

Symphony Guild of Charlotte, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes September 19, 2019

Attending: Mike Rutledge, Carol Follmer, Linda Weisbruch, Ellen Crowley, Beth Garges, Leigh Finley, Joan Foley, Wendy Smolen, Cookie Parnell, Jeanna Norris, Lisa Kelly, Betty Seifert, Linda Borders, Marta Fales, Elizabeth Connor Stewart, Lisa Phillips, Susan Carr, Robin Cochran, Sallie Moody, Jenny Tolson, Peggy Dreher, Mary Staton

President Mike Rutledge called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. The minutes from the May 9, 2017 Board meeting were approved. Mike introduced the Board members. There was a quorum present.

Treasurer's Report – Susan Carr, Treasurer

- As of 8-31-17 the checking account balance was \$9,951.37, Operating Reserve was \$33,493.18, and the Enrichment Endowment Money Market account was \$53,712.39. Total assets are \$97,168.58. Current Liabilities are \$1,697.48. Total Equity is \$95,471.10. Last year the Guild had a total net income of slightly more than \$8,000. The 2017 financial records are with the accountant, and the tax return will be filed in the near future. See attached full report, Balance Sheet, and Profit and Loss statement.
- Beth Garges questioned the amount of \$1085 in the Meg Hutchins Scholarship, and Susan said that she would review the transactions for the last couple of years. The account is probably closer to 0.

Fundraising - Robin Cochran, VP

- **Rountree Plantation** - Robin reminded everyone of our fundraising event at Rountree Plantation on October 12 from 5 to 7 pm. Rountree has supported our Kitchen Tours in the past, and we hope to earn \$1,000 from this event. Members will receive an email invitation which they can forward to friends.
- **Heart of the Home Kitchen Tour – Tour** - Linda Weisbruch, Lisa Phillips, Sallie Moodie – The flyer that Linda handed out at the meeting will be available at the Fall meeting and will also have volunteer opportunities listed on the back. In 2018 there will be fewer houses but the same total number of shifts for volunteers because of the additional hours on Friday evening. Dates are Wednesday, March 14 – Taste of the Tour Party and auction from 6 to 9 at Ferguson's; Friday, March 16 – Cocktail Tour of houses from 6 to 9 with various drinks available at each house; Saturday, March 17 – daytime tour from 10 to 4. The tour ticket is continuous for the weekend – those who start on Friday evening can continue on Saturday. There are already 3 chefs committed to providing food. Local chefs Leslie and Bruce Schlernitzauer will be the honorary chairmen. Barbara Kopald is helping to contact chefs from her home in San Diego. Betty Seifert is in charge of logistics for the tour; the houses are located closer together, so it will be easier to tour.

TOT Party/auction – There will be a cut-off date for purchase of the under-35 party ticket. Sallie Moody is in charge of the auction, and she reported that they need a spreadsheet person to keep track of the auction items, volunteers to help transport items to the auction site, and help at check-out. Office Coordinator Victoria Gilmore will do the spreadsheet, if no one comes forward; she is helping the committee in many ways. The 20 people who helped obtain items last year will be asked to do the same this year.

CSYO rep Jeanna Norris said that a CSYO parent has asked for 2 ticket packages (TOT Party and Tour) for an auction at a fundraiser for International House this fall. The KT committee will provide these, and the KT will gain extra publicity through this donation.

Management and Planning – Elizabeth Connor Stewart, VP

- All is OK with this committee.

Membership –Leigh Finley VP

- **Member Renewal** - Leigh reported that renewals are down slightly
- **Social Events** - Jenny Tolson reported that The Guild has 30 bottles of wine stored so will not need members to provide wine for the Fall meeting at Lisa Phillips' house or at other social events. At the Fall meeting on Tuesday, September 26, members can choose to provide food or pay \$10 for a meal. Members should sign up on the website to provide an accurate number of attendees. Beth Garges has engaged student musicians for the Fall meeting and will engage some for the January holiday party. The December President's reception will be held at Linda Weisbruch's house on December 12. The holiday party will take place on January 7 at Southminster instead of in December. The cost will be \$30 per person, and there will be a good menu. The Winter luncheon will take place at Bonterra as in the past. The April social will be at Patsy Reames' house if weather is good. The Spring membership meeting will take place in May at Mary Staton's house.

Education - Beth Garges, VP (Donna Kiser VP was absent)

- **CSYOPA** - Beth thanked the CSYOPA for supporting The Guild with many members joining under the new membership designation. She introduced CSYOPA reps Jeanna Norris, President, and Lisa Kelly, Vice President. They reported that the CSYOPA is selling nut products from Virginia Diner and also Autobell cards at \$15 for a \$20 wash. They will be taking Virginia Diner orders at the Fall meeting. It is better to order from a PA member than to order online, because the PA gets more money, and shipping is not charged. The Carnegie Hall concert was great and well received. The kids had a great time. The JYO begins on 9-30-17, and the CSYO has already been rehearsing for 3 weeks. The CSYO is not playing at Festival in the Park this year, because the CSO has a scheduled event that Ernest Pereira must attend.
- **JYO Minicamp** – The SGC cost of coaches at mini-camp will be \$1600, and camp will take place on Oct. 8.
- **CSYO** – The camp cost was under budget by \$1,500 with 93 campers attending. The members did unusually well for the first rehearsals together. Chris Stonnell of the CSO administration attended the camp concert. Camp dates for 2018 are August 1 to 5, and Converse still seems to be the best place to hold camp for reasons of safety, convenience, and facilities. Camp planning this year was more complicated than in previous years because of the CSO's wish to be involved in the Guild's project. Plans were eventually worked out. It is hoped that in the future plans can be agreed upon before it is time to negotiate with Converse for cost.
- **Young Artists** – No date has been set for the competition.
- **Scholarships** – Betty Seifert, Chair, reported that 8 tuition assistance scholarships have been given for a total of \$1,000. So far there have been 8 applications for private study scholarships.
- **November Board meeting** conflict – with CSYO concert – Mike will change the Board meeting to accommodate the concert date and time.

