



CHARLES IVES AUTHORITY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
A Nonprofit Organization

Minutes Board of Directors Meeting, November 19, 2014

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 Nov. 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. The members were recorded as:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Greenberg, Sherri Hill, Frank Herbert, Tanya Wulff Truax, Gina Marcus, Tony Vournazos

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Sean Loughran

ALSO PRESENT: Phyllis Cortese, Executive Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After motion by Sherri Hill seconded by Gina Marcus, the minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Steve Greenberg

- Steve reported that he will be meeting with WCSU President James Schmotter and Mayor Mark Boughton on Nov. 24 to discuss the land lease and proposed changes to the property.
- Referencing the proposal from Jaffe Holden, Steve indicated that he does not want to alter the gazebo structure, but he believes we can change the sound baffle and fly sound off the sides of the stage. This could be accomplished by stripping the side lattice and adding elevated wings over the water on each side going out about 8-9 feet to add speakers on the side. He believes the advantage is that it will not block patrons' views. It won't, however, be under the roof and some kind of speaker covers will be required.

- Steve wants to work with the existing structure because interacting with the body of water would require interacting with the EPA, OSHA and other governmental agencies that would slow the process. He said we may have to ask Peter Visentin from WCSU to get a structural engineer to discuss load-bearing issues.
- Steve then referenced the proposal from lobbyists Sullivan & LeShane. He said it was a very positive meeting and we have forwarded the proposal to the mayor. We have to figure out where to obtain funds for the retainer.
- The topic of the composition of the board was raised by Steve. We need to cultivate new members and people who can help us open new doors. He believes we need two-three new board members and also wants to expand the Friends of the Ives board to more than five members. A grid was distributed to the board to help them identify key traits necessary for potential board members. Local celebrities like Bernie Williams and Darryl Hall were suggested.
- Steve indicated that his board position expired about a year ago and several others are also expired. He said we need to present a new slate that includes active, participatory board members. They do not have to be Danbury residents. He suggested changing Brett DeWeese from an alternate member to a full board member.
- Board members were asked to submit at least one name based on the grid to Steve by Friday.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Vournazos

- Tony reported that we just finished with the city audit for last year, which cost \$5,000 in accounting fees. Additionally, the State of CT Dept. of Labor is auditing 1099's and W-2's.
- The small amount of stock remaining was cashed out.
- Tony provided a recap of the balance sheet, including accounts receivable and accounts payable. His analysis is that we have enough cash on hand to take us into March.
- The Friends of the Ives account has approximately \$46,000, which will provide three or four months of reserve to run the office until June.
- A discussion about fixed expenses that are very costly ensued, including a discussion about the audit fee, workers comp, and insurance. Steve said he will get new insurance bids for board liability, workers comp, the structure, etc.

- Tony said it was a smoothly-run season in terms of the computers, credit card processing and the box office. He stated that we need to find new/more Ambassadors.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT: Phyllis Cortese

- Phyllis said we are going forward with the gazebo roof repair with WCSU initiating the bidding process, aiming for a fall 2015 completion. Frank and Tanya believe this should move forward now with the work to be begun in March. Sean said he would provide Steve with the bid information via email.
- The Ives Festival Orchestra in October was fantastic, Phyllis said.
- Planning has begun for next summer, with a lot of events returning, including the Townsquare Media events, Beatles Festival, Ecuadorian Festival, Reggae Festival. And new events including a Puerto Rican Cultural Festival and a possible Mountain Jam spin-off.
- Phyllis discussed her plans to create a jazz event in cooperation with the music department at WCSU, which prompted Steve to mention that Ives needs to find additional ways to underwrite the arts since the university has indicated it will no longer budget to support fine arts at Ives. Sean confirmed the lack of a future budget in this area and Frank expressed his reasons why the university should continue to support Ives Fine Arts & Family Series events.

After motion by Frank Herbert, seconded by Gina Marcus, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 21.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Hill, Secretary