Cedar Rapids Municipal Band Commission Meeting for 15 September 2019 at Coe College

Attending:
- Commission: Sadilek, Sams, Sternowski
- Staff: Shanley, H Haney, R Haney
- Others: -none-
  - Note: attendance was strongly affected by the reschedule of the Orchestra Iowa concert.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Sadilek

Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Result: approved by acclaim

Financial Report
- Fiscal 2019
  - Full report will not be available until January or so. Early reports are that we met both revenue and expenditure budgets.
- Fiscal 2020
  - Revenue
    - $910.66 ($850 from Musicians Performance Trust, remainder from taxes)
  - Expenditures
    - $57,032.00. This nice, round number represents the second half of the season, including bandshell rental, toilet rental, etc.
    - We have some items pending for Facebook advertising and equipment repair (mainly new casters for stand racks). These are paid, but after the reports were out. Will be on next report.

Old Business
- Social Media Coordinator Position
  - Rob Cline has done an incredible job. R Haney and Shanley recommend raising the pay.
    - R Haney suggests waiting until January meeting for this decision, as he would like to review ALL pay for the 2020 season and take care of things all at once.
- Bandshell “Banner”
  - R Haney recommended using a set of floor lights instead. There should be room for them in the back, but he’d like to do some further checking to make sure this will not be distracting to percussionists or tubists.
    - ACTION: R Haney to speak to Parks operations staff about options.
- Music Library Project
  - Significant progress has been made. Music is currently at Washington High School in the music library.
  - There is more work to do, but primarily the duplicate pieces have been pulled. The duplicates may be donated to local schools or other bands in need of the pieces as part of the Commission’s continuing outreach to the community.
  - The duplicates are in Sams’s possession.
    - ACTION: Sams to provide a list to provide to potential recipients. C Haney may be available to help with this.
    - ACTION: Sams to provide library listing for inventory purposes. Inventory is due to the City this year.
- Season Report
We had some issues with the bandshell this season:

- Platforms were not sufficiently leveled (at least twice).
- Platforms were not sufficiently aligned (at least twice).
- Shell placement at some venues. Bandshell placement at Noelridge in particular is critical to being able to use our stage extensions for guest artists. This didn’t go well for the first Noelridge event. Second one was better.
- Safety railings were not present for final concert at Bever.
  - Jazz Under the Stars used the stage at Noelridge on first Thursday in August, day after our event. Safety rails were stacked behind the bandshell, as were our extra platforms. R Haney had to go out and turn on the stage lights for them, because Parks support personnel didn’t turn them on, left the breaker box locked, and did not answer any messages. Next event was Bever, and the extra platforms were in the bandshell…but not the railings. Given they had to move the railings to get the platforms in, not sure what happened.
- New Parks crew never responded to questions or requests for help when needed. We worked around things for the most part, but this is a disturbing change. R Haney is addressing with Parks management.
- Shell was left unlocked by Parks crew prior to 9 June event.
- We left the Community Concert banner in the shell between events one week. Parks personnel took the banner, left it in the Parks office…and didn’t tell us. Took us a few days to locate it.
- Bandshell was set up in wrong park for 14 July concert. R and H Haney happened to be in the neighborhood and noticed it was not at Noelridge. Found it at Bever. Parks remedied the situation and we played where scheduled.

Event synopsis:

- New Bo went well, but as with any event in that area (or Czech Village), traffic noise was an issue. New Bo would like us back for next year.
- Bever: Electricity went off in middle of concert! Fixed.
- Cleveland: Huge storm just before reduced attendance.
- Bever: Good show, 200+.
- History Center: Audience of 60 or so, but we are invited back. Need a means of dealing with the long grass.
- Ellis: this was muddy, but good. About 130.
- McGrath: Excellent, but surprisingly low turnout of 90.
- Bever: Canceled due to severe weather. Only canceled event.
- Guthridge: Good show, 110.
- McGrath: Good show, about 120.
- Johnson School: about 100 people, with good turnout for prelude event. Sue Millar suggests we do this earlier in the summer to get better Johnson student participation. Owner of Port-o-Jonny showed up to collect toilet the following Thursday, but showed after Johnson staff had gone home. R Haney experienced quite a bit of invective regarding the fate of that toilet (vandalism, arson, entire families of homeless people) and how much the band would pay for it. Nothing happened, regular fee was paid.
- Noelridge: bandshell was sent to Bever. Noticed, fixed, concert went well. 100+
- Cleveland: Around 85 people.
- Bever: Excellent show! 350 or so.
- Bowman School: Had some issues with height of stage in front. About 125.
• Ellis: 250.
• Noelridge: 200+.
• Guthridge: Went fairly well, but didn’t get requested space to park trailer. Did not get a count of people, but it was well attended. Some issues with act scheduling.
• Bever: VERY large crowd (biggest of season), but safety railings were missing.

