date she contacted them. Patrice read that the Municipal Band was advertising a 6/24/2021 concert recently. Joy will check back with the city.

This led to a discussion about the fall semester. Pete and Joy have been in touch with Pete Ellman. He said he was flexible about planning until about mid-October. Concert is still up in the air depending on what North Central College does with its facilities. Joy and Shannon have met with Barb Shubert of the DuPage Symphony Orchestra to plan for Spring 2022. Music has been selected and awaits Pete's approval. The theme is Celebratory Season/American Spirit. Music would include Roy Harris Folk Song and songs by Aaron Copland. Joy will check in with Pete.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Elisabeth Case reported on the status of facilities for both rehearsals and concerts at North Central College for 2021-22 fiscal year. She is awaiting a contract with the college. The proposal includes an agreement for Monday evenings, the practice space and two concerts. Everything remains unfinalized due to COVID-19 restrictions. She foresees several scenarios including:

1. Nothing available
2. Rehearsal room available but no concert venue.
3. Rehearsal room open, concert at reduced capacity.
4. Rehearsal room open, concert at full capacity – will people come?

The box office is non-committal as well due to COVID-19.

SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR MUSIC STAFF: Joy indicated the need to create a search committee from among current chorus members, maybe 3-5 persons. They would be charged with looking for a new director. Pete will let board know his retirement plans by December of 2021 and will provide a year's notice. There was a discussion that the committee be autonomous and develop their own process with guidance from the board. Members of the board would have to approve the hiring of a new director.

Members also agreed it would be beneficial to have guest conductors to gauge engagement with the chorus, etc. Elisabeth suggested sending email to all chorus members looking for volunteers to be on the search committee.

RECORDING STATUS: Bruce Bell is moving and will no longer be our sound engineer. Joy has sent out RFQs to various recording organizations in the area. She hopes to have all the quotes for the June board meeting. Bruce recommended the purchase of equipment that would allow the chorus to record our own rehearsals at very little cost. Old CDs from previous concerts are still available for sale. An email was sent to all members. Paul will keep track of requests etc.

PRESIDENTS ROUNDTABLE: Joy relayed that she has gleaned good information from discussions with other area non-profit presidents.

MARKETING CHAIR: Joy introduced Rachel Brooks. She is excited to put her talents to use with the chorus. She is interested in fundraising, identifying target audiences and using her expertise to coordinate the efforts of Communications, Publicity, Social and Program Content. Welcome Rachel!

Business Council Liaisons: Joy is looking into selecting 2 District 203 students to be part of our board. This gives student real world experience and gives us a youth perspective which may help with marketing. More information will be forthcoming in an email.

BY-LAWS REVIEW: Joy will email copy of suggested by-laws changes. Comments can be shared on these documents on the chorus sharepoint site. Members are asked to comment by June 2nd. A copy including comments will be emailed prior to the June meeting. These will be reviewed at the June 9th board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.