Minutes

Octavo Singers Board Meeting

December 11, 2019

The meeting came to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were: Diane Deacon, Kate Kilmer, Judy Israel, Wendy Luft, Deb Pavlus and Chris Yost.

Messiah Review. Wendy presented the Treasurer's report which was not complete for adoption because payment had not yet been received from Brown Paper Tickets (BPT) and payment had not been made to WMHT and Proctors Collaborative for advertising.   Wendy also noted that she had not received a bill from Union for our balance. Diane noted that for the first time we were required to pay our entire balance upon signing the contract so we should not expect a balance. Kate noted that she thinks it is possible that WMHT neglected to run our ad. She has contacted WMHT and we will not pay until the matter is straightened out.

Deb had figures on ticket sales and attendance. Deb noted that we sold 288 tickets: 132 through the chorus; 117 through Brown Paper Tickets; and 39 at the door. The total attendance, including comp tickets was 169 persons. The total intake from tickets sales was $7,255.

Adding the BPT income to the other income attributable to the concert (other ticket sales, donations, etc.) it appears that we are about $2,000 in the black for the concert; a lot less than last year but a relief it is not a loss. Discussion concluded that this result was attributable to advance ticket sales which should be encouraged, and one orchestra rehearsal which was a significant benefit.

Business Meeting.   It was agreed that, barring a concern from Curtis, the annual business meeting will take place at 8:30 on January 13. The format will be much the same as last year. We will review the finances, discuss board functions and encourage more persons among the membership to get involved. Diane agreed to create an overview handout.

Electronic Tickets – Ticket Prices.   Diane noted that Brown Paper Tickets charges two fees: one is a flat fee and the other is a fee which is a percentage of the ticket price. Diane noted her belief that a general price of $20 per ticket for the bulk of our audience is low but that the fees add up. After discussion the consensus was that we would consider raising the senior age and Jerry Carroll would be asked about his research into online ticket sellers which resulted in our use of BPT.

Electronic Repository.   Kate provided an explanation of the Google account that Erin created for Octavo Singers with permissions so that we will have a general repository for Octavo's electronic documents. She will set up permissions for those members who need it.

Group Calendar on Members Page.   Kate agreed to work with Danielle to set up a Google calendar on the Members page of our website which board members will test out before it becomes live. Members who are responsible for subjects will have permission to update the calendar directly and will not go through Kate for Danielle to do it and will have to be vigilant.

Chamber Membership. It was decided that the Chamber of Commerce membership was not providing sufficient benefit for the $400 price and we will not renew.

Facebook Selfie Sweepstakes.   It was agreed that we would continue to do this promotion but would not "boost" it financially given that we had one entry for Messiah. It was also agreed that we would amend the sweepstakes rules to permit chorus members family members to participate.

Movers.   Diane agreed to research the cost of movers.

Internship Solicitation.   Erin sent word through Kate that there was no interest in our internship solicitation. We will pursue this next season.

Candidacy Nominations. Chris had nothing to report. Kate mentioned that she may know someone interested in the position of secretary. Chris will discuss it with the person.

Additional Fundraising Activities. Diane advised that she would like Judy to begin meetings regarding donations and grants. She also advised that she would like her and Kate to work on mounting a Facebook donation campaign for the Spring.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.