



**Village Voices Chorale**

**BOARD MEETING Minutes**

**Tuesday May 10, 2021 7:00pm**

Hosted on Zoom by Bonnie Hicks

**In attendance:** Hannah Best, Tim Bonds, Bonnie Hicks, Gloria Hilliard, Winona Krieger, Nicole Singer, Marti Smith, John Thompson and Katie Phillipson

**I. Approval of March Minutes**

- i) Motion to approve February Minutes: 1st John Thompson, 2nd Tim Bonds, motion passed.

**II. Treasurer's Report (Marti Smith)**

A. May Treasurer's Report

- i) Shared with board members via email.

B. Budget Update

- (i) VVC was approved for the state of California grant for \$5,000 to help with insurance and storage. Marti has completed the paperwork and it says that it will take about thirty days to get the funds.
- (ii) VVC received \$900 in donations for March and April--\$400 is flagged for scholarships. There was discussion about using scholarship monies for next year.
- (iii) After all was reconciled there was a net profit of \$7,800, including the \$5,000 grant funds.
- (iv) Marti agreed to follow-up about having the storage bill sent.
- (v) There was discussion about the size of the storage unit with regard to what is stored there and that perhaps it would be good to consider a smaller unit.
- (vi) Marti stated that compiling upcoming budgets will be a challenge because of the uncertainty of ticket sales going forward. She added that perhaps the price of the tickets should be raised.
- (vii) Marti will proceed with following-up with the attorney about contracts.
- (viii) John Thompson moved to accept the treasurer's report, Tim Bonds 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

**III. Board Members' Reports**

A. **President** (Bonnie Hicks)

1. **Concert Venue**

- (i) Bonnie asked about the status of correspondence with the Bank of America Performing Arts Center.
- (ii) John reported that *New West* is having outdoor events at Triunfo Canyon Park and that their plan is to open fully July 1<sup>st</sup>.

- (iii) Tim Bonds said that big event centers, will follow CDC guidelines for safely re-opening which are, that if we are in the yellow tear we can open at 25% capacity and at 50% capacity with proof of vaccine and statements confirming no Covid 19 w/in 72 hours.
- (iv) John asked if this would be the guidance that the Bank of America Performing Arts Center will follow.
- (v) Bonnie asked what the Village Voices Chorale is willing to do in order to keep the performances at the B of A Performing Arts Center.
- (vi) John added that the new contract should allow full seating without restrictions or we should have an out.
- (vii) Tim asked about the possibility of there being some wiggle room on variable costs in the event that the fixed costs were met.
- (viii) Current cost is somewhere around six or seven thousand fixed, and two thousand variable.
- (ix) Winona agreed to look into the possibility of using the auditorium at Agoura High School in case things at the B of A Performing Arts Center do not work.
- (x) John added that in light of the fluidity of CDC guidelines, things may change significantly by the time of the concert.
- (xi) Discussion was had about VVC being open to changing venue depending on financial considerations.

## **2. Concert Dates**

- (i) There was discussion about possible performance dates.
- (ii) The dates that have been requested at BAPAC are Dec. 3 & 4.

## **3. Singer and Director Participation**

- (ii) It was agreed that VVC will make guidelines and convey such to members to get an idea of how many will return.

## **4. Rehearsal Venue**

- (i) Bonnie asked whether the church would still allow VVC to rehearse there.
- (ii) Gloria said the church is willing to have us back with protocols. The church is very strict. Participants are required to register with health questionnaire. Temperatures are taken. People are required to social distance.
- (iii) Currently, the CDC says that singers who have been fully vaccinated can sing indoors without masks.
- (iv) Possibilities for rehearsal options were discussed including using Alton Hall because of its better ventilation; using the sanctuary, and/or having section rehearsals. Capacity of Alton hall is one hundred. So fifty would work for fifty percent. Tim added that if we are in the yellow and people have been vaccinated we can have fifty and if we have more we can use the sanctuary and open all three doors.
- (v) Bonnie posed the question of whether or not VVC is willing to use the church in light of all the restrictions and that she knows of a church in Thousand Oaks that may be available for a good fee.

