August 13, 2021 VMC Board Meeting Minutes

Final Draft

In attendance: Kathy Schultheis, Tom Nadal, Jana Hart, Dan Warner, Laura Brody, Teresa Loftus, Rachelle Matheson, Dennis Haberkamp, Karen Bass, Michael Nettleton

Excused: Amy Christenson, Russ Freeland

Meeting called to order 6:46 pm

Kathy welcomed three new members -- Tom Nadal, Karen Bass, Michael Nettleton – and thanked outgoing board members Teresa Loftus, Russ Freeland, and Amy Christenson

Kathy presented, with her thanks, a long list of work already performed this summer by board members.

Secretary's Report.

Dennis moved to accept the minutes of the June 8 and June 24 meetings as written, and Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report.

Dennis handed out copies of the budget. 19 VMC members signed up so far for Carnegie Hall trip. Their deposits are the predominant source of income this summer.

Changes to the budget are based on the June 24 meeting.

Ticket prices: Added $5 to ticket prices. Average price of tickets $20 (taking all season ticket sales, PayPal, etc., into account. The last couple of years we only sold about 20 season tickets (years before that – about 60).

Dan moved to accept the treasurer's report as written, and Jana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dan thanked Dennis for his great work as Treasurer – the board concurred.

Updates:

Planning for new season.

Kathy reminded us that on June 8 we decided to require proof of vaccination for chorale members. The Delta variant is changing things; we don't know the impact yet it will have on our upcoming concerts. Will we have other requirements (singers wearing masks for rehearsals/concerts, requiring audience vaccinations, social distancing, etc.)?

Jana discussed her recent conversation with Pastor Josh at First Presbyterian Church. She told him the choir and orchestra are requiring vaccination. He thinks we need to require vaccination for the audience, which also means no children, since the vaccine isn't approved for under 12 years.

Jana has researched other performing arts groups requirements – the Metropolitan Opera, Broadway shows, the Portland Orchestra, etc. Masks are required, but not social distancing. Fully vaccinated choirs and audiences – this appears on all publicity.

The board discussed requiring proof of vaccination before people can buy tickets. Perhaps we can set up PayPal to require this before tickets are purchased on our website? Maybe Linda Keist could set this up? Most tickets are sold at the door or by members. Tickets should say prominently that Proof of Vaccination is Required. For Paypal – add "Vaccine Required" to the name of the concert so buyers can't miss it.

Rachelle – if we have to put something on the tickets, maybe we could have a sticker the person selling the ticket could put on the ticket (after photographing the ticket buyer's vaccination card).

Mike moved that VMC require proof of vaccination for the audience, and Jana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

For masks/social distancing at rehearsals, we will follow current CDC guidelines.

Kathy told us she purchased a box of masks for rehearsals for people who need one.

Singer masks – cost $20. We may consider these for performances – will discuss at a later meeting.

Budget discussion

Rachelle: we currently have 74 members. Jana says she has six more to audition, and asked the Columbian to run the notice again. Thinks we will end up with about 80.

Kathy asked us to think about ways we could cut costs this year.

Teresa pointed out that we can't cancel a concert and get payment to musicians back unless we were forced to cancel (i.e., state mandate). She said there are three numbers we need to keep in mind: (1) the drop-dead date for cancellation, (2) the minimum audience number we will need to see, and (3) what date we need to make tickets available online. We can hold off printing till later, and need to keep in mind that refunding tickets is a difficult process.

Vaccination Policy Enforcement:

Rachelle gave an update – an email/letter was sent to all chorale members requiring proof of vaccination. Thirty-seven have been turned in so far. She will send out another email.

1st rehearsal – door monitors will check. Rachelle is creating an alphabetical list of those who have sent in proof. If you aren't on the list, you will have to show card, and monitor will take a picture of it. There will be two lines – one for those who haven't provided proof, and one for those who have. Jana suggested staggering the times for people to arrive to cut down on congestion at the door.

Picking up music – send an email to people who have submitted proof of vaccination that they can pick up their music. Susan has already packaged up all the music and it will be at Rachelle's house.

Carnegie Hall:

Tom – we are going to continue planning as if it will happen. He has been in touch with DCINY. They have invoiced us for 18 people, and are fine with us adding more. Three-four people are waiting for rehearsals to commit to going to Carnegie Hall.

Broadway, Met, Carnegie Hall – none are allowing people under 12, because they can't be vaccinated.

Dennis – the next due date is Oct 15, and the final date is Jan 15, 2022.

Give More 24:

Kathy – several of us have attended workshops. The donation day is September 23. Dan, Karen, and Kathy will meet to strategize on Monday, August 16. Kathy has a preliminary timeline she will share later. Kathy would like to include videos to make our campaign more engaging. We will send out an email to the choir – looking for matching donations. Mike is working on the Save the Date Announcement Profile. We need a new photo for it (Karen?)

Roundtable Reports:

Jana: Everything is ready to go for the Peace and Justice Fair. Music is packed up. She has Misty Mamas, Darcy, and a small ensemble of VMC ladies… not feasible for VMC to sing. Asking for one more audition notice in Columbian. Vancouver Symphony has the same concert date/times as us in December, but their's is not a Christmas concert.

Tom: Nothing to report yet. Russ left him a good road map.

Rachelle: 74 members, 37 proof of vaccination. Working on the welcome packet – rehearsal dates, commitment forms, wardrobe requirements. Roster is up-to-date.

Dan: Has some ideas for reaching out to new donors. Contract with First Presbyterian Church Vancouver – no change. We paid for last concert that didn't happen. Kathy and Dan will talk with the church. Laura described a real estate solution (reduced lease for next year) as a possible solution in this case.

Karen: Nothing to report yet. Jaz Bielby is doing a great job with Facebook.

Mike: working on a couple of things: (1) Arts Commission Luminary Awards – he sent a letter describing what VMC did during the pandemic, and the upcoming Faure concert; and (2) Interface with Symphony – putting an ad in their program. Making contact with people such as Scott (graphics), and others he needs to work with.

Kathy:

Dues early payment. In the past, date was Jump Start, but we are starting rehearsals late this year. Suggested Oct 18 as early payment date for dues. The board concurred.

First Rehearsal. Board typically brings treats. We can do this if we don't have to be masked. We will discuss structure of first rehearsal at the next board meeting. Outside? Social hour?

Job descriptions: We need to look at job descriptions and refine them. Are some jobs too big? Can we shift tasks to someone else? Add an audio-visual person? She will send out job descriptions at some point so we can review them.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27.