Marketing

- VP position is vacant because John and Zulima Lee resigned because of her illness. Without a replacement, Mike plans to use Victoria as much as possible. He asked that members email her for advertising, updating the website, social media. She will do as much as possible, if members email her their information.

CSO

- Mike announced that Katie Sutton is the CSO liaison but will not attend meetings of the Guild Board. She will attend the SGC Fall meeting with Mary Deissler and Michelle Hamilton.

LAO

- Linda Weisbruch reported that this is the League of American Orchestras' 75th anniversary. The next conference will be in Chicago in June 2018. SGC Kitchen Tour auction reports have been submitted for a Gold Book award. The Strategic Conversations for Presidents and Presidents-elect are scheduled to begin in early October. If anyone is interested in participating, please let Linda know.

SOVA

- Betty Seifert reported that the 13th annual Roundtable conference for SOVA begins October 9. The Guild will have 4 attendees: Robin Cochran, Susan Carr, Betty Seifert, and Elizabeth Connor Stewart. Roundtable topic will be business plans for non-profits.

New Business

- Marta Fales of Nominating presented Ellen Crowley and Betty Seifert to become Directors. Ellen replaces Kit Ramage for 17-18, and Betty replaces Donna Kiser for 17-19. **A vote was taken, and the elections were approved.**
- Susan Carr, Treasurer, presented a Resolution for approval:

RESOLUTION FOR THE SYMPHONY GUILD OF CHARLOTTE- September 19, 2017

Proposal – The Symphony Guild of Charlotte is hereby authorized to open an investment account at The Vanguard Group. The account will, over time, consist of two mutual funds, one to hold the Guild's Operating Reserve funds and the second to hold its Endowment funds. The transfer of these funds from Wells Fargo Bank to Vanguard will allow the Guild to earn higher returns on the funds, while maintaining liquidity. The funds will be invested in conservative mutual funds that match the maturity, return, liquidity and risk characteristics desired based upon the type of funds invested.

The authorized signatories on the Vanguard account will consist of the following officers:

Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. These signatory officers may be changed at any time, with approval by the Board. The Treasurer will report monthly results to the President.

The Guild members currently holding these positions, and therefore to be approved as authorized signatories at the time of this proposal are:

Treasurer – Susan Carr

Assistant Treasurer – Linda Weisbruch

Chair, Budget and Finance Committee – Richard McKnight.

As the members holding these positions change, the Board will approve any replacement and the Treasurer will notify Vanguard of all changes.

I move that this proposal be approved by the Board of Directors of The Symphony Guild of Charlotte.

Submitted by:

Susan C. Carr

Treasurer

The motion was seconded by... and approved by the Board.

- The future of the Musical Petting Zoo, the Young Artist competition, and the Youth Festival was discussed.

Musical Petting Zoo - Beth Garges said that the Petting Zoo has become a project with difficult issues. Storage at a member's house (Donna Kiser) has become difficult. It was very hard to find volunteers in the last few years, particularly those who could lead the PZ events, and there is no chairman for 17-18. Beth suggested that the instruments be culled to eliminate those that were not in good condition and that the remaining instruments be stored elsewhere. She proposed suspending the PZ for a year and evaluating the project in a year, but a problem occurs with storage at Imaginon in the next year. If we do not appear there, Imaginon will probably not want to store the instruments. Only two Lollipops concert appearances are desired by the CSO. Chris Stonnell at the CSO said that there is no storage available, and they are not prepared to manage the instruments. Storage at SGC's facility is not climate controlled. A call for volunteers will be made at the Fall meeting, and perhaps there will be enough to present the zoo twice at Imaginon; if we appear twice there, they might store the instruments for us.

Linda Weisbruch suggested contacting other groups through LAO to find out how they manage their zoos.

Youth Festival - The CSO has scheduled the festival for Feb. 21, 2018. Last year SGC received a bill for the use of the auditorium for previous years' use. During the previous couple of years, SGC tried to obtain a bill in order to reimburse the CSO. The CSO never presented bills, so SGC never paid. This year the CSO presented bills for previous years plus much larger bills for this year's festival than had previously been charged. The result was too expensive for SGC to continue to put on the festival as it had been planned in the past.

The Youth Advisory Committee of SGC suggested turning the Youth Festival over to the CSO completely, and this has been suggested in the past by the CSO. The CSO suggested other options with The Guild paying a portion expected to be from \$8,000 to \$15,000. All of those options would eliminate the performance of the Young Artist winners with the CSO in conjunction with the Youth Festival. The side by side performance of the CSYO with the CSO is very important to the young musicians, and we hope to keep that option as part of the Youth Festival. If an agreement is reached to work together, all figures must be in writing prior to commitment.

Young Artists – The CSO has suggested some performance options, and we are working on suggestions. One option is to hold Young Artists without a scheduled performance venue for the winners, and perhaps a venue could be worked out later. Prize money could be increased.

Scholarship – Betty Seifert moved that a scholarship fund be created in Kit Ramage's name to accept donations and be awarded at the annual Youth Festival. **The motion was seconded and approved.**

Some members suggested that The Guild should re-examine all of its projects and commitments from a financial point of view and consider cutting back on some projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Follmer, Secretary