



Village Voices Chorale

BOARD MEETING Minutes

Monday July 26, 2021 7:00pm

Hosted on Zoom by Bonnie Hicks

In attendance: Tim Bonds, Bonnie Hicks, Gloria Hilliard, Winona Krieger, Marti Smith, John Thompson, Katherine Phillips

I. Approval of March Minutes

- i) Motion to approve June Minutes: 1st Marti Smith, 2nd, Tim Bonds, motion passed.

II. Treasurer's Report (Marti Smith)

A. July Treasurer's Report

- i) Shared with board members via email.

B. Budget Update

- i) Marti reported that \$375.00 is flagged for scholarship John, Bonnie and Tim went line by line through the budget and found that a stable number is necessary to do further planning and that a break even number with regards to singers is in the range of forty-five. Tim added that this number supposes that each participant will sell twelve tickets. Bonnie added that those who aren't singing may still come to the concert.
- ii) Marti reported that there was a glitch when Janah took some money out of the account and put it back in so we are going to the bank to take her off of the account and that Janah may come back to sing but she isn't sure at this time.
- iii) Marti said she is working with the attorney who is now on vacation and will get back to VVC when she returns.
- iv) There was discussion about the preparation of the VVC's tax return which is currently being done at \$400.00 for prep and review. Marti added that VVC could get someone else to do the review but it may be about a \$1000.00 Marti said that she had done a tax review for another group. Gloria asked about when VVC does the review and Marti said in November. Marti added that this year is simple because there has been very little activity. Marti asked if the board wanted to take a vote on whether or not she would do the review. John said it would be good to have an external party conduct the review. Gloria said that the bylaws may say we need an outside source to do the review and that we should determine what constitutes a group as an outside source. The issue was tabled until further review. John added that the bi laws call for an independent verification of the financial records not a board member.

- v) Bonnie reported that the retention letters for Gloria and the Piano player need to go out and that the figures for such letters are needed from Marti.
- vi) Tim said that the good news is that it looks like VVC is on the cusp of getting enough people but he added that the board should be mindful of something unforeseen happening with venue policy changes and the like. He added that VVC needs to make sure it has an escape clause in the contracts. We need to include language for those eventualities in all our contracts in order to protect the solvency of the group, he said.

III. Board Members' Reports

A. President (Bonnie Hicks)

1. Member Participation

- i) Bonnie said that in looking at the list of people coming back, VVC should be aware of those non-returning members who were in charge of things like ticket sales, publicity, concert master, section leaders and wardrobe. For example Simone, who is not returning, was in charge of wardrobe, so that will need to be reassigned. Gloria added that generally it is the membership that does the section leaders. Bonnie said she hopes that people will rally around and pitch in.

2. Policies for the New Semester

- i) Bonnie brought up a discussion about snacks and drinks and it was agreed that snacks are not necessary at this time but Tim volunteered to make sure there is water at the rehearsals.
- ii) Marti can you come the first days and collect dues? Marti yes I can do the first week but not the second. Bonnie asked John if Patrick or Mike Hannica would be good choices for this task. There was discussion about who might be able and willing to fill the roles of concert master, wardrobe, snacks.
- iii) Tim thanked Gloria for the list of people coming back and told Gloria as per her recommendation. Tim said he would remind people coming for audition. (?? Missed what he was reminding them of—dues?) Tim said that if singers are punctual on the fourth the audition can be done in an hour. He said that on the eighth there will be another four auditions.
- iv) Bonnie mentioned that we traditionally have someone greet them. Gloria said no it's the membership person who greets them and gives them a form. Carol Fredrics has the form and Tim will get it from her. Tim asked where the auditions will take place. Gloria said she was hoping to do it in the sanctuary. Tim asked what time Gloria would arrive on the first. He said that if it's a nice night those auditioning can be outside until it's their turn which would make those auditioning more comfortable.
- v) Gloria said we have an accepted and rejection letters that we send out.

B. Membership (Tim Bonds)

- i) Gloria said maybe it will be the section leaders who reach out to contact the singers who haven't responded.

C. Ways and Means (Nicole Singer)

- i) No news at this time.

D. Director Report (Gloria Hilliard)

- i) Gloria said she wanted to continue with membership. She said she had sent out a notice and there are some who have responded and there are some who haven't responded. I noticed that there are some who sang three years ago and we shouldn't try to reach them. Today I went through the list to refine it.
- ii) I did order the music that we discussed and it will be here the 17th and Marti did send the \$200. Mike Becker wanted to know how many music packets we need. I said sixty. There will be two 2019 singers who will be returning as soloists. I was thinking of Billy Parish for a soloist. Childcare may be an issue for Billy if he and his wife are both singing. Josh said he'd be available to play guitar along with one of our former ministers Tim Mike Cellars, and Karen Joe Cookwood. There was discussion about the MC and Gary Dickey and Larry Jordan were mentioned as possible candidates. *(The above ii section and iii below may need some changes as the verbiage jumped around a bit. Please add any corrections necessary.)*
- iii) Gloria said the General Manager of the church is meeting tonight to discuss who they are still planning to meet August 17th but I don't have a definitive. Our group is vaccinated unlike some of the other groups. The church is in Ventura County. Bonnie asked Gloria to let her know as soon as she finds out from the church. Gloria said the church choir is singing without masks but has been asked to wear them when singers weren't singing. Gloria asked Bonnie to update her as soon as she gets the music so the website can be updated.

E. Concert Master (John Thompson)

- i) John said he had not pressed hard because he hadn't heard about participation rates but now that VVC knows he would push to get B of A Pac to agree on polices, terms etc. Tim said plan-B would be the Agoura High School Auditorium or Ascension Lutheran Church. Bonnie said that since it's a rebuilding year we can be flexible on the venue.

F. Publicity (Hannah Best)

- i) There was discussion about the letter to the editor of the local newspaper. Tim said that Bonnie should send the letter because she is the president. Tim agreed to help write the letter.
- ii) Marti asked about the boosts on social media for the notice about auditions. There was discussion about how far VVC wants to reach in its campaign.. Bonnie described the process of posting with a boost and added that a \$40 expenditure may be a good option. Bonnie said she would contact Hannah about the post asking for new members

because it had not been seen. There was discussion about contacting singers in other church choirs in an effort to get new members.

G. Graphics & Programs (Katie Phillipson)

- i) Katie said she was searching for images for the programs. She asked for texts with image suggestions for the programs and said that if VVC pays for an image it will get a better selection.. She offered to help Marti collect dues saying she would collect dues the second week. She offered help in other areas as well.

H. Secretary (Winona Krieger)

- i) No news at this time.

IV. Old Business

- i) There was discussion about whether or not to start with the sectionals. Gloria said that she loved the sectionals and that she wanted to start rehearsals as a whole group and then break into sectionals.

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

Next Meeting: August 16th