

St. Cloud Municipal Band Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: May 30, 2022

Meeting Location: Zoom

Board members present: Mike Knaak, John Creasy, Patric Lewandowski, Tammy Krogstad, Katie Johnson, Vicki Johnson

Others present: Andy Nelson, Lowell Larson, Joe Fox

Board members absent: Lucy Amundson

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. with Chairperson Mike Knaak presiding.

COVID Discussion

Mr. Lewandowski recommended the band keep the COVID policy as is with a time limit on it. Once that time limit has been exceeded, the board will revisit the existing policy and make changes as appropriate.

Mr. Fox brought up the concern with keeping people on the band's membership list who are currently in limbo – not willing to come back to the band under the current direction of the COVID policy. He suggested removing them from membership. Ms. Krogstad indicated that was not in the spirit of the band.

Ms. K. Johnson indicated her support for Mr. Lewandowski's position on the COVID policy and recommended the time frame be set based on performance schedule.

Ms. V. Johnson indicated she was not in favor of continuing the existing COVID policy. She cited several similar organizations in the area that had lifted COVID restrictions as well as the areas in which the band currently performs. If the band were to continue its COVID policy, she suggested that the policy be revised to comply with current CDC guidelines which requires boosters – something the existing policy fails to mention.

Ms. Krogstad indicated that she doesn't believe the band should be in a position to mandate boosters. However, she did express that members who were not vaccinated should have to wear a mask given the heightened risk of playing in the band (i.e., closer seating arrangements, aerosols in the air).

Mr. Nelson cited several recently completed studies regarding band instruments and COVID spread. He expressed concerns about the band sending the wrong message with the COVID vaccine stance – that it was less about the safety of members.

Mr. Knaak felt that if the band were to stand behind the COVID policy, that it would need to be updated. The policy was originally put in place in summer 2021 – when no boosters were available and testing wasn't as readily available either.

Mr. Lewandowski advocated for amending the policy to include boosters. Mr. Nelson indicated that he would not be in support of this.

Several board members agreed that this would ultimately be a lose-lose situation.

Mr. Lewandowski motions to leave the existing COVID-19 policy in place and revisit for the fall concert season. Ms. K. Johnson seconds.

Discussion was had to clarify what would happen if the motion failed. If motion failed, no action would be taken. If motion passed, the policy would remain until the start of the fall concert season.

Roll call vote: Knaak: No. Lewandowski: Yes. Creasy: No. K. Johnson: Yes. Krogstad: Yes. V. Johnson: No. Motion failed.

Mr. Creasy indicated that Mr. Fox is still awaiting direction on how to handle members who are not vaccinated at this time.

In addition, it was mentioned that we will need to consider adding new members to the band to fill in various sections – trombones and bass clarinet especially. Mr. Knaak said he will instruct the section leaders to reach out people eligible for members to ask if they were willing to consider joining the band.

Next meeting: 6 p.m. on June 20 at St. Cloud Tech High School.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicki B. Johnson