

NAPERVILLE CHORUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: March 11, 2024

ATTENDEES: Elisabeth Case, Mikki Mendelsohn, Liz Stefanski, Sarah Sippy, Gail Nelson, Margo Jonah, Chuck Jonah, Nancy Sigel, John Zelman, Keith Anderson, Ed Chapman, Cristin Adam

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm.

MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the February 12, 2024, minutes. The motion passed.

CONCERT LOGISTICS: Both John and Elisabeth will be absent on the night of the concert; Nancy suggested recruiting Steve Solarski to get people into and out of the choir loft. John will reach out to NCC for ushers.

PUBLICITY UPDATE: Elisabeth will get an update from Vicky tomorrow about the distribution of the “blurb.”

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BYLAWS: John had a number of suggested changes to the current (2017) version, including the following:

1. Remove reference to selecting members by audition.
2. Reduce frequency of business meetings to one/year.
3. Specify that notice of special meetings may be given by email.
4. The verbiage about informal action by members is confusing. Mikki will review.
5. Standing Committee Chairs: titles need to match what we actually have (and we should add a Web Site Manager).
6. The Board should select the Assistant Director in consultation with the Director.

John will forward his list to Elisabeth.

Other members noted additional concerns, as follows: (Margo) There are places in the bylaws that give the President the right to act unilaterally, e.g., to dismiss people. (Keith) There is no provision for handling an emergency situation, and the President should not be permitted to unilaterally dispose of the Chorus’s assets. (Mikki) The Board needs to have the right to go into executive session. Chuck will send Mikki an email folder of legal advice he has collected.

Several members also noted the need for these clarifications: A quorum constitutes 50% + 1 of what group? (Elected Board members? All Board members?) What happens if Board members resign? Is the Vice President the only officer who can also be a Committee Chair?

John noted the need for a meeting dedicated to discussing all these issues, with the relevant language in front of everyone. A redline should then be created for Board approval, followed by approval by the Chorus membership.

FUNDRAISING: Donations need to be encouraged at all times. It should be possible to get on the Chorus mailing list by scanning a QR code; Chuck will follow up on this idea.

BOARD NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024–2025 TERM: We have a full slate of candidates, as follows:

Vice President: Gail Nelson
Secretary: Janan Szurek
Financial Secretary: Kathy Kaduk
Director-at-Large: Jessica Hart

The election will be held during the March 18, 2024, business meeting.

PERFORMING WITH THE NAPERVILLE MUNICIPAL BAND ON JULY 3, 2024: Elisabeth will poll the Chorus membership tonight to assess interest. (Note: The new Band Director is Emily Binder.)

JUNE 2025 CHORAL FESTIVAL IN DUBLIN: The consensus was not to pursue this opportunity, but to leave it to Reid to organize a future tour (or not) that fits with his schedule.

DETAILS OF OUR 2024–2025 PROGRAMS: John will find out when NCC needs this information. (We need to announce the music themes for these programs for inclusion in the printed NCC fliers that go out over the summer.)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:15 pm, in the Wentz lobby.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.