

West Michigan Jazz Society

Board Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2021 9:30 am
Zoom

I. Call to order/Roll Call 9:39am

Present: Jim & Peni Reed, Michelle Needham, Shannan Denison, Jake Vanderheyden, Kevin Jones, Jerry Scott, and John Miller

Absent: Mary Rademacher, Jordan VanHemert, Dan Ohlman, and Tim Froncek.

Guests: Jan Basham

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

John motioned to approve, Peni seconded. All in favor.

III. Review and Approval of Financials

Jim noted that we are in good shape financially as of today. WMJS received some nice contributions from members in March. Financials will be provided in an update.

IV. Open Business

A. North American Saxophone Alliance Conference – Update on event

1. The event was a huge success. Approx. 250 attendees across the nation that are in the field of professional saxophonists.

B. Speaking of Jazz – Updates

1. WMJS has continued to host Speaking of Jazz weekly with advertising to help boost the audience.

2. The show is almost booked out through May as of today. Kevin & Jordan have connected a lot of great musicians from the area and around the nation.

3. Kevin mentioned that he is working on booking Chris Jasper of the Isley Brothers.

C. Jazz Jams at Sandy Point Beach House – Updates

1. Session has been going well. Two dates are booked out in the future but we will evaluate continuing into the summer. When the weather improves, they will move the event outdoors.

2. Jake has been hosting the event and coordinating with the house band. There has been good attendance for musicians sitting in.

D. Jazz at Millennium Park – Reserved for 2021- Updates

1. The park is still planning on hosting the event with 300 person maximum as of today. They are confident that herd immunity will continue to build and increase outdoor capacity.

2. WMJS is planning on having Kurt Ehinger back to run sound.

3. WMJS will have to publish and promote guidelines and safety precautions.

4. Jerry has all the dates, priority will be given to acts that we had to cancel in 2020. Jordan is working alongside him to line up the schedule.

5. Shannan has been working on sponsors for Jazz in the Park.
 6. Michelle is going to work on reaching out to food vendors.
- E. Federal/State Grants – Jazz in the Park & Educational (Add Juneteenth Event)
1. WMJS will find out about grants in April.
- F. Musician of the Year Event Watermark Country Club – on hold
- G. Fundraising Event 2021 – Tabled until MOY is planned
- H. Juneteenth Event – Establish committee to plan the event
1. Committee needs to be setup to plan the event before the next board meeting. Kevin, Jordan, Tim, Jerry, Mary, and Jake can coordinate planning various aspects of the event.
- I. Noto’s Supper Club – Update on resuming
1. Jim spoke with Noto’s, they are not likely to continue the event in the near future for the bar area. The donation that we have received for the events is still on hold, but they are open to working on an event with WMJS as a supper club.
- J. Wine & Canvas Jazz Fundraiser – On hold
- K. WKTV/WMJS – JazzWorks Program – Availability for meeting with Tom N
1. Update needed from Mary, Michelle will reach out about this. WMJS needs to find out more information on the costs.
- V. New business
- A. GRCCT – Art Prize Jam Sessions – 9/19, 9/26, 10/3 2-5pm – Depends on finances or getting sponsorships to help cover the costs. Jake will follow up about the financial piece, if it is viable to start booking musicians.
- B. Listening Room – Open Talks for Event? Jake & Michelle will open communication again,
- I. WMJS Board Committee Updates
- A. Executive/Strategic Planning – Board President is the chair
1. By-Laws Review and Approval
 - a) Categories only should be listed in the bylaws. Dollar amounts should be taken out.
 - b) Jazz venues and sponsors could be listed separately from membership.
 - c) Fiscal year should
 2. 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
1. A slate of nominees shall be submitted to the Board by the Nominating Committee no later than the April Board meeting. Nominees shall be approved by the Board at the May meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held during the month of June for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Directors and Officers and for such other business of the Society that may be necessary.
 2. WMJS needs more diverse skill sets to work with members and volunteers, recruitment should begin now. Individuals should be invited to the May Meeting.

- C. Jazz Program Committee – chair Jerry Scott – see Jazz in the Park above.
 - 1. Jerry has 10 dates planned tentatively. Jim booked the lineup through August 16th with 2 rain dates. There will not be an even on July 5th due to the holiday.
 - 2. There is an artist from out of town that could only come on August 23rd due to their tour. Jim suggested that the date is left open for a rainout date.
 - D. Treasury Committee – chair Jim Reed
 - 1. Planned Estate Giving –Shannan Denison – Update
 - a) Shannan has content about donations for the newsletter.
 - b) Shannan has been updating wild apricot and contacting members.
 - E. Marketing/Communications Committee – chair Jake Vanderheyden
 - 1. Newsletter Update – delayed announcement for the lineup of Jazz in the Park
 - 2. Jake will setup a meeting with Shannan, Michelle, Lisa, Lauren, and Mary to figure out what happened last time and a plan.
 - 3. Jim will draft a letter to be sent out soon to membership to update.
 - F. Membership Committee – chair Kevin Jones (Lauren Starke, Membership Coordinator)
 - 1. Membership Renewals 1/1/21 – Need committee meeting/action plan
 - 2. Kevin will meet with Lauren.
 - 3. Lauren is catching up on adding donations into the system. Tax information needs to be sent out to donors also.
 - G. Scholarship Committee – chair John Miller
 - 1. Online Scholarship Form
 - 2. Received two Scholarship Submission
 - H. Education Committee – chair Tim Froncek – no update
- II. Adjournment, Next Meeting – April 24th, 2021, 9:30am
- John motioned, Jim seconded. All in favor. Adjourned at 11:20am