

Bloomington Community Band Board of Directors Meeting  
May 20, 2024

Members Present:

Richard VanArsdel, Chair  
Richard Denning, Vice Chair/Business Manager  
Jim Sowinski, Treasurer  
Ron Hardesty, Assistant Treasurer  
Gretchen Weber, Secretary  
Tim Bitzer, Personnel Officer  
Ray Foster, Webmaster  
Christopher Billings, Librarian  
Tony Mannia, Publicity/Development Coordinator  
Kyle Hetrick, Property/Equipment Manager  
Mark Angelos, Historian  
Dominic Thompson, Director  
Joe Car, Associate Director

Members Absent: none

Guest Present: Ben Taylor

Chair Richard VanArsdel called the meeting to order at 9:00 p.m. at Bloomington Free Methodist Church with a guest presentation by composer Ben Taylor in order to explain his ideas for a commissioned piece. He shared several scores, his biographical information, and a sample contract for commission of a musical work. He suggested a consortium of bands that could divide expenses. His approach would be to connect with the demographics of the band and audiences. A reading session and editing would precede finalization of the score by the Board. A contract would be signed in advance of composition and partial payment collected, with the balance due upon completion within a contractual time frame. One-year performance rights would be included and at least one performance would take place within that year. Other details would be contained within the contract. His customary rate is \$1500 per performance minute, also dependent upon difficulty and length, with a suggested length of 5-6 minutes. His schedule permits completion of March 2025 at the earliest. Ideas brainstormed include 1) partnering with Bloomington, IL; 2) premiering at Switchyard Park; 3) a limestone theme for the work; 4) a high school concerto contest; 5) a side-by-side with middle schoolers; 6) a featured soloist from the band or IU; and 7) a patriotic piece suitable for Memorial Day and Fourth of July. Financing the project might be done from the band's coffers, member donations, grants, or a consortium.

1. Standing Agenda Items

- a. Review of Minutes: A motion to approve was made, seconded, and adopted.
- b. Treasurer's Report:
  - I. Jim Sowinski reported that expenses are on budget.
  - II. Ron Hardesty explained that although the driver who hauls the trailer may change, a change with our insurance carrier is not necessary.
  - III. Credits at JW Pepper were discussed.
  - IV. The Library Intern should be paid. **ACTION:** Chris to send contact information on Terren to Jim.
  - V. A new Library Intern is needed. **ACTION:** Chris to begin search.
  - VI. The handbook needs to reflect appropriate payment dates for the Library Intern. **ACTION:** Richard V. to revise.
  - VII. Dues need to be collected.

- A. A motion was made, seconded, and adopted to raise dues to \$40.
- B. Paypal is an expensive way to collect dues. **ACTION:** Jim and Tim to set up Zelle and Venmo.

VIII. Budget requests from affiliate groups need to be submitted. **ACTION:** Jim to draw up spreadsheets.

IX. The budget is due for adoption at the June meeting.

X. Statement of financial condition of the band as drafted and amended is to be distributed. **ACTION:** Jim to notify membership.

c. Items Completed Via Email: On April 23, Chair Richard V. called for a vote on approval of payment of dues for continuing membership in the Arts Alliance. Motion approved.

d. Review of Board Member Duties Timeline: Tim reviewed timeline for tasks. **ACTION:** Jim to notify the band of the new dues amount and collection procedure.

## 2. Old Business

- a. Committee Reports: none
- b. Grant submissions: commissioned music: discussed below
- c. Purchase of new percussion equipment: **ACTION:** Tony to purchase brushes, bass drum pedal, and drum set as needed.
- d. Hauling the trailer: Dan Beeker has agreed for now, but securing a commitment might be more easily done by sending a sign-up sheet by individual performances. **ACTION:** Richard V. to send email to membership.
- e. Constitution: policy on loaning equipment pending.
- f. Inclusion in the Bloomington Arts Alliance website: Jim reported he has paid the fee for inclusion.

## 3. New Business

- a. Arts Alliance Membership: above
- b. Holiday Party: Date is December 9. Committee is Tim, Doug Davis, Phyllis, and Richard D. **ACTION:** Kyle to inquire about Ivy Tech.

## 4. Officers' Reports

- a. Secretary Report: Gretchen reported that all donors to date have been sent letters of thanks.
- b. Personnel Report: Tim reported the departure of a member and a few new members.
- c. Historian Report: none
- d. Equipment Manager Report: Kyle reported the purchase of printer supplies.
- e. Librarian Report: Chris reported new pieces are in process. "Star Spangled Banner" arrangements are being pared down to three versions.
- f. Publicity Report: Tony reported programs are in process with 5 or 6 ads sold. 250 will be needed. **ACTION:** Jim and Tim to check on printing cost. **ACTION:** Tim intends to check the library's grants database.
- g. Webmaster Report: none
- h. Vice-Chair Report: none

## 5. Director and Associate Director comments

- a. Dom appreciates the Board's hearing of Ben Taylor's ideas.
- b. Joe asked about the Fourth Street Arts Fair.

## 6. Chair's comments: none

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gretchen Weber, Secretary