

# **West Michigan Jazz Society**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

June 25, 2022 9:30 am

Zoom

### I. Call to order/Roll Call

Present: Michelle Needham, Shannan Denison, Jim & Peni Reed, Kevin Jones, Jan Basham, Scott Freeman, Mary Rademacher Reed, Jake Vanderheyden, Jordan VanHemert

Absent: Dan Ohlman

### II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

### III. Review and Approval of Financials

22K in the bank, 1300 in collections from buckets, 2k in collections from letter

### IV. New business

#### A. Board Members

A.1. Vote to renew for 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Jim Reed & Jake Vanderheyden

Jake to be renewed as board member: Shannan made a motion and Jan seconded All in favor.

Jim to be renewed as board member/treasurer: Shannan made a motion to approve and Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, All in Favor

A.2. Elect and vote on officer positions:

A.2.a) President

A.2.b) Vice President

A.2.c) Secretary

A.2.d) Treasurer

B. Fundraiser at Kent & Susan Riddle's home for Lifetime members/Planned Estate Giving Kickoff? – Committee with Shannan Denison as Chair

Fundraising opportunity in the Spring 2022 via the Riddles. Shannan talked about the venue and opportunity, hiring Michelle Bottrall to help, Jazzing Up Our Legacy, turning our lifetime members into legacy members, goal of profiting 30-40K, Jan asked why it can't be done at yet this Fall, because we have another event in September, and caterers are scarce at the moment.

Cost for Michelle Bottrall is 10K but in payments of 4. Shannan asked for a motion to pay her in 4 installments between. Jim made a motion. Scott 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved[SD1] . Jake asked about details. Mary asked for a re-cap as she had just jumped on. Michelle gave a recap and asked for a vote.

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Much discussion ensued as 10K is the biggest expenditure that WMJS has made. Jan asked for a vote.

All were in favor. Michelle asked if there was anyone against.

C. Meijer Gardens 50 tickets to give away to members for Grand Rapids Symphony – Need to promote

FMG wants to give WMJS 50 tickets to Arturo Sandoval concert with GR Symphony. New members and members will be given tickets with a drawing. We tried giving the tickets to Patron members first but were unable to contact them. The date is July 28th a 7:30 PM, a Thursday, \$55 value a piece, Jake suggested some social media winning ideas also. Jordan suggested giving the students from Ottawa High School be given some tickets, 18 students, if there are tickets leftover we can give some to them but would be primarily for members.

Mary shared that Milt Sernick (84) a drummer, his daughter wants to start an award or scholarship fund in October pay tribute to him by writing an article Peni asked if his daughter would be planning it all and yes. Scholarship fund in his name would be a good thing to start.

## V. Open Business

### A. Jazz in the Park Planning

#### A.1. Shannan needs help finding sponsors!

A.1.a) All board members must reach out to businesses/individuals

A.1.b) Have updated form for sponsors

A.1.c) Shannan is also working on some community collaboration by offering a Non-profit Charity Spotlight for each week of the series.

Sponsor and Ad Collections so far:

\$1000 Britt Law, \$250 Meyer Music, \$750 Susan Basic,

#### A.2. Park Updates – Sam Needham in Charge

A.3. Bands – Mary Rad and friends rain date 8/22/22, West Ottawa cannot use the rain date 8/29/22 so it's open.

A.4. Sound Technician – Kurt Ehinger

A.5. Food Truck Contracts –Coney Girl and Kool Breeze (Electrical Issues)

A.6. Signup Genius for Board Members/Volunteers (Sent, need board members to sign up)

A.7. Bucket Brigade – Dan Ohlman in Charge

### B. Betty Forest Jazz Ambassador Award Banquet – Kurt Ehinger - 9/22?

None from Peni. Kevin suggested making Paul Smith an honorary musician of the year, posthumously. Jim suggested we announce that he's getting this award and the announcement of the date, Mary agreed to do a video for the FB page and Jake suggested hyping up Jazz in the Park at same time. Kevin made the motion, Shannan supported and all were in favor. Michelle asked about the contact info for his family.

