

## St. Cloud Municipal Band Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Nov. 13, 2023

Meeting Location: Tech High School

**Board members present:** Mike Knaak, Patrick Lewandowski, John Plantenberg, John Creasy, Vicki Johson.

**Board members absent:** Katie Johnson, Harvey Binder

*The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.*

### **2023 Municipal Band Highlights**

President Mike Knaak provided an overview of the 2023 St. Cloud Municipal Band activities. He began the meeting by thanking the directors – Andy Nelson and Lowell Larson – as well as current board members.

During 2023 the band had moved the music library from the Media Services building to St. Cloud City Hall. The band is paying \$100 per year in storage rental fees.

In addition, the band has negotiated a contract with the City of St. Cloud to pay for performances. The city has agreed to pay the band \$1,500 per performance up to 10 performances.

The band was a recipient of a \$4,000 grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board for the purchase of chairs and the carts to haul chairs. These were used during the Barden Park concerts.

The band performed at several nursing homes, the Memorial Day concert, July 4, and four Barden Park concerts in addition to the spring and fall Paramount concert. The band will round out 2023 with a joint concert with the Central Lakes College Community Band in Little Falls at the end of November and the annual Christmas concert at the Whitney Senior Center in December.

### **Looking Ahead to 2024**

Mr. Knaak said the focus for the board in 2024 will be to discuss marketing efforts and band committee structures. Mr. Knaak said participation from the band membership will be key to these efforts being successful.

Mr. Knaak also discussed the Ambassadors program suggested by Board Member John Plantenberg. Andy Nelson will be overseeing this program to engage area high school students and provide them with the opportunity to perform with the band at a future concert.

Mr. Knaak said the board is also considering scheduling a concert at Tech High School. This would take the place of either a fall or spring Paramount concert.

Mr. Knaak said several members of the band will be heading to Germany and the Czech Republic in June with members of the Meire Grove band. Finally, board members have been in talks with the Stearns History Museum about a collaboration with them to celebrate the museum's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in their building. The band would more than likely be hosting a concert in September at the museum.

### **2023 Treasurers' Report**

Mr. Creasy provided an update on the band's 2023 budget to actual numbers. He said the band currently spends approximately \$26,000 a year. The band does get \$15,000 a year from the City of St. Cloud. At the end of Quarter 3, Mr. Creasy said the band has spent approximately 75% of its budgeted expenses. He did note the revenue side is lagging due to missing some payments from the city.

Mr. Creasy said the band was able to successfully weather the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (no revenue given by the City of St. Cloud in 2021 or 2022) due to assets, investments, and donations.

Mr. Creasy also provided a summary of the Nov. 7 Paramount concert. He said there were 173 tickets sold to the concert which is anticipated to generate about \$900 in profit for the band. He said there were some issues that were brought up about the final cost of the tickets due to the Paramount adding an additional fee to ticket prices. Mr. Creasy said he had thought this was just an online fee, but it was also done at the box office as well.

### **2023 Annual Board Election**

Mr. Knaak said there are currently four vacancies on the board that need to be filled. These positions are for two-year terms.

The slate of candidates presented by the board were: Patric Lewandowski, Katie Johnson, John Creasy, and Shelly Ziemer Gehrls.

No nominations were received from the floor.

The slate of candidates was called to question. Band members voted unanimously to approve the slate of candidates as presented.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicki B. Johnson*