

NAPERVILLE CHORUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 13, 2025

ATTENDEES: Cristin Adam (Music Chair), Keith Anderson (Treasurer), Elisabeth Case (President), Jesse Hart (Director at Large), Chuck Jonah (Publicity), Margo Jonah (Grants), Cathy Kaduk (Financial Secretary), Vicky Lynch (PR/Publicity), Gail Nelson (VP), Nancy Sigel (Membership), Sarah Sippy (Director at Large), Janan Szurek (Secretary), John Zelman (Operations Chair), Andy (Friends of the Chorus), Peter (Interim Director), Jon Warfel (Accompanist)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

MINUTES: The 12.16.24 minutes were approved.
Janan will send 12.16.24 minutes to Chuck to post on the Members webpage.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: (Keith)

Total budget available for spring 2025 orchestra and soloists

- There are enough in reserves to cover a bit (\$8000ish) over each year
- Currently \$80,000 in bank.
- Recently, we have paid each instrumentalist \$300 (prior to covid \$200-250). Is this enough? Harp is more (about double)
- Previously per concert about \$8000 for orchestra.
- Spring 2024 soloists were paid \$800 and \$1000
- Recent Revenue (all numbers are rounded for easier understanding)
 - \$12,000 – Friends of Chorus
 - \$8,000 – Grants
 - \$10,000 – Membership
 - \$24,000 – Tickets (\$2000 less than last year)
 - TOTAL: \$54,000
- December costs and box office receipts
 - \$15,000 – Pet Ellman
 - \$4,000 – NCC for Wentz Hall
 - \$500 – Soloist
 - TOTAL: \$19,500

MUSICIANS FOR SPRING 2025 CONCERT (Peter and Jon)

- Peter has two Naperville soloists. Asking to pay Baritone \$1200 and Soprano \$800. They have agreed to come to more rehearsals that just the one dress rehearsal.
- Potential cost for instrumentalists: 45 x \$300 = \$13,500
- Jon will look into the “going” rate
- We already own the music for orchestra and can give the soloists the scores that we already have.

DONATION TO COMMUNITY METHODIST

Winter Concert – \$1,400

Spring Concert – Motion to give the same amount, \$1,400 for spring. Unanimous vote of yes.

NAPERVILLE CHORUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 13, 2025

MARKETING FOR SPRING CONCERT

- Vicky thinks that we need to have a digital presence on FB. We would need to pay for this.
- For the Winter concert, we were not on the same NCC calendar which made it a bit more difficult to purchase tickets.
- Digital easiest to reach the broadest audience.
- Vicky will investigate the cost of other marketing strategies and share it with the board.
- Cristin wondered if we could promote and send flyers to assisted living locations in the area. Nancy shared that we have a list of places. It would require talking to activity directors. This needs to be done quickly. Nancy will contact the locations.
- NC17TV will cover the spring concert. The soloists and instrumentalists will need to sign a waiver.
- Chuck suggested sending information to local church choir directors. Peter and Jon will work on some ideas for sharing this information.
- Elisabeth suggested sending information to local high schools. Peter does have a list of local high school choir directors.
- Chuck will start on the poster soon. Thinking of using a sunset for the background. Peter suggested using an image of Brahms. ETA of draft from Chuck – end of January.

MUSIC DIRECTOR SELECTION:

- Peter would be willing to continue as director for the 2025-2026 season (winter and spring) given the amount of time and effort that it takes to find a quality director.
- Janan made a motion to offer Peter a contract as interim director for the 2025-2026. The board unanimously approved the motion.
- Search Committee – Elisabeth invited choir members to be on committee at the first rehearsal. Kelly said that she is happy to share the packet of information from the last search. Jason is happy to be on the committee, but does not want to lead the committee. Meryl Bryant, Barb Higgs, Katherine Richards are interested. Need men and younger people. Suggestions: Jimmy, Rita. Janan is willing to be on the committee if needed.
- What is the commitment level? Several hours a week for several weeks over the course of 9 months.
- Criteria for committee members: active part of the chorus and commitment to be part of the chorus for at least one year with the new director.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- Need: President and two Directors at Large
- Members of Nominating Committee: Jess, Nancy and Janan
- Need nominees by March 10th Annual Meeting

NCC SCHOLARSHIP:

We will not be offering a scholarship for the 2025-2026 season. This will be revisited in the future.

OUTREACH CHORUS PLANNING: Put on next agenda

NAPERVILLE CHORUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 13, 2025

- Accompanist
- Timeline
- Engagements

2025-2026 SEASON: Put on next agenda

- Preferred dates
- Rehearsal sites – Peter will explore the use of Grace UMC.
- Communication plan

FUTURE DISCUSSIONS:

- Do we need an assistant director and accompanist, as we did in the past?
- Do we need to get back to having a larger musical staff?
- In the past there was an audition only group – is this something that we want to consider again?

TO DO:

Get Search Committee Packet from Kelly - Elisabeth

Promote Spring concert with Assisted Living locations - Nancy

Share information about spring concert with local church choir directors - Jon and Peter

Share information about spring concert with local high school music departments - ???

DATE for ANNUAL MEETING: March 10th at 7:00 PM. (Janan cannot attend)

NEXT MEETING: January 27, 2025, 6:15 PM, Church

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Minutes Recorded by Janan Szurek, Naperville Chorus Secretary