VMC Board Meeting 4/8/2025

Start Time: 7:04 pm

Attending (10): Robin Patton, Katherine Nitsch, Dennis Haberkamp, Tom Paulu, Valerie Winkle, Sonya Sigler, Bai Pham, Philip Denton, Dan Warner, Andrew McCaffrey

Dennis: Motion to adopt agenda
Tom: Seconded
Vote: Unanimous Aye

Tom: Motion to approve minutes as sent out by Geri
Dennis: Seconded
Vote: Unanimous Aye

Andrew (Treasurer's Report):

- Report of transactions by category for March
    - Expenses:
        - Paid Jordan
        - Last Costa Rica check
    - $1274.37 in revenue for March
- Fiscal year and tax year are now aligned
- Was able to separate donations from tickets sales in GiveSmart platform
- A higher percentage of the chorus paying dues this year, dues are $2780 over budget

Philip (Director's Report):

- Choir technique is improving (positive shifts in technique and style)
- Music Budget confirmed to be around $5K
- Group needs an extra half hour of rehearsals (2 ½ hrs total), will conduct poll to see if we can start rehearsals earlier at 6:30 (It is not possible for Philip to stay later)

Sonya (Development Committee Report):

- The development committee is working on a 1-pager to use as a brief for pitching donations, sponsorships, and grants

- Should we extend sponsorship levels?

Dennis (Business Report):

- Business VP responsible for Contracts, Taxes, Group Memberships (eg Chamber of Commerce)
- ArtsFund to open up bidding
- Dennis working with the Development Committee to garner grants including
    - Paul Allen Accelerator Grant
    - Other non-government grants

Valerie (Concerts Report):

- Sent out volunteer Form
    - Bai to add to website
- Philip can encourage students to volunteer (how many ushers are needed?)
- Need about 10 volunteers for upcoming concerts:
    - 4 on tickets
    - 2 on credit cards
    - 1 on will call
- Dan to hire security for May concerts (budget of $200)
- Will need around 50 comp tickets for orchestra members

Susan (Membership Report):

- Robin heading the hospitality committee
- Initiating Greener Choir:
    - Permanent silverware, real tablecloths, water pitchers, etc
- Targeting 85 members when purchasing new music for next year, making photocopies for any shortfalls (to be replace by real music before the concert)
- Greg Parker has been observing in the tenor section

Tom (Marketing Committee Report):

- Finalized program with Scott and sent to the printers
    - Should have QR code for electronic programs
- Print media:

    - Story in Messenger (Senior-focused newspaper)
    - Story in Oregon Artswatch
    - Columbian to put on their Calendar
    - Oregonian Roundup
- Email:
    - 2 email blasts sent, once per week
- Programs moving forward
    - May save money doing our programs in-house (vs hiring outside Graphic Designer)
    - Can sell ads
    - Should we still run VSO ads?
- Approximately $1000 left for ads
    - Investigate FB ads

Bai (Technology Committee Report):

- Bug Report System implemented. Bug/Change requests for web site added to Member page
- Photoshoot taken with Philip, pictures uploaded to Board drive to be used as needed for website, marketing, and publicity.

Dan:

- Flyers distributed to church, neighbors
- Paul Christensen to attend Youth Scholarship Competition

Katherine:

- Some Youth Scholarship contestants may need headshots
- Dissents with AD not being a voting board member
    - There is a difference between music directors being paid a salary and directors being paid an honorarium.
    - Philip has a lot of salient experience with how a chorus runs

Robin: Philip has not expressed a desire to have a vote

Philip: Doesn't have an expectation to have a vote, would not object to having a vote.

Sonya (Revised Bylaws & Operating Procedures report):

Robin: Sonya has done the lion's share in revising the bylaws and operating procedures

- 2 major changes
    - Instead of VPs, Board members not officers will now be Members at large involved in one or more committees
    - Artistic Director (AD) will no longer be on the board, and will no longer have a vote (but will still attend Board Meetings and give a report.) This is in keeping with most other similar non-profits.
- Operating Procedures changes
    - (Business Committee?) will maintain legal corporation documents and filings, including government and industry license and memberships
    - Proper use of debit cards for completing transactions of budgeted items
- Budget vs Spending Plans
    - ½ vs 2/3rds majority needed for changes to budget
        - **Dennis:** what about emergency situations where additional spending/purchasing is needed?
        - **Sonya**: President has emergency powers, within reason, to make these decisions
        - Majority means the majority of board members present

Tom: ok with AD not being a voting board member

Tom: Motion accept and adopt changes to the Bylaws and Operating Procedures as they currently stand
Dennis: Seconded
Vote: Unanimous Aye

Sonya:

- Inherent conflict of interest for the AD to vote for things he is proposing
- AD is hired by board, and there is a clear separation between the two

Bai: the Board provides a continuity for chorus members to participate in the leadership of the organization in addition and parallel to different AD's that change during the course of the chorus' history.

Tom: Motion to adjourn
Valerie: Seconded
Vote: Unanimous Aye