

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.

June 19, 2014, at the home of Cassie Owens
Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Present: Jean Bowman, Gloria Chenoweth, Cassie Owens, Cathy Palmer, Kate Riordan, Patty Stedman, Marilyn Varas, Chris Vincent, Jaime Worthington. *Ex officio*: Brandy Rinck

1. Minutes – (ALL)

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

2. Treasurer's Report (Cassie)

a. In Gary's absence, Kate reported that Fred Meyer's "percentage of sales" program is managed through its "Rewards" program: that is, TMSS members can specify that the Rewards they would normally earn on their purchases go to TMSS instead.

b. Chris B. will announce the Amazon Smile program in the Gazette.

c. Chris V. announced that TMSS bank balance is \$15K, including the check from GiveBig. Jean thanked Kate for pushing the board to participate in this program: doing so clearly paid off. She also reiterated thanks to Ken for clear and detailed financial reports.

3. Task List (Marilyn)

a. "Entertainment opportunity coordinator": Marilyn will write up a description of responsibilities for the Gazette, and will also announce at the upcoming rehearsal. Whoever volunteers for this task can use Constant Contact to notify choir members of opportunities (tracking down individual e-mails will not be required). Chris V. will continue to act as initial filter for many invitations; he will pass on to a coordinator only those likely to benefit choir members.

b. Picnic: although Patty had volunteered to co-coordinate the picnic with Chris B., Chris V. encouraged Patty to hand off this role while dealing with some recent challenges. Patty feels that she and her husband can still take responsibility for arriving at the site early to post signs on the shelter and table. Cathy volunteered to purchase food at Costco if Chris B. would like this help.

c. Rummage sale: neither Joyce nor Margo can help; it is crucial to find one or more co-coordinators, particularly someone who can price items on Friday night.

d. Click 'n Pay: Cassie is working on this item.

e. Fred Meyer program: Gloria volunteered to collect more information.

4. Member Guidelines (ALL)

Jean volunteered to create language, to be added to the Member Guidelines document distributed to new members, about physical requirements for rehearsal and concert participation. Jean will send this language to board members for review before the next board meeting. Chris V. asked that those requirements specify an ability to stand for 30-40 minutes at a time (if one can't, one should

provide one's own stool/chair). Chris V. also asked that members be required to bring their music to rehearsals and performances in a black hardbound 3-ring binder or choral folder.

5. Tenth Anniversary Concert (Chris V.)

Chris V. reported that concert preparations are "on track," although he is still working on inviting past members to the first half-hour of rehearsal during the last six weeks of the season to prepare pieces that were sung at the first concert. Chris V. is eager that this concert be covered by the press, from neighborhood weeklies to *The Seattle Times*, *Seattle Weekly*, and *The Stranger*. To that end, he will write a paragraph about the concert's significance. Brandy said that she would need that text a month before the concert; she also reported difficulties in getting the Ballard blog to post concert notices in a timely way.

6a. Alternative Performance Site (Patty and Chris V.)

Patty presented notes and comments on her quest to gather information about possibilities for renting Ballard High School. Doing so requires dealing with two separate billing entities, Ballard High School and Seattle Public Schools' Building and Grounds department. Patty feels that, at this point, she has solid information from Ballard High School but not from SPS Building and Grounds; Ballard High School has already approved the rental for September 13th, so SPS is unlikely to deny a permit. She presented a list of fees; cost for a Tuesday rehearsal before the concert, and the concert itself, would be significantly more than what it costs to rent Ballard Lutheran (Patty also noted that a final bill is not sent until after the event; it is impossible to determine in advance exactly what a rental will cost). Chris V. asked for more information about rental cancellation policy.

The cost of this rental prompted considerable discussion among board members. Chris V. said that he preferred this rental for the tenth anniversary concert for the following reasons: it is a special event; Ballard Lutheran is cramped for the number of choir members, a factor which is particularly important during this season, when TMSS has attracted considerably more new members than usual; he would like to present the concert in a venue other than a church. He also emphasized that he could "live with" a "yay" or a "nay" from the board, as long as a decision could be made at this meeting either to move forward or to abandon the plan. Cassie moved that the board approve rental of Ballard High School as the venue for the tenth anniversary concert; Jaime seconded the motion. The board so moved, with one "nay" vote.

Chris V. will notify Ballard Lutheran that TMSS is considering Ballard High School for the concert, but will also ask that the church hold its space in case the rental falls through. Gloria (who works for Seattle Public Schools as a substitute) will assist Patty in determining into what category for rental fees TMSS falls (she will also investigate whether her status as an employee might be beneficial). Brandy suggested that posters be produced for this concert; the list of venues for posting should be revamped.

