

WHEATLAND MUSIC ORGANIZATION
VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
October 10, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Munsch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kent Blackmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Rey-Perry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Cavern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caroline Passariello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Reiser
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Hummel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maria Reiser
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Ane Krum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Short
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jo McLachlan	

GUESTS: Greg Hoff, Marco Menezes, Barb Oakley

EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lola Tyler	<input type="checkbox"/> Brooklyn Young	
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The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Proposal Don, second Mary Ane, to move Summer Wheat from the Closed Session agenda to the Open Session agenda. Marco explained that Article 3 Section 4 of the by-laws indicate that personnel issues can be held in closed session, but that other items require a motion with a 2/3 majority vote, to move them from the Open agenda to Closed session. Commentary included: that financial issues, if any, should be transparent discussions; that the underlying premise of a potentially awkward discussion may have been the reason for listing a closed session item. Voice vote indicated the motion carried, with no negative votes. Summer Wheat will be addressed under Old Business, Section C. Marco indicates that there is no necessity to change the by-laws; that any similar issues can be dealt with if/as they arise.

Proposal John, second Don, to approve the Consent Agenda noting the amendment to move Summer Wheat to the Open Session. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marilyn wondered why there was a perceived notion that WMO was having financial difficulties as expressed by some Festival attendees at the Festival. WMO is, and has been, financially sound for many years, even through Covid.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

1. Folk Alliance is 2/21-25/2024 in Kansas City. WMO will send 4 people; recommend 2 from Program Committee and 2 Board members. General discussion of who is interested and who is available. Travel, registration and lodging come to approximately \$1200-1500 per person.
2. WMO received a \$13,000 Michigan Arts Council grant for Operations.
3. Early Entry – there were 191 level 4 benefactors and 24 Level 5 benefactors that received Early entry. This does not count the number of people that may have been in the vehicle with them. It was suggested that the gate staff get a count of that.
4. 2024 Membership letters will be going out November 1.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Magic of Art and Music Sculpture: To date, approximately \$21,500 has been raised, leaving us still \$17,000 short of the funds needed for completion. We need to decide soon whether to

continue with this project. If cancelled, all donated monies are required to be returned to the donor. WMO is not allowed to direct the \$\$ to other areas. General discussion of fundraising ideas. The model could be auctioned off for @\$3-5000. Suggestion to approach more people with a \$100 donation request. Jo will write up something for Oscar to post.

- B. Kid's Hill: Barb notes that there are some maintenance tasks to do, lighting and re-working the cart trail that need to be addressed before next year. New rules will be added to the guidelines due to safety concerns.
- C. Don requests that we schedule a Board retreat soon and regularly. We need to work on a Five-Year Plan, as ours is expired, uncompleted.
- D. Festival Financials: see report in Consent Agenda. Some bills are still outstanding. It was a pretty successful year, says Lola. We ran out of raffle tickets again on Saturday. We will order more for next year, reserving some for Sunday sales.
- E. Summer Wheat: below are listed the major comments and topics from extensive discussion.
 - 1. We need consistent criteria over all WMO programs.
 - 2. Is it a matter of comparing the cost to the number of people served?
 - 3. Music camp should be considered mission based rather than financially based.
 - 4. Documents show that music camp is a valuable asset.
 - 5. We need to improve coordination with the WMO office.
 - 6. Is it too expensive – it needs to be affordable.
 - 7. John states that it is consistent with the mission and feels it is okay to renew.
 - 8. Proposal Andy, second Mary Ane to agree to hold Summer What in 2024, that it be re-classified to non-profit status (a mission-based event), and that the committee will focus on increasing coordination with the office, marketing and attendance. Much discussion continued, mainly that WMO has the finances to put on a quality show.
 - 9. After procedural determinations, a second amending proposal was made by Claudia, second Carrie, the we (the Board) can support Summer Wheat in 2024 but wait to reclassify the status until we see increased numbers. Consensus to strike the last portion of Andy's motion. This motion carries 11-2.
 - 10. Amended proposal from Andy, second Don, that we approve Summer Wheat 2024 and that the SW committee will submit a strategic plan to the board, focused on accountability and increasing attendance. This motion passes 13-0.
 - 11. Marco congratulates the Board on following parliamentary procedure. Thanks, Marco, for leading us through it.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Budget – submit requests ASAP. Lola will be sending out the 2024 Request Form.
- B. Winter Wheat: Because of the timing of the event, advance approval of the 2024 event budget is required so that contracts can be initiated. Proposal Jeff, second Don, to approve the 2024 Winter Wheat Budget. Motion carries unanimously. Lola notes that the 2023 WW profit was approximately \$4500.
- C. DEI – discussion tabled for November meeting

The meeting went into Closed session 9:08 PM, returning to Open Session at 9:23 PM.

ADJOURN: Proposal Mary Ane, second Don, to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM. Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Hummel
Board Secretary