

a) West Michigan Jazz Society
b) Board Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2020 6:00 pm

Zoom

I. Call to order/Roll Call at 6:05pm

Present: Jake Vanderheyden, Jerry Scott, Michelle Needham, Jim Reed, Peni Reed, John Miller,
Dan Ohlman, Mary Reed, Tim Froncek

Guests: Lauren Starke, Donna Kahny

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A. Approval motioned by Jerry, seconded by Jim. All in favor.

III. Review and Approval of Financials

A. \$1,257 charged for insurance is annual is mostly for live gigs. It covers up to 20 gigs. Every gig that we do not host we will be reimbursed at the end of the year. We already will get 4 back as of today.

B. We received \$950 in a donation in memory of Jack Morrison so far this month (five people).

C. Jim motioned to approve the financials; John seconded. All in favor.

IV. Open issues

A. COVID 19 Impact on Coming Events – Virtual Jazz concerts?

- Jim mentioned that Kent County Parks will not likely allow any large events this summer.
- Jake introduced the idea of a virtual jazz in the park series on our social media pages. Jake and Lauren will work on a plan for a potential series.
- Jim is going to ask Kurt what his rates would be for streaming concerts.
- WMJS is currently suspending any in person events due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure

B. Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians Grant Update

Currently suspended until we have an upcoming WMJS event again.

C. Jazz at Millennium Park

C.1. Park and Band Shell – the project is currently suspended.

C.2. Volunteers – currently suspended until WMJS events resumes.

C.3. Food Trucks – currently suspended until WMJS events resumes.

C.4. Bands - Jerry is going to contact all of the bands that have been booked already following the update from the State of Michigan.

D. Musician of the Year Event Watermark Country Club – currently suspended, tentatively in October. WMJS has not made any payments yet.

V. New business

A. Collaborations (GR Noir, Listening Room, Art Prize Jazz Jam Sessions)

Jake mentioned the opportunity for WMJS to sponsor a jazz jam event during Art Prize this fall.

- B. Support for Artists – Promotion, financial (especially with the new frontier of music)
 - B.1. Jake suggested that WMJS could sponsor artists from our area that are currently live streaming.
 - B.2. Jake and Dave setup a virtual gig submission form on the WMJS website, any approved gigs will be added to the jazz around West Michigan calendar.

VI. WMJS Board Committee Updates

- A. Executive/Strategic Planning Committee – has not met since March.
- B. Nominating Committee – New board members recruiting. Peni Reed up for 2nd Term. Jake will contact Jordan VanHemert. Michelle will reach out to Shannan Denison about another term.
- C. Jazz Program Committee – chair Jerry Scott- see notes above.
- D. Treasury Committee – chair Jim Reed
 - D.1. Budget for 2020 – Updates needed
 - D.2. Fundraising and grants – found old Jazz in the Park but emailed Shannan on where updated sponsorship packet and letters for donations are located.
 - D.3. Planned Estate Giving – Work with Shannan Denison – Seminar/action plan
- E. Marketing/Communications Committee – chair Jake Vanderheyden
 - E.1. Update on Facebook nonprofit profile for donations
 - E.2. West Michigan Jazz Society Summit/Congress idea – on hold due to COVID-19.
 - E.3. Website and Membership Levels – see notes above.
- F. Membership Committee – Need Chair (Board Member) for this Committee
 - F.1. Incentives from establishments
 - F.1.a) On hold until new venues recruited and businesses re-open.
 - F.2. Membership down
 - F.2.a) Referral incentive for current members (free drink ticket for the current member and the new referred member at a future jazz gumbo event)
 - F.2.b) Reach out to all that have not renewed (do research). Only 1 new member online. Any existing members owe their full due amount. Only new members will be prorated. Lauren will look into sending postcards and emails out to those who have not renewed.
 - F.2.c) Lauren and Michelle will work on thanking members of the patron, benefactor, and lifetime levels.
- G. Scholarship Committee – chair John Miller
 - G.1. Fund balance decrease – we are down about \$5,000 from the market impact
 - G.2. We are in discussion with students about scholarships for school in the fall.
 - G.3. Encourage more to contribute
- H. Education Committee – chair Tim Froncek

VII. Adjournment, Next Meeting at 7:41pm Tim motioned, Mary seconded. All in favor.