

St. Cloud Municipal Band Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 2, 2022

Meeting Location: Zoom

Board members present: Mike Knaak, John Creasy, Katie Johnson, Vicki Johnson

Others present: Andy Nelson, Lowell Larson

Board members absent: Lucy Amundson, Tammy Krogstad, Patric Lewandowski

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. with Chairperson Mike Knaak presiding.

Approve minutes from Jan. 18, Jan. 31, and Feb. 15

Vicki Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from Jan. 18, Jan. 31, and Feb. 15, 2022. John Creasy seconded. Motion carried.

Paramount Advertising

Mike Knaak stated SCMB Business Manager Joe Fox received an email from the Paramount inquiring about advertising. John stated advertising costs last year \$125 for the annual brochure and \$500 was spent on additional advertising. It was assumed that this was for the entirety of 2021, however, the SCMB only had one concert.

Mike suggested that this year we be thrifter with advertising dollars and stated the Paramount will work with whatever budget we give them.

Vicki Johnson made a motion for the Paramount to expend no more than \$250 in advertising for the May 9 concert. Katie Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Change to COVID Policy

Mike wanted to discuss possible changes to the current SCMB policy surrounding masking. Stearns and Benton counties are at a high risk of transmission with Sherburne County being a medium risk. John stated that our counties are still in a high risk of transmission and expressed concern about losing members if the board opted to cut back on restrictions. Katie Johnson agreed and stated that as long as the CDC provides indoor masking guidelines for high-risk counties, then we should continue to mask until case numbers decrease.

Motion was made by Vicki Johnson to continue existing masking policy. Katie Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

It was noted that Mike will send an email to Joe to inform band members of the decision and encourage members to take advantage of the free masks and COVID tests being offered. This policy will be reevaluated at the next board meeting.

Other announcements

Members of the band will be asked at the March 7 rehearsal about performing in a joint concert with the Milaca High School jazz band on March 22.

Several members had expressed concern regarding copyright stemming from the band's decision to provide performance recordings to area nursing homes. The question came up around when the band purchases music, what rights do they also buy – the right to perform or the right to play. The question was also raised as to how this would potentially impact the Paramount concerts where we charge admission.

It was discussed that the band had a membership to the Association of Concert Bands (ACB) which provided a blanket performance license. That membership specified various thresholds about audience and charging for concerts with an approximate cost of \$250. The band currently does not have a membership with ACB.

John Creasy said the Paramount does charge the SCMB American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and Broadcast Music, Inc., (BMI) fees. He said he would recommend the band pursue blanket memberships.

Mike said distribution of the band's March 7 recording session will more than likely be a link on the SCMB website. He is unsure if the band will want this on YouTube or on a DVD. John said we will need answers on licensing prior to any distribution, especially if it will appear on our website. He said current membership costs to ASCAP would be \$375.

Mike said more research will be needed to make an informed decision. Discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

Katie Johnson brought up a discussion on performing the Ukrainian anthem as was discussed by members of the band. There is currently not enough time to put it together prior to Monday night's recording. However, there was discussion on possibly performing the piece in spring.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, March 28 at 7 p.m. via Zoom due to rehearsal cancellation.

**This has since changed to Monday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Tech High School.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicki B. Johnson