

CCSA board meeting minutes

January 9, 2025

Attending: Andrew Shaud, Tim Eisele, Maria Bergstrom, Haley Fredrickson, Megan Bradley, Traci Yu

Tim called the meeting to order at 7: 04 pm.

Minutes of the November 14 meeting were read and approved.

Executive Director Report

Executive session

Jared Anderson from Michigan Tech VPA followed up on November 20 regarding the questions around the CCSA executive director pay. The court case that would have applied was overruled and so there is no issue for now. Andrew's status can stay the same.

Financial report

Winter/Spring term billing will go out this weekend. Our mortgage payments will begin this month (at a reduced rate, increasing over the next four years).

Income still coming: payment from the MACC grant is on hold while we update our Charitable Trust status. Andrew has re-submitted our application and anticipates confirmation any day. Brian and Andrew have used about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the professional development grant funds so far. They are taking a teaching strategies class.

Enrollment

Student hours are finally up to the 38 weekly hours of teaching that we had targeted. This increases our spring tuition by over \$5000. Both Brian and Andrew have another hour available for teaching.

Music Together is now large enough to add a second section. Classes start on Saturday (2 classes of 6 and 7). This year Andrew added an option where families can register for all semesters at the same time, which seems to have helped pick up some new families.

Building update

A plumber was here yesterday and intends to return on Friday to replace the pump. Estimating around \$400 for materials, plus labor costs.

Andrew has spoken to Kathleen Arten about renting the space for her adult early music group. Andrew is working with her to move the harpsichord into the building.

Upcoming events

There will not be a recital in January this year due to lack of interest.

KYSO has a concert scheduled in the McArdle theater at MTU on January 21st (Andrew is checking on whether the space is still reserved for us). The Holiday concert was moved to the Rozsa lobby due to changes in McArdle scheduling and overall it worked out very well. The only issue mentioned was that it was sometimes hard to see the younger performers without a stage or elevated seats.

The Advanced Student recital will also be held in the Rozsa lobby.

The Spring concert and membership meeting should be in McArdle.

Board Discussion

Suggestions for encouraging rentals of our space: Board suggests taking a series of photos and doing some estimating of how many performers can fit into different spaces and how different configurations might look. Information about space rental could be added to our website.

Board member bios for the website still need updating.

We had a couple of drafts of a fundraising letter but discovered that sending out fundraising appeals in December is difficult, because of so many other things going on (concerts, etc.). February is a better target. We have two different drafts for direct appeal; they are saved in the Suzuki Board Google folder under "Fundraising Appeals." Andrew suggests we schedule a day to meet at Michigan Tech to print off letters and prep them for mailing. Perhaps early February—"Show Suzuki some Love"? We also need to finish updating the mailing list.

Haley and Mary Jo are finishing up the Fun Cards. Andrew suggests increasing to \$20. Our goal is to get the cards to the printer before the end of January.

The Marathon/Auction will be April 5. It's time to start asking for donations soon. We brainstormed some ideas for getting the word out more broadly in the community. Maybe make flyers with some photos of high value items that we can post around town. Goal to start the auction on March 22, with a target of March 18 for collecting all items. Maybe we can work on tagging some local music and arts organizations on Facebook to share our link?

Andrew would like to send out a letter to the current membership outlining the upcoming fundraising events and making the case for the need for fundraising beyond our tuition costs.

This is probably better coming from the board than from Andrew. A mid-year financial update from the board is what we have in mind. Include "Things you can do": reach out to families who might be interested in taking lessons, sell Fun Cards, donate to the auction, suggest names for our mailing list for the direct appeal campaign. Megan will start a draft and share via the google drive for board input.

It would also be helpful to give tips on how to connect prospective families to us (for example, bring a friend to one of our concerts or recitals). Maybe a summer 6 week try-out session could be helpful? Board could think about a new member's class/orientation in the fall?

Moved and seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Maria Bergstrom
Board Secretary