VMC Board Minutes
Oct. 14, 2025

Present: Robin, Valerie, Bai, Andrew, Tom, Jonathan, Susan, Dennis, Geri. Also attending: Jaz Bielby, Katherine Nitsch.

Call to order: 7:03 p.m.

The minutes from the Sept. 9 board meeting were approved, as amended. The agenda for this meeting was modified to include a discussion about ticket prices under the Director's Report, and was approved.

Committee Reports

Concerts — Valerie
Valerie offered to contact Darcy Schmitt about doing sound for the December concerts. Philip said that he would take on this. Dennis shared that he usually picks up usually sound equipment. Robin said she met with Darcy last summer and a lot of the equipment is now at Darcy's house. Bai asked if Darcy can still use Battle Ground School District equipment because she no longer works for the district. Dennis said that this is OK.

Valerie is collecting folks to volunteer during the concerts.

Dan reportedly has security set up for the December concert.

Valerie said she would check with Charlie regarding photos and videos of the December concerts, but he reportedly won't be at the concerts.

Philip will contact Kristin Judge about putting the lyrics and our new logo on a PowerPoint to be projected during the concerts, hopefully using our new logo.

Susan will take care of flowers because it's part of hospitality.

We will use long red table clothes until we get new ones incorporating our brand.

We couldn't get Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle to make an announcement during the last concert. We had a council member on Saturday night and on Sunday a person didn't show up. Philip said it's OK to take a break from having the mayor there.

Valerie asked if Square and Pay Pal are set up. Bai said he can help set up Square for Valerie but he doesn't know about Pay Pal. We will still take checks at the door. There is a donations button to the menu in Square. Andrew will look into how to track payments by checks.

Philip will give tickets for the orchestra to Victoria, and she can distribute them to players. Valerie needs to check with Dan about how many printed tickets he has left.

Treasurer — Andrew
We are still collecting income. Expenses haven't started to come in yet. There was a misunderstanding about a donation so $1,036.26 is being refunded. Tom suggested that the Board discuss how much of a reserve is needed at a future meeting.

Director's Report — Philip
The brand/logo committee liked the second brand mark and palettes. The board unanimously approved this.

Philip said that $30 is a lot for a community choir concert. He thinks we would sell more tickets and make more revenue overall if the ticket price was less. He suggested $20 or $25. At this time, tickets weren't available yet, though some publicity had gone out with the $30 price.

Geri said that professional groups in Portland charge $30. Discussion of how we're not professional. Dennis said tickets used to cost $25. Bai said we raised the cost because of inflation; our concert expenses have gone up. Also the cost of our productions went up, with a lot of musicians on stage. The board decided to keep ticket prices at $30 for the December 2025 concerts because we get the most audience for these concerts, but lower the price for subsequent concerts. Andrew suggested that we go back and get some numbers regarding this. Robin suggested we discuss the topic further in emails and at the next Board meeting.

Development — Dennis
Still not sure about what grants are coming in (this was before the choir learned that the Cowlitz Tribe grant had been denied.) Discussion of calling all those who donate "Donors" and discontinuing use of "sponsor."

Membership — Susan
Philip said he would like a subcommittee to meet re membership. People are already dropping out for the Christmas concert. What are the rules? Also what standard should there be for vocal ability? What does that do for us as a group? We need guidelines. Range, being able to sing with and without vibrato. We want a choir that is balanced between the parts .This isn't about kicking anyone out. Susan will get this group going. (This has been formed as of 10.27.)

Ten people have dropped out, we spend $160 per person for music (almost as much as members' dues). Several people moved away. There is a former member list on our roster which tells why people are not in group any more. Are 85 members now, was 94.

We need to update the list of photos of choir members for Philip and others. Bai to work on this.

Discussion of maintaining lists of people receiving emails on the Google Drive, i.e. altos or sopranos. Susan suggested that she be the person to update these because she knows who is in the choir. Bai says one needs to know how the tech works so that lists aren't deleted by mistake, but he will set up a way it so we know to whom we are sending a group email.

Publicity — Tom
Tom provided the deadlines for programs as agreed to with David Sorrell. Tom suggested that we do flyers, which David will design. The budget for flyers graphic design is $275.

Technology — Bai
Will work on more putting more rehearsal tracks on the website that Hailey has found.
Tom will ask David Sorrell to forward his brand palette to Bai.

Other business — Jonathan
14 years ago, we had Friday night concerts as well as Saturday and Sunday. Would this be a way to get more audience?

Next meeting Tuesday, Nov. 11.