

What a year. The band returned to many of its routine operations but with some twists.

Instead of concerts at area nursing homes, we recorded a video to share with those residents.

We returned to the traditional Memorial Day ceremony, but steady rain drove the event to the drier, friendly confines of the Joe Faber Field lobby.

We played four concerts at Barden Park...with rain interrupting one performance. We enjoyed more favorable summer weather for the Fourth of July concert at Hester Park.

And we returned to the Paramount for spring and fall performances. Coming up, we're playing a joint concert with the Central Lakes Wind Symphony on Nov. 28 in Little Falls.

Our Whitney Center Christmas concert will be Dec. 15.

We've made some progress on band operations. We've signed a five-year lease to house our music library at City Hall. We'll be moving from

the Media Services building in the next few weeks. The city is charging us \$100 a year for the space.

The mayor has agreed to resume funding the band in 2023 at the rate of \$1,500 a concert, which translates to \$15,000 a year. The city budget is up for final approval on Dec. 5.

The Central Minnesota Arts Board just approved our grant application to buy outdoor performance chairs and carts for \$4,900 so we won't have to rent or borrow chairs for outdoor events.

There are two long-term strategic goals for the band. One, look for a funding source to secure a permanent home for rehearsal and storage. Two, continue efforts to grow and diversify our audience and our membership.

We owe thanks to the board members: Patric Lewandowski, Katie Johnson, Bob Bach, John Creasy, Vicki Johnson and Lucy Gerold-Amundson. Non-voting board members Business Manager Joe Fox and conductors Andy Nelson and Lowell Larson deserve our recognition and thanks. They spend many hours behind the scene managing the band's operations.

Treasurer John Creasy will provide a financial update.

Now it's time to elect three board members to two-year terms. The board has nominated Harvey Binder, John Plantenberg and Mike Knaak.

Are there any nominations from the floor?

If not, all in favor of the slate.