### C. Jazz Gumbos – Casino Club wants to get on the calendar for next series.

Jim suggested that we do not book Casino Club for January and February beginning with the first gumbo on September 19th and Kurt's event is the 26th, no problem.

### D. Speaking of Jazz Updates – Have been on hold for now

Update on Jazz in the Park: Michelle talked about the event and the great music. Jim lauded the outstanding bucket collection of over \$1200 with an anonymous donation for the port-a-potties.

Jim is ordering more sandbags for the musician canopy. Some discussion about getting a bus out to Millenium park but the city won't because of no guarantee of ridership. Kevin asked about Martin Luther King Park, Jim replied with continuity and that the park is paying for things. Kevin advocated

for a place with more access which is why Jazz at Zoo was so great. Maybe have an event at Garfield. Jake mentioned that it was on the comment thread of WMJS. “Wish it was on a bus line...” many echoed the sentiment. Shannan wondered about getting the Go bus. Kevin reiterated that he is on the board to help advocate for people who don’t have access: people on the west side, south east side, wherever...not that we should change venues right away but how can we be at a place with access, also for Jazz Gumbos. Mary suggested maybe going to one of those parks for an event. Jim added that the fundraiser could facilitate some of this stuff.

## VI. WMJS Board Committee Updates

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

no updates at this time

#### A.1. By-Laws Review

#### A.2. Work with Dave V and Jake to set up emails for officers and committees

#### A.3. Need to work on Conflict of Interest Policy

### B. Nominating Committee – chair Mary Rademacher-Reed

Michelle asked Mary to set it up for next year

#### B.1. Executive Committee and Mary will be meeting on the following:

B.1.a) Musician of the Year –The executive committee and nominating committee meet to develop a clear, written process for nominating, voting, etc. which would include both board and membership involvement.

Kevin asked about setting up a committee to have more clear parameters about how we choose a musician of the year. Mary will send out an email to gather a committee.

#### B.1.b) Board Member Matrix – Only 2 forms returned

Michelle asked all board members to send back the board matrix completed with skill strengths, etc.

### C. Jazz Program Committee – chair Jordan VanHemert

#### C.1. Updates

#### C.2. Create online form for artist bios and pictures for promoting events

C.3. Create venue cheat sheet which gives all pertinent information for the artists such as sound requirements, where to unload equipment, piano or not, etc. – would be given to artist/manager for Casino Club, Millennium Park (Need to work with Kurt on this because he gives info to musicians), etc.

### D. Treasury Committee – chair Jim Reed

#### D.1. Planned Estate Giving – Shannan Denison

#### D.2. Mitten Foundation Charity Partnership Application

### E. Marketing/Communications Committee – chair Jake Vanderheyden

#### E.1. Newsletter – August-September 2022 – Need all info mid July to send by August 1st

#### E.2. Advertising and promotion for Jazz in the Park

E.2.a) Fox 17, Wood TV 8, WYCE reached out (Next Thursday?), others?

Michelle asked Jordan to get all of the bios of the musicians for the website and newsletter, etc.

Mary will call Shelley Irwin to promote Jazz in the Park, Michelle will be on WYCE at GRLive on Thursday, Jake said they are willing to promote our artists on their show too.

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

F.1. Update on membership renewals for 2022

F.2. Potential volunteers reaching out – setup plan, volunteer signup sheet

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

G.1. Max Colley's grandson sending application

G.2. Scholarship Applications Received - Elijah Cosby, Others?

H. Education Committee – chair Kevin Jones

H.1. Updates

VII. Adjournment, Next Meeting – July 23, 2022, 9:30am

From Mary Rademacher to Everyone 10:50 AM

Just a note: Milt Czernick played with Elvis, recorded with Frank Sinatra among others, toured with the New Reformation Band, educating and performing around the country. Also played in The Dixieland Ramblers, (way back at Savory Street, for those who remember) performed for jazz and other events. I think there's so much more about him a lot of us who worked with him never knew, as he was a humble man.