

**MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:00 P.M.**

**Preference Employment Solutions**

**Board Members Present:** Dave Anderson, Stephen Astrup, Margie Bailly, Jane Linde Capistran, Tania Cook, John Cox, Becky Gilbertson, Mark Johnson, Laetitia Mizero Hellerud, Tom Riley, Brandon Ruef, Scott Steinmetz, Matthew Winarski, Ben Zietz.

**Board Members Absent:** Jill Berg, Jeremy Brekke, Debora Harris, Anne Kaese, Jo Kilander, Rick Thoreson

**Staff Members Present:** Paul Hegland, Erika Tomten, Katie Granger.  
**Staff Members Absent:** Christopher Zimmerman, Sonja Bosca-Harasim.

1. **Call to Order** – Quorum established;Mark Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:09 P.M.
2. **Consent Agenda –** A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda; motion approved.
   1. Approval of the January 2022 Board Minutes
   2. Approval of the Report of the Executive Director
3. **Committee Reports** –
   1. **Advocacy and Fundraising –** Dave Anderson reported that the committee is making progress on their goals, having very productive meetings, working on plans to cultivate relationships with potential donors, and defining a way to brand this effort so it is recognized as different from typical fundraising to carry us through the 10 year plan. This 10 year plan began in 2021, meaning in 10 years it will be 2031, marking the first year of our second century as the FMSO. Paul Hegland noted this will take a lot of cultivation and getting to know the community, and encouraged the board to invite acquaintances to concerts, events, etc. Mark Johnson also noted that this should not be looked at as a traditional campaign because it is actually a constant work in progress. The fundraising goals don’t stop after 10 years, they will continue into the future. Mark noted that without our FMSO musicians we would be nothing, so we want to make the organization better for them and our community.
   2. **Engagement and Education –** Margie Bailly reported on the committee moving forward with the Beautiful Music project and printing more cards which connect people in the community to our Beautiful Music playlist on the website. Plans are in the works to partner with Bright Futures Learning Center on having a small group of musicians perform at their parent night in April as well as partnering with Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND and AARP to roll the project out to senior groups. Jane Linde Capistran discussed the upcoming Night at the Oscars concert. The staff, along with volunteer and former board member Rebecca Smith, have been working hard to prepare for the concert. The next Engagement and Education Committee meeting is on Monday, February 28th at 5:00 PM at Atomic Coffee.
   3. **Finance –** Ben Zietz started on a high note by reporting our budget goal for Giving Hearts Day was $40,000, but we ended up raising over $48,000. Ben then reported that financially we are down a bit from this time last year. Last year we had help from PPP Loans, which we do not get this year. We are still in a good place, but we would like to see us in a great place. We want to be able to fund all of the great ideas we have for concerts and events, but we need more money to do more things.
   4. **Governance/Nominating –** Tania Cook thanked the board for participating in the recent Executive Director and Music Director Evaluation Surveys. Tania noted that a high priority for the committee is finding new board members. If each trustee could think of one person who would be a good fit for the board, please share their info with the committee or Mark Johnson. Mark noted finding a new member who is a bank president or representative would be especially helpful.
   5. **Orchestra –** Jane Linde Capistran reported that the Orchestra Committee has not met yet this month as there was no Masterworks concert, but they have talked to others regarding Covid issues and procedures. They have asked Paul to reach out to specialists and doctors about this matter for their opinions. It has been discussed that once the positivity rate in our area is below 5% bell covers and masks can be removed for wind players. Hopefully in the future for the April and May concert things can change, and we will continue to follow any NDSU protocols.
4. **Music Director –** Mark Johnson reported that Christopher Zimmerman is in the UK right now so is not here to report. His written report has been added to the SharePoint. They are in negotiation with his contract, which is not finalized; Stephen Astrup has reviewed the document. Christopher has, however, agreed to a five year contract, which is great news, as he really values this symphony and organization. Once the contract is finalized, a press release will be sent out.
5. **Executive Director –** Paul Hegland encouraged all trustees to attend the Night at the Oscars concert coming up on Saturday, February 26th at The Fargo Theatre. Jane has done a great job, there will be great music, and a lot of fun to be had. Masterworks 4 is coming up on March 19th and 20th, with the 2022 Conductor Seminar immediately to follow beginning on March 20th. There will be seven conductors from Washington, California, Texas, Virginia, and New York. We could use more housing for these participants, as well as drivers, so we will need more help from the board with this. Our Masterworks 4 guest artists, Sofya Gulyak, will also need a driver. Paul also noted he has been in discussions with a few musicians about what the FMSO can do for Make Music Day on June 21, such as a small group of performances around town, etc. Another potential event opportunity is to partner with the ND Autism Center to create a sensory-friendly program. This has not been shared publicly or with musicians yet, as it is just in the idea stage.
6. **Other Business –** At this time, the board excused staff members to discuss staff-related matters.
7. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at \_:\_\_ P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Granger, Office Manager