

# **West Michigan Jazz Society**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

August 28, 2021 9:30 am

Zoom

### I. Call to order/Roll Call 9:43AM

Present: Michelle Needham, Jordan VanHemert, Jake Vanderheyden, Kevin Jones, Shannan Denison, Mary Rademacher, Dan Ohlman

Absent: Tim Froncek, Jim Reed, Peni Reed, Scott Freeman, Jan Basham

### II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Michelle motioned to approve; Jordan seconded. All in favor.

### III. Review and Approval of Financials

- Jake motioned to approve; Mary seconded. All in favor.
- Jim mentioned that July would look even better based on the recent collections from the park.

### IV. New business

#### A. WatercolorsGR 2022 – Potential Partnership

- Michelle and Shannan met with Renee Johnson about the event, there will be live jazz (venue TBD)
- They are working on their 501c3 have funds to sponsor artists and work with WMJS on an event.

### V. Open Business

#### A. Jazz at Millennium Park – Updates

- There have been continued requests for accommodations for guests and artists (cover, shade, accessibility) which should be addressed once the band shell is built, but otherwise it is an outdoor event there is not much that WMJS can do otherwise.

#### B. Speaking of Jazz – Updates

- Jordan requested more help from the board to help with booking guests on the program.
- Shannan asked that WMJS should get a sponsor for the series
- Paying guests would help with booking, it depends on the artist, but the board agreed that \$50 on average would be a fair amount to compensate guests.
- Artists that are playing in town would be great to interview, especially with WMJS events.
- Mary said she would be willing to help reaching out to artists. Jake, Kevin, Jordan, & Mary will work on an updated email template and process.

#### C. Noto's Supper Club – Update on resuming

- No updates

#### D. Musician of the Year Event Watermark Country Club – 12/6/21

- Paul Brewer Ok'd the date and will get people to perform with him
- Information will be in the newsletter for the silent auction and sponsorship

- E. GRCCT – Art Prize Jam Sessions – 9/19, 9/26, 10/3 2-5pm
- Jordan is working on finalizing the lineup. Artists should be paid the minimum of \$125 for an artist to cover travel expenses.

F. Listening Room – no update

VI. WMJS Board Committee Updates

A. Executive/Strategic Planning – Board President is the chair

- By-Laws Review and Approval
- Discuss need to do committee meetings throughout the month to coordinate and come up with plans to bring to the board
- Artist pay will also be addressed for budgeting. The overall budget will be evaluated to look at opportunities to be flexible with costs to bring in high caliber and out of town musicians.

B. Nominating Committee – chair Mary Rademacher-Reed

- Potential Board Members: Charles Johnson

C. Jazz Program Committee – chair Jordan VanHemert working with Jerry Scott (volunteer)

- Three different types of groups are being booked. Jordan is working on getting the entire lineup for upcoming bookings.
- The WMJS artist interest form is live on the website for submissions.
- GR Noir event for Black History Month planning needs to start soon (band, logistics, sponsors, live stream, etc.)
- Kevin mentioned that a partnership with the Detroit Jazz Festival foundation could be a great way to promote other artists in both regions. More collaboration would help both sides.

D. Treasury Committee – chair Jim Reed

- Planned Estate Giving – Shannan Denison – Update
  - D..a) There will be content in every newsletter going forward.
- New Volunteer – Liam Bailey (Board, Diversity and Equity, Non-Profit and Fundraising Experience)
- Federal/State Grants – Jazz in the Park/Educational/Black History Month. Liam may be able to assist with more applications.

E. Marketing/Communications Committee – chair Jake Vanderheyden

- Newsletter Update
  - E..a) Sept/Oct being sent by Tuesday, 8/31/21
  - E..b) When we set deadlines, people need to turn things in on time, or it holds us up on completing the newsletter.
- New paid social media campaigns will start for ArtPrize and Jazz Gumbos
  - E..a) Hashtags: #wmichjazz #jazzgumbo #speakingofjazz

F. Membership Committee – chair Scott Freeman with Lauren Starke (volunteer)

- Setting up meeting to work on membership/volunteer needs and plans
- Volunteer signup sheet
- Potential volunteers reaching out – setup plan

G. Scholarship Committee – chair Jim Reed with John Miller (volunteer)

- Ruben Stump, Houston Patton, and Christopher Corey – Scholarships awarded
- One parent said that they did not get the scholarship, WMJS recommended to reach out to the financial aid office about the award.

H. Education Committee – chair \_\_\_\_\_

- Jake will help get a connection for GRPS to help promote our events, content, and talk about in school programming.
- An education volunteer/chair needs to be established, but a committee can form to start planning events.

VII. Adjournment, Next Meeting – September 25, 2021, 9:30am

Michelle motioned to adjourn; Kevin seconded. All in favor.

VIII. Tabled Business for a Later Date

- A. Fundraising Event 2022
- B. Wine & Canvas Jazz Fundraiser
- C. WKTV/WMJS – JazzWorks Program – Availability for meeting with Tom N
- D. Private Home Concerts