

Edmonton String Players Association

March 2021 Meeting Minutes

Type of Meeting: Board Meeting
Meeting Called by: Edmonton String Players Association
Date: March 13, 2021
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Online



Attending:

Karen Hipson, President
Tony Tucci, Treasurer
Andrew Hoskins, Vice-President
Christine Regehr, Secretary
Guillaume Tardif, Member at Large

Agenda

Christine suggested adding an agenda item to make a motion for the cancellation of instrument insurance.
MOTION: Andrew made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the motion about instrument insurance. Karen seconded the motion. All in favour. Motion carried.

The approval of the minutes from the January meeting was forgotten.

A. Instrument Rentals

We are no longer supporting instrument rentals. It is inconsistent with the structure of the organization.

MOTION: Andrew moved to cancel the insurance for rental instruments and discontinue rentals as part of the Music Enrichment Program. Karen seconded the motion. All in favour. Motion carried.

ACTION: Tony Tucci will cancel insurance coverage for rental instruments.

B. REPORT: Sustainability Committee Report given by Andrew Hoskins

Andrew reported on the interviews with our three conductors, Petar, Patricia, and Miriam. He presented a summary of the history of MEP, emphasizing the severing of the relationship with Edmonton Public School Board and its initial viability because it was run by teachers who were already teaching in schools. These teachers learned the Bornoff method and applied it in their own classrooms. Parent structure was initially supporting what was already happening in schools. If we ever engage with schools again, it would be in a new capacity/relationship. See forthcoming report for full summary.

Andrew emphasized the need to examine fees for students. The program is losing approximately \$5000 per month.

ACTION: Tony Tucci will come up with a fee structure that covers the expenses for September 2021.

Three Recommendations from Andrew:

1. Re-set the budget from now until September so that we actively control expenses.
2. To adopt the Brick approach which names and pursues the critical pieces of the program for September.
3. Organization Mapping –redefining roles responsibilities for board, volunteers, parents and paid personnel.

Discussion followed on the nature of the 'bricks' and the details of expense control. Christine advocated that potential bricks for the future should fit into the plan. The idea of an adult orchestra was discussed and its inclusion in the document will be considered.

Karen made note that the concert usually takes place in late May.

She also noted that middle of July is too late for auditions/registration. EYO is opening registration in May without accompanying payment necessary.

ACTION: Sustainability committee should discuss the inclusion of possible future 'bricks', registration timeline, and spring concert date.

MOTION: Karen made a motion to adopt the three main recommendations. Tony Tucci seconded it. All were in favour. Motion carried.

ACTION: Tony Tucci will make a new budget from the present until September. It will include \$2000 for a communications director and will represent the elimination of both current administrative positions.

ACTION: Board members must give feedback before the end of March so that the report can be approved by the end of March.

ACTION: Andrew will send out a revised report by the end of March for approval over email.

C. Finances

Andrew explained that the current paid positions (other than conductors) with MEP are not financially viable. We need to re-evaluate which positions are needed to run the organization.

MOTION: Tony moved that Andrew Hoskins communicate the following to Courtney Cline:

1. MEP positions are not financially viable given the state of the organization. The positions need to be re-evaluated.
2. Courtney's current arrangement (\$1500 /month) needs to be terminated.
3. Andrew will negotiate with Courtney, to the best of his ability, a new arrangement and bring it to the board for approval. The new arrangement might involve hourly pay, new duties, or reduced time, for example.
4. He will also discuss transition plans with Courtney if certain duties are no longer held by her.

ACTION: Andrew will communicate the above with Courtney.

Co-vid 19 Update

REPORT: Karen is meeting with conductors tomorrow about how to proceed with orchestras.

Upcoming Bingo Dates (sent by Judit Jenei)

Mon. Oct. 4, 2022

Mon. Nov. 22, 2022

Wed. Dec. 15, 2022

Thurs. Jan. 27, 2022

Wed. Feb 16, 2022

Meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Next General Meeting: April 10th, 2021