**Village Voices Joint Board Meeting**

**Thunderbird Clubhouse**

**July 1, 2024**

**7:00 p.m.**

In Attendance: Jerry Shaw, Carol Fredericks, Deborah Scott, Mike Hanika, Dan Fasani, Alexis Chen, Tami Lesser, Gloria Hilliard, Linda Archie, Geri Mankey

Not in Attendance: Katie Phillipson

1. Approval of May 26, 2024 minutes – will be posted on the VillageVoices.org website.
2. **President’s Report**
3. Tonight’s meeting marks the end of the choir’s 2023-2024 year.  This is a joint meeting with both current and newly elected board members.  Only current members may vote tonight but everyone is welcome to join the discussion.  We began this past year with concerns about maintaining our long-standing performance venue at the Scherr Forum, mostly due to initial budgetary shortfalls. In spite of this we put on two wonderful concerts and managed to boost our budget to near record levels.  We also put on a very successful post spring concert talent show using our own singers, which was not only enjoyed by all who attended, but also, raised a record amount of money for our scholarships program.  Jerry thanked everyone for their dedicated work and participation.  Discussion to acknowledge the efforts of many members to sell tickets and encourage donations going forward. We’d like to encourage more members to sell tickets to our concerts.
4. Welcome to the new Board Members. Discussion of non-elected/appointed positions: **Historian**(maintain photo albums, collections of programs. This position has been unfilled in recent years), **Scholarship Chair, Elementary School Grants Chair(s), Librarian (s), Concert Attire Director**and a **Nominating Committee**to nominate a new slate of candidates to the elected positions that are being vacated at the end of each concert year.Besides these positions specified in our constitution, we have, in recent years, also appointed a **Sunshine Committee,**a **Ticket Sales Committee, Grant Writer,** and a choir **Webmaster.** Finally, **Section Leaders** are appointed for all four voice sections in our choir. Discussion about the Section Leaders taking on more responsibility with regard to rehearsals. We will ask returning Section Leaders to see if they are interested in continuing in that role by Membership. It was agreed that we should let the Membership know about these opportunities early in the semester.
5. Our current Librarian, Winona Krieger, is not available going forward. Since we need a Librarian even before the fall semester begins to assemble and distribute the music at our first rehearsal, Gloria.sent an email request to all members, and Marti Smith volunteered to be our new librarian.
6. Gloria Gloria has asked Marti Smith to assume this position, which was graciously accepted.
7. As has been discussed at prior board meetings, Jerry has assembled an Ad Hoc Committee to review our current constitution and by-laws for possible updates and revisions.  This committee consists of Jerry Shaw, Fran Vignes, and Katie Phillipson.  The committee will meet during the summer, and we will report their findings to the entire choir (as required by our current constitution) early in the fall.
8. Board Meetings going forward will be on the second Sunday of the month, (with the exception of the first one) on August 4th, at 7:00 p.m, via Zoom.
9. Jerry requested that we spend 20 minutes at the next Board Meeting to discuss the types of music we are singing and the nature of the Choir.

      **III. Board Member Reports**

1. **Treasurer’s Report – Dan** – One-time monies this past year helped our budget: $5,000 Covid relief and $5,945 from Los Robles Master Chorale. Worried that other grants we usually apply for may be reduced. Spring Concert Results: We sold 510 tickets this year vs 376 tickets sold for Spring 2023. Laura’s children’s choir families accounted for 108 of the 134 additional tickets. We made $2,605 on the concert without applying any grant money to help pay for the venue. The Broadway Review was also successful, bringing in $3,600 for our scholarship fund. Dan found a college student who would like to volunteer to help with grant writing. Motion to allow Dan to work with an outside person or possibly Chris Alexander to write grants for the Village Voices. Approved. Dan talked about change in insurance – both the BAPAC and City of Thousand Oaks require $2,000,000 of insurance per instance. Our current insurance covers $1,000,000 per instance. Dan is looking into purchasing umbrella insurance to cover the discrepancy. Discussion regarding compensation for Gloria and Chris. Motion to increase stipend for both by 4%. Approved.
2. **Concert Master’s Report – Mike** Discussion about ticket sales – decided not to require members to sell a certain number of tickets. May consider a light competition to incentivize members to sell tickets. Agreed that the addition of the children’s choir was helpful in ticket sales. Contract signed for May 30 and 31, 2025 for spring concert, and deposit paid. December 6 and 7, 2024 concert dates have been locked in also. We also hired a videographer for the May 2024 concert, and this was edited into a wonderful 10-minute synopsis of the concert. This is now posted on the VillageVoices.org website. Alexis Chen has agreed to look at all the raw footage and edit it down to a one-hour synopsis to put on YouTube. The video footage highlights items that could be improved with regard to looking at Gloria, choreography, and stage presence. Tami Lesser spoke up, stating that she runs a production company, and would be happy to talk about recording and photographing rehearsals and concerts in the future. There was also discussion about subscription ticket sales. Will gather email addresses from ticket sales to add to Constant Contact mailing list. Dan, Mike and Deborah will reach out to the BAPAC to set up subscription sales. Subscription sales require concert descriptions usually written by Fran Vigne and graphics by Katie Phillipson. Gloria will reach out to them.
3. **Membership Report – Carol** – Discussion about interest in travelling with the choir. Gloria has a list of tours available and will investigate. Carol and Chris met regarding potential members. Auditions are August 10 and 11, 17 and 18th. Discussion about advertising for these auditions through colleges, ads in The Acorn. Idea to put together handout with suggestions for maintaining health leading up to concerts. Perhaps put this in new member packet and/or send to members about a month before concerts.
4. **Publicity Report – Alexis** – He has media kit from The Acorn with rates for advertising. He also publicized the Broadway Review fundraiser. Alexis also recorded the Broadway Review and will edit that for distribution. Discussion about one of the local publications reviewing our group, or perhaps Letters to the Editor.
5. **Ways and Means Report – Linda** – Last restaurant fundraiser brought in $240 at California Fish Grill. Flyers for this fundraiser were inserted in concert programs, which we think helped the turnout. Opportunity Baskets raised $700 at May concert. Upcoming is the Charity Karaoke, Sing for a Cause at the Canyon Club on October 6, 2024, is a joint fundraiser with twenty other non-profits. Billy Parish and Katie Phillipson agreed to sing, representing Village Voices. This group has raised up to $70,000 in the past. Future ideas: Sunland Winery, Patron, America Supporting Americans joint fundraisers, reselling used books, Village Voices Cookbook, Donation Jars, Team Trivia Night at Sunland Winery, sports tournament, cultural fashion show, donation drive.
6. **Graphic and Programs Report – Katie** (not in attendance)
7. **Choir Director’s Report – Gloria** - Note, the Board voted by email on June 14, 2024 to accept the Spring 2025 concert program as presented by Gloria. Subscription sales require Fran to do a write up and Katie to put graphics together before we can advertise. Gloria will reach out to them. Regarding recording parts each semester for members to use, Gloria was asking about using an MP3 player rather than a CD recorder. Conejo Valley Village (Senior Resource Center) at Los Robles Greens asked if we would sing at their event on December 18th 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Mike offered to reach out to this group to gather more information.
8. **Other Items** – Discussion about everyone having a stool on stage. Get more information on visuals from our families. May depend on how many choir members we have – to fit all those stools on stage with the choir members.

Next meeting Sunday, August 4th, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.