



CHARLES IVES AUTHORITY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

A Non-Profit Organization

Minutes Board of Directors Meeting, April 27, 2011

To: Mayor Mark D. Boughton and Members of the Charles Ives Authority for the Performing Arts Board of Directors

Re: Minutes of the Ives Authority Board of Directors meeting held March 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. The members were recorded as:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Greenberg, Anthony Vournazos, Sherri Hill, Fernando Jimenez, Noel Roy Jr., Gina Marcus, Frank Herbert, Eileen Curran

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ellen Cavallo Bucciti

ALSO PRESENT: Phyllis Cortese, Paul Reis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After motion by Fernando Jimenez, seconded by Noel Roy, the minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Steve Greenberg

- B.O.M.B. Fest has moved from the WCSU Westside campus to Hartford.
- WestFest will be at the Ives on May 14. The band will be Third Eye Blind.
- The Ives was not addressed at the city budget meeting, but Steve made a presentation to the ad hoc committee. Afterward, Tom Saadi indicated his interested in being a member of the Friends of the Ives.

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- Paul Reis and Steve met with Noel and Ellen about the gardens and the site looks good.
- Bob Connor's contract was renegotiated. WCSU will do more site maintenance, including the pond and trees, and Bob will earn less.
- WCSU will pave the path to the reserved seats to make it handicapped accessible.
- Steve proposed a small line budget for grounds-related expenses, so Tony made a motion:

RESOLVED: That a reserve line item for \$2,500 for grounds be added to the budget.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION: After motion by Tony Vournazos, seconded by Gina Marcus, the resolution was unanimously passed.

- Steve informed the board that he had fired Michelle and Chris DeFalco for cause and that additional staff members are likely to be fired.
- As a result of the terminations, Steve asked board members to recommend potential employees to run the general crew and run the event staff.
- Steve indicated that he had requested that board member Samuel Hyman step down from the board and instead concentrate his efforts on his work with Friends of the Ives; and that he intends to name Tanya Wulff Truax to the now-vacant position.
- Newtown Savings Bank has come on board with \$15,000 to name the Fine Arts & Family series.
- Steve will now be a blogger on Patch.com, promoting the Ives.
- Contracts have been signed for the five wireless cash registers with swipes for debit/credit. This will be announced on the website and on Facebook.
- Eileen will update the board member bios on the website and add information about Friends of the Ives.
- Steve met with Fernando to discuss transitioning the Ives Festival Orchestra to more of a pops orchestra. Fernando outlined how musicians would be selected and that a scholarship competition for student performers will be instituted.

- Steve proposed inviting local charities to invest \$500 each for a tent to recruit members at an Ives Orchestra event.
- The Family Fair will be rebranded to something more indicative of it being Ives Danbury Day.
- The Friends of the Ives will be developing a Mission Statement.
- The Ives Ambassador welcoming meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2. New shirts are needed for staff.
- Steve is having discussions with the organizers of the live Gong Show.
- Steve updated the board on the status of legislative matters that could affect the Ives, including the cabaret tax, the entertainment tax, and the scalping bill.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Anthony Vournazos

- The '07-'08 audit is already done and the '08-'09 audit was just finished. Copies will be included as part of the minutes. Work on the '09-'10 audit is underway.
- Nanavaty found some weaknesses in the current accounting methods and those will be addressed in the manner in which accounting is handled in the future.
- Balance Sheet and P&L statements were distributed and discussed.
- We're going ahead with Network Solutions and the cloud computing concept, including Gift Works software. To that end, five computers are being donated by Union Savings Bank.
- The wireless service is up and running and a backup is on-site.
- Steve thanked Tony for his hard work on behalf of the Ives.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: After motion by Noel Roy, seconded by Sherri Hill, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

FRIENDS OF THE IVES REPORT: Noel Roy Jr.

- Noel reported that the group has been having monthly meetings.
- The goal is to send a solicitation letter to 1,000 key people by June 1.
- Michelle James is soliciting sponsors.
- A membership drive and grant-writing will be explored.
- Linda Cummings is trying to get the Smart Foundation to sign on.
- The group is going through the National Foundation Registry to see who in the area donates to the arts.
- Steve's goal is a minimum of \$100,000 raised.
- Noel is paying for the postage to send out the solicitation mailing.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Phyllis Cortese

- There will be a 10% discount for blocks of 10+ lawn seats, per Keith/Anthony.
- There will be a second air-conditioned trailer for liquor/soda storage, and Gina will look into whether Marcus Dairy has refrigerated trucks.
- Frank also offered his generator.
- Phyllis provided a Fine Arts series update, including that we will likely stage "Seussical the Musical" and "I Love a Piano." She asked Frank for a budget.
- Phyllis provided a sponsor update.
- She thanked Paul, WCSU and Dr. Schmotter for the site improvements, and reminded the board of the impending construction of the WCSU Fine Arts Building near Ives Concert Park.
- Phyllis updated the board about the Abbott Tech graduation and resulting scholarships for electrical students.
- She discussed a park rental for the "Something Awesome" project and the possibility of a retro drive-in movie event.
- Comcast is on board as a cash/trade sponsor, which will fill holes in Charter's coverage area.

MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT: Eileen Curran

- Eileen provided an update about the e-blast and click-throughs.
- Eileen discussed updates to the Facebook page, including an e-mail sign-up tab.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eileen Curran and it was seconded by Noel Roy and passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Hill, Secretary

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