

# **West Michigan Jazz Society**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

December 19, 2020 9:30 am

Zoom

### I. Call to order/Roll Call

Present: Michelle Needham, Jim & Peni Reed, Jordan VanHemert, Jake Vanderheyden, Shannan Denison, Kevin Jones, Tim Froncek, Mary Rademacher Reed, John Miller

Absent: Jerry Scott, Dan Ohlman

### II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Jim motioned to approve the minutes; Tim seconded. All in favor.

### III. Review and Approval of Financials

Jim mentioned that there were no transactions in November. In December so far, we have received \$805 in membership renewals and \$175 in donations. In the mail we have received an additional \$570 in membership renewals.

### IV. Open Business

#### A. Holiday Virtual Concert – Update on how it went

Jake noted that WMJS got 668 view so far (in 12 hours)! Averaged 25-35 live viewers throughout. Received a view donations and interest from the audience. Blue Lake will work with WMJS to get a nice video mixed.

#### B. Jazz Talks

##### B.1. Update/Message from Local 56

B.1.a) The union received funding from a grant to fund virtual events. Kevin will ask for more information.

B.1.b) Jim mentioned that there may be issues with reimbursements. They pay a % of the total for musicians that are in the union.

##### B.2. Board support and promotion

B.2.a) Board input requested for suggestions for guests.

B.2.b) Jake recommended that WMJS purchase a streamyard account (\$20/month).

B.2.c) Kevin has suggested we re-brand the name of the series to not conflict with Alternative Venues for jazz “Jazz Talk”. The board agreed that “Let’s Talk Jazz with WMJS!” would be a great new name. All were in favor of the new name and the artist lineup for Jan/Feb 2021.

#### C. Schedule/Guest Ideas Jazz at Millennium Park – Reserved for 2021

#### D. Federal/State Grants – Jazz in the Park & Educational – Add Juneteenth Event

D.1. Michelle will distribute the list to the board for funding.

D.2. WMJS needs to produce a letter to send out for fundraising. Shannan has materials to share with the board. Each event needs a separate letter to have a proper ask for each event.

- E. Musician of the Year Event Watermark Country Club – On hold
- F. Fundraising Event 2021 – Tabled until MOY is planned
- G. Black History Month
  - G.1. Virtual Talks – various panels of Black jazz musicians in or from West Michigan. Kevin, Jordan, and Tim have been putting together more materials and guests for virtual talks.
  - G.2. Virtual Performances GR Noir
  - G.3. Video Montage? – Jordan contacted a friend that was interested in helping with this. The services could be an in-kind donation that he can write off as an expense.
- H. Juneteenth Event
- I. Jazz Jams at Sandy Point Beach House – On Hold
- J. Noto’s Supper Club – On Hold
- K. WKTV/WMJS – JazzWorks Program – Availability for meeting with Tom N
  - K.1. Michelle will setup a meeting for all that would like to be involved.
- L. Wine & Canvas Jazz Fundraiser – On Hold
- V. New business
  - A. Vice President/Secretary Positions
    - A.1. Dan notified WMJS that he needs to step down from his position as Vice President.
    - A.2. Michelle would like to appoint Jake as Vice President until June when the board elections come back for WMJS.
  - B. Performer List 2018 to Present – Michelle sent the list out
    - B.1. Jordan shared a graphic of BIPOC led bands currently makeup about 30% of WMJS performances (2018-2020)...70/30, where demographically Grand Rapids metro would be closer to 60/40. Jordan noted that particularly with jazz, it should be closer to 50/50.
    - B.2. Jordan also shared a distribution graph of how often musicians are hired throughout the year. WMJS does not have a consistent cadence of hiring equity.
  - C. North American Saxophone Alliance Conference March 17-20
    - C.1. Jordan is facilitating the virtual conference, he is hoping that WMJS can contribute to have a presence at the conference and to also have the featured artists perform for WMJS members, and also to attract new members.
    - C.2. Jim made a verbal commitment to \$300 for WMJS, with another \$200 possibly.
- I. WMJS Board Committee Updates
  - A. Executive/Strategic Planning – Board President is the chair
    - A.1. Discuss need to do committee meetings throughout the month to coordinate and come up with plans to bring to the board
  - B. Nominating Committee – chair Mary Rademacher-Reed
  - C. Jazz Program Committee – chair Jerry Scott
  - D. Treasury Committee – chair Jim Reed

D.1. Planned Estate Giving –Shannan Denison

D.2. Shannan is working on a piece we can add to jazz notes, also fielding questions in advanced.

E. Marketing/Communications Committee – chair Jake Vanderheyden

E.1. Newsletter Update – goal is to distribute in mid-January for Q1 2021.

E.2. Jake motioned to purchase a streamyard pro account for \$240 annual to assist with hosting virtual events and jazz talks. Michelle seconded. All in favor.

F. Membership Committee – chair Kevin Jones (Lauren Starke, Membership Coordinator)

F.1. Membership Renewals 1/1/21 – Need committee meeting/action plan

F.2. Kevin asked if Michelle and Lauren could meet to discuss an upcoming plan.

F.3. Kevin sent a renewal letter out to all lapsed members, it will also be in jazz notes.

G. Scholarship Committee – chair John Miller – no update

H. Education Committee – chair Tim Froncek

H.1. Tim provided a document for Black History month in jazz notes

II. Adjournment,

A. Jordan motioned to adjourn, Peni seconded. All in favor.

B. Next Meeting – Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am on Zoom