Minutes - Village Voices Board Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 2025 7:00 pm

Hosted on Zoom by Deborah Scott

In Attendance: Jerry Shaw, Deborah Scott, Gloria Hilliard, Mike Hanika, Tami Lesser, Geri Mankey, Chris Alexander

Not in Attendance: Katie Phillipson

I**. Approval of January 5, 2025 minutes** They will be posted on the VillageVoices.org website.

**II. President**’**s Report**

1. As we embark on a new concert semester a quick assessment of our choir suggests that we are in very good condition. Our current financial situation is excellent, and we just completed our very successful second Broadway to Westlake fundraiser with kudos to all, especially Fran. Although we lost a few singers from last semester, we more than made up for it with new singers from our recent auditions.
2. Although far from optimal, our issues with concert dates at the Scheer Forum for our winter, 2025 concert have been addressed with concert dates planned for November 21 and 22, 2025. We still need to follow up on a request for a meeting with the Scherr Forum to discuss scheduling commitments going forward, as well as to address our concerns about improving safety arrangements for our singers. Mike will make arrangements to have a few Board members meet with April Carter and her manager.
3. Review our list of appointed choir positions to determine if any are now empty and need to be filled.

**Voice Section Leaders**

**Soprano -** Helga Kaltenbrunner, **Alto -** Lynne Shaw, **Tenor** Laurie Allen, **Bass** Mike Hanika.

**Concert Attire Director** Helga Kaltenbrunner

**Ticket Sales Committee** Dan Fasani (with help from others)

**University Scholarship and Elementary Grant Chair** Laura Rank

**School Grant Chair** – Laura Leininger

**Librarian -** Marti Smith

**Historian -** Empty

**Sunshine Committee** - Fran Vigne, Pat Johnson

**Webmaster -** Chris Alexander

**III. Committee Reports**

**Ways and Means report, Geri** – Panda Express fundraiser in January brought in $160. Petron is scheduled for February 20th with 20% back, lunch and dinner. For the March restaurant fundraiser she will look for a pizza restaurant. Discussion about trying fundraisers at higher-end restaurants, rather than “fast food” places. Discussion about promoting restaurant fundraisers two or three times a semester, rather than monthly.

**Treasurer’s report, Dan –** Scholarship balance around $10,000, due to the Broadway Review and donations. The Westlake to Broadway Review was very successful, raising $6,000 for our scholarship fund. Dan is applying for grants for the upcoming year, with some needing to be spent in Thousand Oaks. Some of these grants offset some of the costs to have concerts at the BAPAC. He mentioned that the demand for grants is higher and funds granted are trending lower than in the past. We discussed looking within our group to find a grant writer to help with applications and look for other opportunities. He did an analysis of our costs to hold concerts. In general, our concerts are profitable and support the costs of putting on concerts and also other expenses like rehearsal costs.

**Concert Master’s report, Mike** – He will make arrangements to meet with April Carter and her manager. A few Board members would like to discuss additional risers for our next concert, safety concerns as well as scheduling commitments going forward.

**Membership report and Webmaster, Chris -** Conducted auditions and now have 59 singers this spring, which is a16% increase over last semester. There are 19 Sopranos, 18 Altos, 14 Tenors, and 9 Basses. He will send out the roster shortly. Please send any high-quality photos for inclusion on the website. He has also updated rehearsal notes and parts for the spring concert.

**Publicity report, Tami –** Through the Facebook ads, she was communicating with 40-50 people to give them information and then passed them over to Chris. Promoted auditions and Broadway Review through posted (paid) ads on Facebook. She used some of the images from the photographer we hired last semester in her advertising. Discussion about having a photographer at our events to get more images to use in ads in future.

**Graphics and Program report, Katie –**

**Choir Director’s report, Gloria** – Has finished rehearsal recordings, send to Chris and they have been posted on the website. She noticed that we have purple ties in storage. Will ask Helga if she can look for purple accessories for women. Decided to keep black shirts, tuxedos, and vests for men, with colored accessories.

**IV. New Business –** Discussion about what to do with extra funds. Suggestion to exempt Board members from paying dues as a way of increasing participation in the Board. Some members disagreed as it would jeopardize our non-profit status and feel that people should volunteer for the benefit of the choir. Another idea is to increase the salaries of Chris and Gloria. Discussion about purchasing jackets for women, and/or purchasing stools for everyone so we have more of a uniform look on stage. The issue is where to store those stools.

**IV. Adjournment at 8:55 p.m.**

**Next meeting Sunday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.**