

West Michigan Jazz Society

Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020 6:00 pm
Coopers Landing

I. Call to order/Roll Call

Present:

Called to order by Michelle Needham at 6:13 PM. Present: John Miller, Jake Vanderheyden, Jim and Peni Reed (Proxy), Dan Ohlman, Mary Reed, and guest, Barb Miller. Absent: Tim Froncek and Jerry Scott.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Motioned by John Miller, seconded by Dan Ohlman, all approved.

III. Review and Approval of Financials. Jim was not able to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. We will review the financials again at the next board meeting.

IV. Open issues

A. Jazz Gumbo update: we need board members to help work the front table and 50/50 raffle.

B. Holiday Party update: we made almost \$2,500 on the party versus losses in previous years. John noted that the band normally plays until 9:30pm (they ended at 9pm). The volume level needs to be conversational and a break is needed for socializing during dinner.

C. Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians Grant Update: tabled until February meeting.

D. Volunteer Opportunity List/Volunteer Coordinator: executive committee met on December 29th, 2019 to work on the volunteer list while working on strategic planning. Michelle reviewed the volunteer matrix needs for each WMJS event throughout the year.

E. Membership Event: 6-9pm at SpeakeEZ. Jake will talk to Tim and Jerry about having In The Blue Jazz Ensemble to perform. DRAFT FACEBOOK DESCRIPTION: Attention WMJS members, past, current and future! We are welcoming new and renewing members, so we are having a party to celebrate it. We will also be revealing the 2020 Jazz musician of the year at 7:30 PM. So come and update your membership, find out how you can get involved and meet some of the board members of the WMJS. Special music by In The Blue Jazz Ensemble. Band hits at 6:30 PM and complimentary snacks will be provided by The SpeakeEZ Lounge.

F. Musician of the Year: the board members present reviewed all of the nominations and all members present unanimously approved Paul Brewer as the WMJS Musician of the Year for 2020. John suggested that we have the event at the Casino Club in May.

V. New business

A. Potential of Listening Room Progressions Series: we will meet with Quinn (general manager) from the Listening Room soon to discuss the potential of adding a new series with WMJS. The venue capacity is 211 people. Jake and Michelle will discuss details of GR Noir Wine and Jazz meeting in February after they meet with the owners.

VI. WMJS Board Committee Updates

A. Executive/Strategic Planning Committee

1. Strategic Planning – Update from above about the volunteer matrix planning.

B. Nominating Committee – Update bylaws to add 6 extra months to get on calendar year. John suggested that we keep the bylaws the same due to attendance issues in the winter months to elect new board members. WMJS usually does not meet in December either.

C. Jazz Program Committee – chair Jerry Scott

1. Update on hotel for musicians: tabled until February.

D. Treasury Committee – chair Jim Reed

1. Budget for 2020 – Updates needed? Tabled until February.

2. Fundraising and grants – Packet needed for board members to use. (Shannan). Michelle will be reaching out to the board to help contact donors for WMJS.

3. Planned Estate Giving – Work with Shannan Denison – Seminar/action plan

E. Marketing/Communications Committee – chair Jake Vanderheyden

1. Update on Facebook nonprofit profile for donations: Jake will follow up with Jim in February.

2. WMJS Jazz Calendar: Jake mentioned that we need to define our geography and what is included in our printed calendar. We discussed that the main boundaries of West Michigan to keep our content relevant to our members and promoting WMJS events.

3. West Michigan Jazz Society Summit/Congress idea: Jake proposed an idea for WMJS to host artists, fans, venues, and more to respond to community feedback about the jazz community in West Michigan. This event may help WMJS to improve stakeholder engagement.

F. Membership Committee – Need Chair (Board Member) for this Committee

1. Kat and Lauren prorated the memberships from last year. Jim will email the list out to the board. Everyone agreed that semi-annual prorated membership costs will renew in July

2. Incentives from establishments.

3. New membership levels – artist/venue – Vote on them. Jake reviewed the new membership levels with the board. Dan motioned to approve the individual and band levels to be added. John Miller seconded, all approved. The other levels will be tabled for February discussion.

G. Scholarship Committee – chair John Miller – contact form

H. Education Committee – chair Tim Froncek

VII. Adjournment, Next Meeting February 19th 6pm here at Coopers Landing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM