

Suncoast Phoenix Community Choir
Minutes of Board Meeting
September 4, 2024 at Susan's home

Present: Rachel Manley (chair), Sonia Koehler, Nancy Webber, Catherine Hanson, Sheila Tyner, Lise Kreps, Susan Blockberger, Sara Douglas

Regrets: Jane Mossop

Called to order – at 6:40

1. Adoption of agenda – **Moved** by Sonia, Seconded by Sheila. **Carried.**
2. Adoption of minutes of June 5, 2024 board meeting – **Moved** by Sonia, Seconded by Sheila. **Carried.**
3. Business Arising:

- A. Remembrance Day Requiem: As discussed via email, Remembrance Day Requiem will be at St. Hilda's Church. There will be performances at 1:00 and 3:00, times selected to accommodate singers and musicians coming from off-coast. Singer's dues are \$85. Admission by ticket. Tickets cost \$25 and the Visitors Centre in Sechelt has agreed to sell them. Discussion whether to also sell tickets online, but consensus was that this plus "in person" sales would make it too difficult to determine when we were sold out. We usually have no difficulty selling out the Requiem. Mary will be asked to design the poster. Liz will be asked if she can print tickets.
- B. BCCF Raffle: We will participate again this year. Last year's relatively poor sales were probably due to competition with Groundhog Day fundraiser. Also some folks are not comfortable with buying tickets on-line. Discussion re: paper vs. on-line tickets. Decision that a hybrid of both would be best. Sales window will be Feb 1 – April 26. Susan Ferguson will be asked to coordinate.
- C. Mail Chimp: Mike Cronk suggested we use Mail Chimp to create a mailing list of "our fans" who might want notice of performances etc. Lise is familiar with Mail Chimp and will look into setting this up.
- D. Dues and Raises:

Dues remain at \$120 for Sept-Dec, and \$130 for Jan-May. Requiem dues are \$85. There is an option to pay in installments if needed. Also, if singers are unable to afford dues they may bring this to the attention of the board via Sara or the treasurer, and a bursary may be available. These two options will be publicized discretely by the treasurer.

Lise asked if there was any consideration for providing a reduced rate if there are multiple members from the same household. This is not being considered at this time.

Catherine reviewed how we arrived at Sara and Tom's remuneration, i.e. based on \$60 per hour and 110 hours per year. She also reviewed information she has obtained about what other choir directors are typically paid. \$60 per hour appears to be in line with the average going rate for choir directors, but there was a strong consensus on the board that 110 hours per term is a big underestimate of the amount of time the musical director position requires. Sara noted that she and Tom have a strong and valuable partnership and she feels strongly that their remuneration should be equal as it is now.

Moved by Lise, seconded by Sheila, that Sara and Tom's remuneration be increased to \$9,000 per year (based on \$60 per hour x 150 hours per year). **Carried.**

All board members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the excellent leadership provided our choir by Sara and Tom.

E. Startup Sept 5th :

Choir will start up tomorrow Sept. 5th. Singers have been asked to come between 6:30 and 7:00 to pick up music and sign in. This will be followed by introductory remarks by Sara, some singing and snacks (bring a few if you can). Full rehearsals to commence the next week.

4. Reports

a. Treasurer

Preliminary budget circulated by email prior to meeting. This will be amended to reflect changes in remuneration, then re-circulated.

b. Music Director

Sara expressed her excitement at starting the new choral year. She feels that with our current group of singers we will be able to tackle more challenging music, and she has selected repertoire that includes some easy and pieces but also some more challenging pieces.

Sara will be away for two weeks. Janice Brunson will lead the Sept. 19th choir rehearsal and the two Requiem rehearsals (Sept 15 and 22nd) that she will miss.

The December concerts will have more Christmas music than last year's December concerts. Sara has learned of a conflict with our planned Saturday Dec 14 concert in Sechelt and the community orchestra's Christmas concert. She suggests we move the time to the evening to avoid this conflict. To be discussed on Thursday with the choir, Sara proposes Dec. 14th Saturday evening at St. Hilda's, Dec. 15th Sunday afternoon at Calvary Baptist in Gibsons, and Dec. 16th Monday evening at the Botanical Garden at 7 pm.

c. Librarian

Sonia and helpers Evelyn and Kathleen have created music packages for last year's choir members. She is missing some pieces and is short on the number of copies of some of the music. She will request that folks share with those who are missing music until copies for them can be obtained.

Publicity

Waiting for dates and times to be finalized.

d. Concert Coordinator

Will be working to change dates/times as discussed.

e. Membership

Lise has set up a google doc which will contain the membership list, emails and phone numbers for all members. Board members may access this document. Speak to Lise to find out how. She also would like to ask for information on which community singers reside in, and whether they are willing to carpool. Sonia suggested she wait for a few weeks as membership historically fluctuates in the first few weeks of the term.

f. President

Nothing to report

5. Next meeting

Place: On Zoom

Date: Wednesday, October 2

Time: 5:30 pm

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Addendum to the meeting minutes: (During dinner) **Moved by Sheila**, Seconded by Catherine that Sylvain and Jon's fee per session be increased to \$60. **Carried.**