

Western Massachusetts Sacred Harp Community, Inc.
Board of Directors

Regular Meeting
February 5, 2013 at 9:00PM

Helen Hills Hills Chapel-Meditation Room
123 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063

President Shea called the meeting at order at 9:00PM.

Directors Present: C. Andrews, E. Cavanaugh (teleconference)
J. Galvagni, M. Leger-Small L. Shea

Directors Absent: None

Actions.

A. The Board discussed the minutes of the meeting held on November 13, 2012. No additions or corrections were proposed.

VOTED To approve the minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting as prepared. All in favor, none opposed, none abstaining.

B. Leger-Small read a vote taken by written consent into the minutes. On December 18, 2012 the Board considered a request via email to disburse travel grant funds to a group of singers who had missed the submission deadline for receipts.

VOTED To authorize the disbursement of travel grant funds pending the submission of the required receipts. Carried by the majority with 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and none abstaining.

C. The Board considered the proposed budget for the 2013 WMSHC Convention as prepared by Emma Rose Brown. Andrews noted that the request for \$100 to cover the cost of postage was withdrawn. Shea noted several items that should not have been included in the proposed budget. The budget was edited as follows:

Center for the Arts	Location	\$900
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Northampton Rental	Furniture rentals	\$600
Collective Copies	Posters/Flyers	\$100
SHMA	Minutes submission	\$80
Various	Compostable paper goods	\$200
Peter and Annamarie	Child care	\$360
Dan Richardson	Recording	\$100
Total		\$2,340

Shea noted that the budget as proposed seemed reasonable. She noted that the collection baskets would be passed on both days of the convention. She noted that she was unsure if Brown had verified the cost of recording with Dan Richardson.

VOTED To approve the estimated budget of \$2,340 for the 2013 Western Massachusetts Sacred Harp Convention. All in favor, none opposed, none abstaining.

D. The Board considered a request from the Travel Grant Committee for a budget of \$2000 for the current cycle of grants. Shea reported that the committee is in receipt of 11 applications . Four of those requests are from singers from abroad to come to Western Massachusetts. One request is from a Western Massachusetts singer requesting to travel to Ireland. The remainder of the requests are for domestic travel to our Convention. She noted that \$2000 should be sufficient to handle the current requests.

Shea noted that the travel grant information on the website is outdated and that some applicants are applying in accordance with the old grant policies. She plans to recommend to the grant committee that no awards should be made in excess of \$300 and that the committee should generally offer the standard award of \$200 unless a smaller amount is specifically requested.

Galvagni noted that the website should be updated as soon as possible to reflect accurate information about the travel grant program. Shea noted that the updates are already in the works.

Leger-Small asked Andrews to verify that the corporation had sufficient funds to cover the request of the Travel Grant Committee. Andrews confirmed that sufficient funds were available and that an additional \$587.00 was left over from the Polish travel grant fund. Shea said that we should include that \$587.00 in the travel grant fund.

VOTED To approve a preliminary budget of \$2000 for the current cycle of travel grants with the understanding that the Travel Grants Committee will request additional funding if necessary to accommodate all requests. All in favor, none opposed, none abstaining.

E. The Board considered a request to fund two pre-convention singing schools. Shea noted that the funds for the singing schools are not included in the convention budget. Cavanaugh agreed to teach a one hour singing school in exchange for one of the fundraiser prints. Tim Eriksen has agreed to teach a one hour singing school for \$200.

VOTED The Board approved the funding of two pre-convention singing schools in a total amount of \$250. (\$200 to be paid to Tim Eriksen and \$50 to be paid to Eliza Cavanaugh in the form of a *Generous Fruits* print). All in favor, none opposed, none abstaining.

F. The Board considered a request from Allison Blake Steele to fund a singing school for children in the amount of \$500. Shea said that her initial reaction was that the request is bigger than expected.

Andrews expressed concerned that the advertising for school may be insufficient to ensure a sizeable enrollment.

Leger-Small noted that his original idea of the childrens' singing school as discussed at the WMSHC annual meeting was that it would be more akin to a volunteer project to be taken on by interested members of the community. He noted that he feels as though the Board was committed to the expenditure before knowing how extensive the event would be.

Shea noted that Steele had written that she would not be opposed to putting out a donation jar. Shea expressed a desire, if the request was approved, to require a suggested donation per child in an attempt to recapture at least \$200 of the money put up by WMSHC.

Cavanaugh expressed a desire to have more information concerning potential attendance.

Andrews read from her email correspondence with Steel.

Galvagni noted that the event as planned is much larger than he anticipated and that the

request for \$500 seemed high to him.

Cavanaugh noted that \$500 would be reasonable for an event of the size proposed but expressed concern that such an event may be difficult to organize within the available time.

After further discussion, the Board reached consensus that there did not appear to be enough time to widely publicize the event to ensure sufficient attendance in light of the cost.

VOTED To approve \$200 for a children's singing school to be held in connection with the Western Massachusetts Sacred Harp Convention and further directed the Clerk to draft a letter to the requestor expressing the support of the Board for such an event in the future when there is adequate time for publicity. All in favor, none opposed, none abstaining.

G. The Board considered a request to fund the Lenox singing school. Shea noted that she had checked with Sally Langendorf to confirm that last year was the first year of receiving financial support for the singing. The Lenox singing school had previously been offered free-of-charge. Shea expressed concern about committing indefinitely to the financial support of a local practice singing.

Galvagni suggested that the board award the money for only one year. Cavanaugh and Shea concurred.

Leger-Small noted that he is not in support of funding a monthly singing as none of the other WMSHC singings are funded by a monthly stipend.

VOTED To fund the Lenox singing for a twelve month period in an amount not to exceed \$300 with the understanding that the Lenox singers will be asked to take steps to become self-sufficient for subsequent years and to direct Linda Shea to draft the communication. Carried by the majority, 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and none abstaining.

H. Shea reported that the communication sent out in the connection with the *Generous Fruits* fundraiser could be considered misleading as it did not specifically state that travel grants would only be available to be people travelling to or from Western Massachusetts.

Leger-Small noted that the fundraiser website had been updated with clearer language. Leger-Small volunteered to review the announcements and work with Emily Sills-Hale to distribute an updated announcement to the WMSHC list. Cavanaugh noted that she would contact the people who had already placed orders to ensure that they understood the limitations of the donation.

I. Shea reported that Laura Timmerman had expressed concern that The Octagon building on the Amherst campus is not accessible to singers with disabilities. The Board referred this item to the Amherst Singing Location Committee chaired by Tim Eriksen.

J. Leger-Small reported that he had been contacted in his capacity as events coordinator regarding the annual singing at the Pelham meeting house. Galvagni noted that the singing has been scheduled for the same weekend as the Belchertown fair and that has been convenient. Leger-Small was instructed to contact the Pelham organizers and moved forward with scheduling.

K. Leger-Small briefly reviewed the various corporate documents that should be kept in the custody of the Clerk pursuant to WMSHC's bylaws. He also noted that he would submit the 2012 annual report of the corporation to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Other Business

L. A location committee for the 2014 WMSHC convention will be needed.

M. A request to film the 2013 WMSHC convention was referred to the Convention Chair.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Shea adjourned the meeting at 11:00PM. The next meeting of the WMSHC Board of Directors is not currently scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Leger-Small
Clerk