- (vi) Katie said she had no issues with the church's restrictions. Bonnie expressed concerns about high restrictions at the time of the concert.
- (vii) Gloria added that another consideration is the cost, which at \$25.00 is great.
- (viii) Hannah said she is in favor of staying at the church and Nicole was also in favor of staying at the church because of the price and because the guidelines make participants feel comfortable. Gloria added that staying at the church adds a comfort level for the singers. Bonnie added that VVC should move forward with the church but keep open to using another venue if necessary.
- ix) Hannah made a motion to accept the churches restrictions and continue rehearsing there. Katie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion was carried.

#### **5. Vaccination Policy Notification**

- (i) Tim agreed to write a rough draft of a vaccination policy letter for discussion and after fine tuning, send it along with a check-in form supplied by Gloria.
- (ii) Bonnie will send an email outlining CDC guidelines for indoor singing.
- (iii) Tim and Bonnie will work on a survey about vaccinations with the choices of, "yes I am fully vaccinated, no I am not vaccinated and I decline to answer." Results of the survey will provide participation data for VVC to use in planning.
- (iii) There was discussion about the time line for surveying singers about vaccinations.
- (iv) Marti said we also need to know numbers for purposes of finances. Dues are currently \$75.00. Last season, tickets were \$ 27.00 when purchased ahead of time. At the current venue there are 378 seats so if we're at 50% capacity we need to take that into account.

#### **6. Dates for Beginning Rehearsal**

- (i) Gloria asked if rehearsal should start on the seventeenth or the 24<sup>th</sup>. Hannah suggested that some younger singers may not have been able to be vaccinated by then. Gloria said that in that case the twenty-fourth would be best. Bonnie added that we could get the music out on the 17<sup>th</sup> and then rehearse on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Tim said that it would be good to get the music, pay the dues and meet for a short rehearsal on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Gloria agreed that a 7:30 start would work for the 17<sup>th</sup> and that we could go until 9:00.

#### **7. Singer Auditions**

- (ii) Tim posed the question of how many auditions we want, how many we have and what is the rate of accepted singers to auditions.
- (iii) Bonnie said auditions should begin in August on the 1st or 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8. Next Steps**

- (i) Bonnie said it would be okay to break even if VVC is able to move forward.

**B. Membership** (Tim Bonds)

- (i) There was discussion about the platforms and methods used for recruitment and if having a separate meeting for recruitment would be in order. There was discussion about having Carole sending Tim some of her past recruitment ads.
- (ii) Tim asked Gloria what the smallest number of choir singers is to have a good show. Gloria said at least fifty not just for the quality of the production but also for ticket sales and dues.
- (iii) Tim brought up considerations about keeping participation fun in light of venue requirements and posed the questions of what both singers and audience members require, ask for, and accept?

**C. Ways and Means** (Nicole Singer)

- (i) We have been awarded the \$5,000 grant from the state of California! This is the Arts section, round 4.

**D. Director Report** (Gloria Hilliard)

- (i) Currently VVC is assuming that Chris and Gloria will return. Gloria said she would and that she would check with Chris. There was discussion about being able to cover Gloria and Chris's salary as well as the rehearsal fee for the church.
- (ii) A question was posed about Gloria's terms to continue directing the choir and Gloria's response was that we need enough singers.
- (iii) We can ask our 2020 scholarship winners to sing at our December concerts since they did not have an opportunity to sing before.

**E. Concert Master** (John Thompson) No news at this time.

**F. Publicity** (Hannah Best) No news at this time.

**G. Graphics & Programs** (Katie Phillipson) No news at this time.

**H. Secretary** (Winona Krieger) No news at this time.

**IV. Old Business** (No new notes)

**Motion to close the meeting:** Bonnie Hicks, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** June 14<sup>th</sup> Have action steps ready for the next meeting.