

Concert Committee

Meeting Minutes

Sept. 24, 2022 10:00 am

Truro Public Library

Present: Michael Holt, Pat Wheeler, Nancy Braun, Ken Field, Trish Ford, Tim Hickey, Carl Fink

Our meetings

- Ann and Pat want 1 hour meetings.
- This meeting was 2 hours. Mike prefers that.
- He asks: are we required to use Robert's rules?
- Last meeting's minutes approved.
- Next meeting is Nov. 2, 10 am, at library.

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Lighting at the concerts

- Ann says Friends of the Truro Library and others are looking at getting a tent that the whole audience could be under. Do we want that? How would it affect our lighting needs?
- Do we want to start all the concerts earlier, and start the August concerts EVEN earlier, so as to have more sunlight, and eliminate need for electric light? Doing that, we might lose beach folks, and it might be good to have a consistent start time.
- Carl mentions option of lighting rental. The rental company could put up and position the lighting for each show, rather than us having to buy rainproof lighting that would stay up between shows.
- He'll look into quotes and report back at next meeting.
- Ken proposes we find prices for all options: rental, buying rainproof lighting, buying non-rainproof lighting that we'd put up for each show, and buying non-rainproof lighting that has permanently installed rainproof stands so we can simply add the lights to that infrastructure at each concert.
- If we buy put-up-able lights, we could lend them to other events in the community.
- Carl wants the lights to have different colors.
- LEDs are now the standard for lighting. With them, would we still need special high power outlets?
- We might not have the manpower to put up lights each week.
- But Tim believes put-up-able lights with a freestanding rack can be placed anywhere, and take very little time to set up.
- Tim says that in other concerts series he was involved with, bands that brought their own lighting, and that worked out well.

- Idea: talk to Chris Blood or Kevin Rice for advice
- Mike advocates putting acts not on patio but on lawn (as with Toast & Jam). Better sight lines, less physical distance from audience, amphitheater feeling, and always sunlight, eliminating the need for electric light.
- Pat thinks lawn is not appropriate for the less intimate bands
- Parks and Rec owns a portable stage; Ann will find out dimensions
- Will a stage will kill grass? Tim thinks it comes back, and just having it there during the season will draw people.
- Our grants will only fund concerts at accessible spaces. Is the lawn accessible?

Finance

- We now pay bands about \$5400 per season (the bulk of our expenses). That's \$5-800 per band. Mike wonders if we could pay more, so as to afford bands like Funktapuss and Dirty Water Dance Band. Ken says those are wedding bands, not our kind of local act, and what we're currently paying is appropriate.
- For a while, we had a \$15,000 reserve in bank, enough to pay bands for about three years. Now our reserve is \$8546. The real reason is covid: we had a season of paying bands without fundraising from sponsors.
- Our donation box has also been suffering since we moved to library. We used to take in at least \$200 per show. There seems to be a correlation between no band tip jar and a higher draw in ours.
- Decided: Band contracts will henceforth say "no tip jar." (Nancy: if bands object, we could consider offering them a higher fee.)
- Decided: We'll pitch our own donation boxes during each show introduction, and aim to walk around the audience with it during the shows. Ken is willing to do that.
- This season we got \$3125 from sponsors (incl. \$1300 from Seamen's bank); that's just a little less than previous years.
- We had \$700 from Mass Cultural Council (MCC), and no Truro Treasures \$500.
- Ken will look into MCC's covid recovery grant (we could apply for \$1000 as an org.), and an Arts Foundation of Cape Cod grant (he thinks we could get \$500). He'll send this info to Pat.
- Question: exactly what kind of org are we?
- Ken will be treasurer, and keep track of the donations. Will create a google account for us and do accounting on a calendar year basis.
- Mike will send the solicitation letters.

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Critique of performances

- Audience seemed to love all the bands this year.
- Grab Bros: Two of us are not big fans, one additional doesn't like their Rap. They did have biggest audience of season, and we made the most in our donation box.

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- Donnelly: One didn't like; one did, loves the harmonies, something she thinks we don't have in other acts.
- Toast and Jam: One suggests we give them a break because we've had them almost every year for 13 years.
- Rip It Ups: we've also had them almost every year, but they got rained out this year.
- Chandler Travis' band: One votes against; doesn't get their humor.
- Social diversity matters in grant money.
- Decided: Mike and Pat will look for more diversity and create a program, one band different from this year.

Library

- Trish: the Library loves having us here. We bring 2000 people, which she can report as part of library programs attendance.

Rain

- Decided that band contracts won't change: if rain, there'll be no rain date, no inside concerts, and no pay, except in cases such as all band members show up and rain comes at last minute

Publicity

- Pat suggests Nancy do all the rack cards, posters and banners, and contact all the press and media with our program. Does she agree?
- Tim will handle the road signs again, including making (and donating money to pay for) new signs as needed.
- We have two electric signs from the Town. The dump one can be programmed from offsite; the other needs a DPW person to do it. DPW would rather not include performer names, just the time.

Shed

- Tim, Ken, and Nancy will make a date to clean and organize shed.

Committee membership

- We should find more people; there should be more of us at the concerts. Next year will be Ann's last.
- Ken's experience is that having unofficial "adjunct" members doesn't work.
- Mike will ask Carl.
- Nancy will ask Michael Travers.

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- We'll also need a new chair. Next year will probably be Pat's last.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Holt

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