

WCUW 91.3FM

910 MAIN STREET, WORCESTER MA 01610

WCUW Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM

MINUTES

Attending: Executive Director, Troy Tyree, Ex-Officio, Uma Ananth, Mark Babson, Greg Check, Gail Hunt, Scott Hayman, John Solaperto, Uma Ananth, Nick Cozzens, Ed Arndt

Guests: Walter Henritze, Dan Hunt

The Meeting was called to order by Mark Babson at 7:00 pm

Approval of April Board meeting minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes from the May Board Meeting. John Solaperto moved to accept the minutes as corrected by John S. and Greg Check seconded John's motion. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes as corrected.

Infrastructure:

- Final installation of the fire alarm system is scheduled for this week.
- Greg has one estimate for the security camera system and is awaiting at least one other estimate. When we receive at least one more bid, we can approach M&T bank for a grant. The one estimate is for ten thousand dollars.
- Troy pointed out miscellaneous items to take care of in the building. Still working on removing the old AC unit in the back wall. The estimate for disposal is \$500.00 for pickup and \$150.00 to remove the freon properly.
- Troy and Greg are still working to finalize data storage needs for computers.
- Greg asked Gail to report briefly on Gallery. She shared that Dan has offered to do some final work on the gallery, such as eliminating the "ticket window" for more wall space in gallery and record room. Dan thinks the front hallway could be spruced up and then the front room entrance area could also use lighting and painting and sprucing up. John S. recommends that we commission Dan and Gail to continue the design and then the work that has been proposed. Dan suggested that the Record shop could/should have its own entrance. Dan also suggested that the cabinet could/should be built for Harold Stevens radio. Mark B. liked that idea and suggested that the cabinet could also provide general storage for event materials. Dan asked Troy to share his thoughts on these matters. Troy shared that using the gallery area was always, in his mind, useful for a waiting and ticket area for people coming to FrontRoom shows. Dan shared that he thinks Stephen DiRado conceives of the Gallery space and a standalone gallery. John S. shared that improving the FrontRoom lobby would be the alternative to using the Gallery space.

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Savings Account Balances:

Greg reported a Total Balance of \$69,965.00 in the Savings Account. A written report was shared as well. Uma wanted to be assured there are still funds for the appreciation event. It was confirmed that there are.

Gallery Committee Report:

The latest opening for Kofi's show was very well attended. Scott reported, at the last gallery meeting, plans commenced to do a show that would intersect with the TDI grant. The two assistant curators for the gallery are reaching out to Serena Mae to work together.

Grants Committee Report:

The Mass Cultural Council grant for operating was submitted. Troy reached out to GWCF, and it was determined that we could apply for operating grant in September. John and Troy are going to meet with UniBank about potential support for the Station. Scott Rossiter attended the GWCF gathering that Troy attended. He spoke highly of the Station. Troy reported that Quinsigamond College has signed on as an underwriter. Thanks is due to John S. for making these connections.

Executive Director Report:

Troy reported that Fire Alarm Box is installed, and all the back-end work is done. Joe O'Brien was helpful in advancing the work. Main South in the Spotlight is moving forward (the TDI Grant). Troy says the Main South Business Association has been engaged in the TDI work. Tim Mason will potentially help with the Storytelling aspect of the TDI grant. Troy wants to buy WCUW hats and sell them. The Record shop is now open 5 days a week. Mark asked about sales in the record shop. Troy said sales are not that good (20 or 30 dollars a week). Troy said we should address attracting more people from everyday foot traffic on Main Street. Nicolas recommended that we improve the signage for the record shop. Troy has a promotional effort online and on air for Mavericks tickets because of a donor. Troy discussed the new Quickbooks software, and that progress has been made. Uma said that Troy is doing a great job adapting.

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Bylaw change proposed:

Scott moved to call a special Meeting of the Membership, pursuant to ARTICLE VII: Membership Meetings, Section 1: Special Membership Meetings, Item (b) for the express purpose of amending the By-Laws to delete Condition (c) of ARTICLE IV: Section 1: of the By-Laws.

Notice of the Special Meeting will be sent out by the Executive Director to all General Members of the General Membership registered in the books of the Corporation no less than 30 days prior to the announced Special Meeting. A Quorum of twenty- five (25) General Members are required to be present. Voting will be conducted in accordance with procedures set forth with respect to Annual Meetings.

Scott contended the following:

ARTICLE IV: Board of Directors, Section 1: Qualifications of Directors, includes a requirement that nominees for Board of Directors must comply with conditions (a) through (n).

Condition (c) requires that a nominee “attend at least two (2) of the monthly Regular Meetings of the Board in the twelve (12) months prior to prior to nomination and at those meetings demonstrate abilities in communication, listening and working toward group agreement in a way that is respectful of to others”.

This condition (c) presents a serious obstacle for potential nominees and limits the field of otherwise highly qualified and motivated candidates to run for and become part of the Board of Directors.

A thorough discussion ensued that ultimately resulted in the passage of the motion. Much attention was focused on the necessity of the Board to do ongoing outreach to potential board members and that, whether the by-laws articulate it or not, we should have a nominating committee to continually seek out and vet new, qualified board members. Additionally, all agreed that time is of the essence. John proposed a friendly amendment that we require that a “nominating committee” be established should we move to eliminate the condition (c).

John S. seconded Scott Hayman’s motion, inclusive of establishing a nominating committee. Greg proposed that we move forward with what we have in front of us without the “friendly amendment.” John stated he is fine with Greg’s suggestion.

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All approved the motion without amendment via a roll call of votes.

Operations Manual:

The Executive Committee discussed that we would like to commence the creation of an operations manual, while acknowledging that Troy is very busy. Scott volunteered to “shadow” Troy and simply record his tasks and activities. John S. is volunteering time to compile all the various information that is collected from Troy and others. Uma shared a lot of thoughts on how to approach the goal of building an operations manual. Mark suggested that Troy share with our volunteers when he will be doing certain, discrete tasks that people can learn from.

All agreed that this was a good discussion.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Ed Arndt shared that he has secured a defibrillator for the Station. He would like the infrastructure committee to discuss and plan where to locate the device. Ed also shared he would like to support a fundraising effort involving the sale of guitar equipment.

The meeting was adjourned.