



Syracuse City Arts Council

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2011

1. Review and adoption of agenda.

President Darren Maxfield called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m., due to a change in meeting location, indicating that Secretary Judy Merrill posted the agenda 24 hours prior to the meeting and delivered copies to all Board members. The meeting location, originally advertised for the Syracuse City Community Center, was held at President Maxfield's home, 2015 South 1900 West, in Syracuse with signs posted on the door of the Community Center announcing the change in location and address of the new meeting place.

Members Present: Darren Maxfield, Shannon Elmer, Heather Steed, Judy Merrill, Brandon Bills, and Holly Thurgood

Excused: Seth Lisonbee

BRANDON BILLS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2011, MEETING AGENDA AS OUTLINED, SECONDED BY HEATHER STEED. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

2. Review and adoption of August 23, 2011, Minutes.

BRANDON BILLS MOVED TO ADOPT THE AUGUST 23, 2011, MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. DARREN MAXFIELD SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

3. Davis Symphony Orchestra Proposal.

Brandon Bills asked questions of specific key groups in the orchestra, the leadership and players, regarding their needs. His goal was to support the orchestra in ways that would benefit the SCAC, orchestra, and community at large. He also had official proposals for some events.

Leadership: Marie, the conductor, kept track of their budget and had a board or committee with 5-6 members who consistently attended meetings and performances. As for needs, they mentioned their lack of appropriate practice and performance locations. Since they did not qualify for any interlocal agreements, they had to pay full price to utilize the schools. Therefore, they played mostly at church stake centers.

Players: Everyone had their own equipment and the orchestra included a sufficient number of players but could always include more in their performances. They were active all year long but did tend to increase in numbers near concert dates but always had a core of around 20 performers.

Needs: 1) Stability, because everything hinged on the conductor. 2) More structure, security, and legitimacy. Some expressed frustration with their borrowed music without knowing whether they had any licensing with ASCAP. 3) More challenging music.

SCAC Needs: Broadening our reach in the community. Brandon pointed out that the SCAC would be developing classes and provided opportunities for vocal and theatrical expression but, aside from the pit orchestra, did not include a place for instrumentalists. The closest community bands or orchestras were in Layton and Clearfield. Brandon understood that whatever direction the SCAC decided in terms of expanding opportunities had to fit within the budget goals and SCAC venues.

Community: Board members could not think of effective ways to determine such needs, but Heather Steed suggested doing a Facebook poll. Brandon Bills stated that he asked many in his neighborhood and other places and discovered quite a few who wanted to play if they had a venue.

The Davis Symphony Orchestra currently rehearsed in Layton with their participants mostly from Ogden and the Davis County area as well as a few from Salt Lake City. The sentiment from those who traveled the farthest to practice in Layton, regarding the possibility of practicing in Syracuse, was that Syracuse was only four minutes farther. They expected to commute, since they performed concerts all over.

Shannon Elmer asked on what the Board members thought the SCAC poll should focus, a band or orchestra. Judy Merrill believed that surrounding cities provided sufficient opportunities for people who preferred to perform in bands and suggested they focus on an orchestra, which would support their musicals.

Darren Maxfield stated that having the SCAC present their performances would not affect the budget, would build a good relationship and provide a good core, and would give the SCAC a broader base for the musicals' pit orchestras. He preferred having open auditions for each pit orchestra.

Heather pointed out the need to consider possible rehearsal conflicts during the musical production timeframes and the need to find space for both the orchestra and pit orchestra. Brandon expressed confidence in moving the orchestra to any available classroom at the high school during those crucial months.

Brandon explained how the SCAC could build a relationship with the orchestra more by simply assisting them with providing them a place to practice and licensing their music in order to protect them from liability rather than buying their music. It would also give the SCAC concert capabilities, which Judy reminded Board members generated the biggest audience for the summer concert series. Brandon contacted ASCAP and learned that the SCAC could apply for a government license based on population. With the City's population under 45,000 residents, such a license would only be \$309 for the entire year. He spoke with the concert department of ASCAP and asked about musical performances without sets or costumes, and they advised him such events were still theatrical productions needing a license from MTI or ASCAP. He went over costs for different variations of licensing and music costs through MTI, ASCAP, and JW Pepper.

Heather asked if her assumption was correct that Brandon would oversee that area of the SCAC. Brandon expressed his willingness to be in charge of the orchestra.

Judy expressed her preference of posting a poll on the City's Facebook page, and Heather agreed that she was in favor of pursuing such a relationship with the orchestra. Darren suggested looking into securing a practice location along with the Facebook survey.

When Shannon asked if the Board would be willing to run and sponsor the orchestra at a greater level in the future, Heather suggested negotiating their relationship on a year-to-year basis so that the SCAC could review each year whether the partnership was working for both organizations.

Judy asked everyone to email her suggestions for wording the survey.

4. Volunteer Coordinator.

Shannon mentioned a conversation she had with Liz Eames who told her that Paul and Michelle Smith, former SCAC president and treasurer who moved away, moved back to Syracuse and Michelle was looking for something to do. Shannon and Heather expressed confidence that Michelle would be a great Volunteer Coordinator. She was very organized, ran meetings well, and had a good relationship with the City. Shannon asked Liz for Michelle's phone number but had not yet received it. Heather asked how the Board wanted to accept volunteers via the Coordinator. Board members agreed that the Committee Chairs needed to approve volunteers based on job descriptions and interviews. Brandon asked who would be responsible for the Volunteer Coordinator. Darren simply stated that the Coordinator would not be a voting member of the Board but would need to attend Board meetings.

Heather advised the Board that Jamie Murray was willing to take over Publicity, coordinating volunteers, and anything else. After more discussion, Heather suggested that Shannon give Michelle the option of overseeing sponsorships or volunteers and report back.

5. Yearly Budget.

JUDY MERRILL MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING DUE TO TIME AND MORE PRESSING AGENDA ITEMS TO DISCUSS. HEATHER STEED SECONDED THE MOTION. Prior to the vote, Brandon asked how the Board should consider the yearly budget. Darren advised him that every Board member should present their own budget and projected financial needs. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

6. Children's Theater Classes.

Darren reported that they were able to initiate discussions for these classes but did not yet have a confirmed proposal.

DARREN MAXFIELD MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM, SECONDED BY BRANDON BILLS; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

7. Walk-In Items.

Heather Steed mentioned that the SCAC web page went live earlier that day. She then proposed six new logos for the SCAC. Board members narrowed them down to two. Heather agreed to rework them and present her modified designs at the next meeting.

JUDY MERRILL MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 10:25 P.M.; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.