

**The Market Street Singers is a choral ensemble for Ballard that builds connections within diverse communities. Celebrating the joy of choral music among singers and listeners, we aspire to cultivate neighborhood pride with choral arts that are truly community identified.**

**July 17, 2014, at the home of Jean Bowman  
Call to Order: 7:05 pm**

**Present: Jean Bowman, , Cassie Owens, Cathy Palmer, Kate Riordan, Patty Stedman, Marilyn Varas, Chris Vincent, Gary Woods. Ex officio: Brandy Rinck**

**1. Minutes – (ALL)**

The board reviewed minutes for the May board meeting. Cassie moved to accept the minutes and Patty seconded the motion. All approved; minutes accepted as written.

**2. Treasurer's Report (Cassie)**

a. Cassie reiterated her appreciation of Ken's detailed reports and explanations. Ken has also provided forms for documenting both cash and in-kind TMSS expenses. Please submit your forms!

b. Both Amazon Smile and Fred Meyer programs are set up.

c. The check from Ballard Market has not yet arrived; Cassie will check with Sandy.

d. Cassie reported that the GiveBig match generated about \$100 less to TMSS, despite the fact that considerably more money was donated (most of which came from choir members). Probable causes for this shortfall were an increase in both the number of organizations participating and the event's administrative expenses. The board discussed whether this program is worth TMSS participation: questions to explore before deciding might be whether choir members are comfortable asking friends to donate (pose this question at a general meeting of TMSS) and/or might prefer to promote donations through their private Facebook pages. The board will revisit this question early next spring, and will adhere to Chris V.'s advice that a decision about participation should be made further in advance of the GiveBig date.

**3. Chorus America Membership (Kate)**

The board reviewed material about Chorus America membership that Kate presented, and agreed that, for \$150, membership was worth trying for a year. Patty mentioned the on-line learning provision as particularly attractive; Cassie will investigate the access to general liability insurance. Patty moved that TMSS join Chorus America, Gary seconded. All approved the motion.

**4. Task List (Marilyn)**

a. Rummage sale: Kate will announce the critical need for a coordinator at an upcoming rehearsal. There was some discussion of members (Kathy and Barb?) who had been effective cashiers at last year's sale: can they be identified? If no one volunteers to coordinate, TMSS will not be able to hold this fundraiser.

b. Event wrangler: no one has yet volunteered for this position. Kate will ask for a volunteer; should no one step up, TMSS will ignore all offers that require collection of names and/or fees; Chris will pass on only the opportunities he considers outstanding.

**5. Silent Auction at Annual Meeting (ALL)**

BobAnn will turn over all of her procedural notes about the 2013 event, but she is not able to coordinate again. Does TMSS have a volunteer, in order to continue this fundraiser? Cathy volunteered to coordinate check-out; Kate will ask for other volunteer(s).

**6. Member Guidelines (Jean, Kate)**

Board members reviewed the changes/additions Jean had written up for the Member Guidelines, in response to Chris V.'s request for new language about physical requirements for singers at rehearsals and concerts and about binders for choral music. Board members also reviewed the list of volunteer opportunities: the Sunshine committee (currently Jean) will be added, as well as the silent auction at the annual meeting; holiday gift-wrapping will be deleted. Jean was thanked for organizing this review so efficiently. Kate will update the Member Guidelines document and forward the updated version to Chris B for posting on the web page.

**7. Tenth Anniversary Concert (Chris V.)**

Chris V. has, as yet, been unable to contact Shawn at Ballard High School: he is focusing on accomplishing this task, getting the final word about paperwork, and sending a check. In response to Chris V.'s query about Pierre's willingness to coordinate concert production once again, Cassie asked that Chris V. contact Pierre directly. Chris V. also reported that he may pare down the repertoire for the concert. Three alumni have already indicated interest in participating in the concert. Board members reviewed last month's discussion about outlets for press coverage of the concert. Brandy will need a "concert image" from Russ; she is aiming for timely announcements.

**8. Tenth Anniversary T-shirts (ALL)**

Lively and prolonged discussion ensued over what TMSS should wear for the tenth anniversary concert. After full consideration of several alternatives, board members decided that, if air conditioning is available, choir members will wear white shirts and vests; if air conditioning is not available, choir members will wear white shirts without vests. Board members felt that these choices befit the momentousness of this anniversary.

Board members discussed the initial design for a tenth anniversary T-shirt. Chris V. will discuss the board's feedback with Russ. Since the choir will not wear T-shirts at the anniversary concert, it was thought that Russ should be invited to present samples for sales to individuals. Board members remain very happy with the classic TMSS "logo T-shirt"; new choir members should have the opportunity to purchase one.

**9. Alternative Rehearsal Site (Chris V., Kate)**

The upper space at Sunset Hill Community Center is not available on Tuesday evenings, nor is SHCC interested in storing TMSS piano. Ballard Community Center is always booked on Tuesday evenings for fencing lessons. For now, this issue is "on hold."

**11. Left over issues (ALL)**

- a. Cleaning vests: After discussion of purchasing vests for new choir members, and the timing of any cleaning, Cathy moved that all vests be cleaned after the September concert; Marilyn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b. Documenting GiveBig procedures: on hold, pending a decision on future participation.
- c. Bylaw review will begin: board members who have not yet submitted comments should do so promptly.

## **12. New business (ALL)**

a. Picnic: Chris V. reported that he had fielded many compliments about the new picnic site at Woodland Park, which was shady and roomy, with good parking and less need to defend our reserved shelter and tables from other users. At the next rehearsal Kate will acknowledge people who helped with the picnic.

b. Another instrumental ensemble at a future concert? Chris V. reported that several choir members would like to sing with a large instrumental ensemble again; he is considering this possibility for the May 2015 concert, at a cost of about \$1800. The board encouraged him to continue thinking; he will present a specific proposal before any authorization is granted. Board members questioned whether singing with an instrumental ensemble necessarily mandated another single long piece like the Vivaldi. Chris said "No": he is unlikely to diverge from his usual model of a "concert of everything." He is more likely to choose one longer work and several shorter ones for the May concert. The board also discussed whether longer rehearsals should be considered: Chris feels that "baby steps" have been taken toward this goal, with the very helpful addition of sectionals. The day-long retreat/rehearsal (called before the "Shilshole on the Pacific" concert) was met with considerable resistance at the time.

c. Chris V. asked for the board's advice about whether to purchase a particularly attractive arrangement of holiday music that would pay royalties to an organization he does not support. After discussion, the board advised that he not buy the arrangement.

**Adjournment: 8:35 pm,**

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **All:**

- Suggest bylaw changes to committee [Kate, Cassie, Brandy] immediately
- Use Ken's new forms to document cash and in-kind expenses

### **Kate:**

- Announce need for rummage sale coordinator and event wrangler at next rehearsal
- Announce need for auction coordinator at next rehearsal
- Thank picnic helpers at next rehearsal
- Update Member Guidelines document and send to Chris

**Cassie**

- Follow up with Sandy about check from Ballard Market at appropriate moment (that is, not to conflict with request for billboard announcement of concert)

**Brandy**

- Get 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary image for concert announcements from Russ

**Chris V:**

- Discuss board feedback about 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirt design with Russ

**Upcoming**

**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Fall concert**

**October 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>**

**Rummage Sale**

**November 11th**

**Annual Meeting & Silent Auction**

**December 13th**

**Holiday concert**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Echo Glen concert**

**Next meeting:**

**August 21st, at Gloria Chenoweth's house**