- Report on changes to payroll
  - A few bumps, but overall the changes worked out.
  - Works to our advantage, as it simplifies the bookkeeping as we cross the fiscal year boundary. When we were on Payroll, R Haney and the Finance team would have to manually adjust payments to fall into the correct fiscal year. Under the new system, this happens automatically, saving a lot of effort and worry.
  - We will need to remind people that not everyone gets a 1099 this year.

New Business
- Boone Municipal Band Festival
  - On 13 July, R and H Haney went to the Boone band festival. They were invited to play with the Collins Band, and decided to check the event to see if CRMB can attend in the future. R Sternowski was also with the band that day.
  - Some highlights:
    - The stage is plenty big enough, and all the concerts are well-attended.
    - The event organizers say that any first-time band will be accepted. So we’re in if we want to go.
    - They definitely want us there and will let us take whatever schedule slot we need to make it happen. Bands are normally scheduled in the order they registered, but they will work with us on schedule as needed.
    - They can accommodate a bus if we tell them we’re bringing one.
  - Shanley and R Haney support this idea, but:
    - Planning needs to start NOW if this is to happen.
    - Commission will need to agree to pull from the band’s account surplus to do this (we have plenty), and it will be out of both FY20 and FY21 budgets (invoices are paid per the date on the invoice).
    - We will probably need for this trip to be an independent event, not tied to that week’s concerts.
    - Next event is during Shanley’s overseas absence next year.
  - DECISION: Commission supports the idea, but this is delayed to 2021.

- Request from Denny Hodge
  - Denny’s son is the creator and purveyor of the Talescapes Aurora Outdoor Waterproof Fleece Blanket. It is for sale on Amazon starting at around $26. Denny thinks that many of our band patrons would find the product useful and has asked about having this be designated as the Official Blanket of CRMB or such. R Haney thinks that some sort of sponsorship deal might be worked out, as the Commission does not normally endorse businesses; rather, businesses are acknowledged for their donations to the band. If the Commission wishes to pursue this, R Haney will talk to Denny Hodge about details.
  - Result of discussion is that the Commission cannot endorse a product. But Talescapes is welcome to become a band sponsor, possibly by providing a few blankets as prizes to be given away at a concert. R Haney to talk to Hodge about it.
  - ACTION: R Haney to contact Hodge
• 2020 special venue dates
  o Hiawatha Parks wants us back. We need to request a date (the last two years, we have played the Wednesday of or before Independence Day). They have also asked if we can play at Fun Days again, but that will likely be a week after the final concert of our season. It is definitely after local high schools begin band camp, so many of our usual musicians will need that week off even if we end the season later than usual.
    ▪ DECISION: We cannot support Fun Days in 2020, but perhaps in 2021. We definitely will play Guthridge again, as it is one of our best venues.
  o R Haney has requested available dates for McGrath. Venuworks responded by asking if we want to target specific dates. Generally, they tell us what is available, and we reserve the two or three that work. But if the Commission has an opinion, we can factor that in.
    ▪ DECISION: We will play two dates at McGrath, preferably one Wednesday and one Sunday. R Haney to talk to Venuworks.
  o New Bo is willing to host us again. BUT…there was some confusion last year. The original pitch to them included a prelude concert, but that was moved to the following Sunday. But they had planned for an earlier concert start, and this didn’t work for some of the vendors. We will need to be more careful with this. Does the Commission want the season opener at New Bo again?
    ▪ DECISION: Play the first Wednesday, NO prelude concert that day. R Haney to talk to New Bo about it.
• Inventory
  o City has asked for an update to our inventory. Two items of particular interest:
    ▪ R Haney cannot locate a few items that the Band doesn’t use in a normal season. These will either be located, or removed from the list as necessary.
    ▪ A number of our items are undergoing repair by one of our stagehands. This includes the stand racks (done) and the chimes (not done, as the casters on the chimes cannot be easily removed).
      ▪ DECISION: Chimes can be taken to Softronics to be worked on in their machine shop.
• Commission Orientation
  o 24 September at 11:30 am. New Commissioners already have this information, but if any sitting Commissioners wish to attend, they are free to do so.

Meeting closed at 8:00 PM by Sadilek