6b. Alternative Rehearsal Site (Chris V.)

Sunset Hill Community Center was tested on the evening of June 9th. Chris V. reported that the upper space is nice, light and bright, with ceiling fans; the lower space is not suitable. The parking is

“terrible” (the Center is reportedly looking into renting parting space from the Nordic Heritage Museum. Chris V. is also concerned about security at SHCC.

Kate will find out about: parking arrangements; rental fees; keeping TMSS piano on site and locked; the number of chairs.

7. Keyboard (Chris V.)

Chris V reported that the new keyboard has been purchased and the old keyboard donated to the Senior Center. The new keyboard is working but is somewhat under-volume because of its speaker placement. Chris V will be looking into adding additional speakers.

8. Bylaws (Kate)

Stimulated by sessions and conversations at Chorus America, Kate recommended that TMSS bylaws be revisited. After discussion of how to proceed with this task, a committee of Cassie, Kate, and Brandy was appointed to supervise the review. Board members should review the bylaws and send their comments by the next board meeting date.

9. Chorus America (Kate and Chris V.)

The three TMSS participants (Chris V., Kate, and Gary) divided sessions among them: Chris V. attended sessions on choral direction and musicianship; Gary attended sessions on Social Media (he will provide feedback to Brandy); Kate attended sessions on building a board and fundraising. Kate returned inspired to follow suggestions on creating committees (committees’ meeting in lieu of full-board meetings every month) and recruiting non-choir members to the board.

Chris V. suggested doing some homework about how local organizations comparable to TMSS (Magnolia Chorale; Orchestra Seattle) are organized. Information may also be gleaned through the Choral Consortium, although Chris V. felt that one [i.e., Kate] could generate better information through meetings with key representatives rather than through a survey. He asked that TMSS approach the future by “imagining the possibilities rather than by focusing on limitations.”

Several other discussion points were generated by Kate’s report about Chorus America. Kate returned with several samples of concert handouts. She would like photos on one side, TMSS “story” on the other. Cassie recommended a bookmark size. Kate would also like to have a donor party after the concert. Chris V. will resurrect his recommendations of locally occurring concerts in the Gazette: Kate vows to attend at least one per month.

At the next board meeting, Kate will present a proposal for TMSS’s spending the money [\$150] to join Chorus America.

10. New business (ALL)

a. Cleaning vests: Russ calls to the board’s attention the fact that TMSS vests have never been cleaned. Doing so would cost about \$1.75 per vest. A motion to clean the vests was tabled, pending more investigation of whether and when they need cleaning.

b. Rehearsal behavior: Chris outlined a strategy for dealing with negative or disruptive behavior in rehearsals. Cassie recommended that at times when Chris V. feels it necessary to meet with any member to discuss an issue, that meeting involve an additional person besides the choir member and himself. This might be a board member or section leader. Jean recommended that Chris V. repeat his

various ideas to the choir about what it is involved in singing in a chorus (prioritizing focus over friendly chatter, not over-singing, etc.).

Adjournment: 9:10 pm,

ACTION ITEMS:

All:

- Suggest bylaw changes to committee [Kate, Cassie, Brandy] before next meeting

Kate:

- Prepare proposal for joining Chorus America to present to board members
- Find out about parking arrangements, rental fees, keeping TMSS piano on site and locked, the number of chairs at Sunset Hill Community Center.
- Begin gathering information about board organization from comparable local organizations
- Attend one non-TMSS concert per month

Marilyn:

- Write up description of “entertainment opportunity coordinator” for Gazette; also announce at upcoming rehearsal
- Find co-coordinator for Picnic and for Rummage Sale

Cassie:

- Continue to work on Click ‘n Pay

Patty:

- Follow up with Ballard High School/SPS about rental cancellation policy.

Jean:

- Add language to Member Guidelines about physical requirements for rehearsal and concert participation. Send proposed language to board members before next meeting

Gloria:

- Back up Gary on Fred Meyer program
- Assist Patty to confirm TMSS category for performance venue rental

Cathy:

- Follow up with Chris B. about help buying picnic food at Costco

Chris V:

- Notify Ballard Lutheran to continue holding concert space in case BHS rental falls through
- Consider whether to add speakers to new keyboard
- Resurrect concert recommendations for Gazette
- By August 10th write paragraph about significance of tenth anniversary concert

Upcoming

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| July 15th | Annual picnic |
| September 13th | Fall concert |
| October 17th/18th | Rummage Sale |
| November 11th | Annual Meeting & Silent Auction |
| December 13th | Holiday concert |
| December 14th | Echo Glen concert |
| Next meeting: | July 17th, at Gloria Chenoweth's house |