

## **Hiawatha Board meeting: August 7, 2024**

### **PRESENT:**

Julie Foster-Lindquist, Candice Blackstone-Larson, Ann Fisher, Louise Anderson, Tom Dummer, David Wood, Jenna Hartom (virtual). **ABSENT:** Lee Ossenheimer, Melinda Britton.

Call to Order: 6:35pm

June Meeting Minutes review and unanimous approval

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Candace: Treasurer's report (see doc.s sent today as attachments)

- Note that one task that needs to commence is for Julie and Candice— maybe Sarah, as well— to have a zoom meeting to review all the transactions in Quickbooks that have "NEED INFO." Some missing info are membership names, credit card charges, unknown donations, unknown cash deposits etc. There are about 10 or 12 transactions that need this review.

July Checking Account reconciliation was completed and successful. Bookkeeping tasks these days are minimal now that the post Festival accounting is complete. Julie keeps Candace up to date with outgoing checks.

Total Revenue: \$391,834.82

Total Expenditures: \$315,035.12

NET REVENUE: \$76,799.70

Candace hands out Square #s.

Switching Paypal accounts, Candace found more discounted fees (huzzah!) "Looks good," Candace says, and Susan Divine's assessment confirms it.

Board discussion about value to us of "tokens."

Budget Approved by all.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

FESTIVAL ISSUE: the youth camping in section D at the Festival were out of control, and it was described by a family that the behavior was like that of a "frat party." That one family was furious and swore never to return. Things were especially bad under cover of darkness, apparently.

Resulting Discussion: what to do in the future in section D? Restrict the section to ages 21 and over? Establish it as a quiet zone? Bathe the area under a huge blanket of light? Establish a curfew for those under age 18? Establish in that area a security satellite station? Insist that anyone under age 18 must purchase tent tags at their parents' site? Something must change.

Debriefing Reports on Festival at meeting on Aug 20, at 6:30pm.

### **More Discussion:**

GRANTS: we received an email from Heather, including MACC Grant questions: for trailer, arts education event [Corn Bread & Tortilla], farm participation, and the use of a shuttle at the Festival. The new grant process presents an "easier" process, Heather suggests, but Ann says: "that's relative!"

More award cycles coming down the line, ranging from \$1000-4000.

Some are larger, though: MI Humanities is a \$20,000 grant opportunity.

~4 groups will be applying for the MI Humanities grant, we've learned, for a 2026 concert. These exclude the Native American group, Water is Life, to which we offered support.

The HIRVONEN+ grant we are applying for will be for \$1000 PLUS, as well as another one for \$1000 from Marquette Arts & Culture (for Art Week).

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

ED Job Description: job search. Subcommittee seated: Ann, Louise, and Dave— to produce a Job description at a meeting on Aug 14 @ 4:30pm. To that end, Ann has circulated the last ED Job Description.

Susan has suggested in emails to us all that a health insurance stipend be included in ED Job Ad. These would be much bigger #s than we paid Susan, Julie points out. Susan used records and data to see what we have paid ED's in the past, and also looked at averages and compared them. "What wage would someone need to remain in the position?" asked Jenna. That is the question.

Julie knows we must see outside of the box, taking into account the # of hours that Julie and Candace chalked up for the Festival. 300 hours for Festival, as a rough estimate, says Julie (working April through August).

More on Susan's projection sheet: Jenna thinks it looks reasonable. Everyone agrees. If we can afford it, let's pay full salary so it's sustainable as a job for the ED.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Can we compost material at the Festival? We have attempted to do so, especially pertaining to the Musician's Café. The sorting of these materials was a serious issue, which became a problem later. Who was in charge, many of us would like to know? The Partridge Creek Farm person in Ishpeming would like to volunteer to do so next year (Festival 2025). Ann says we should start again with attempting to pursue composting the material produced at the Musician's Café.

Tom suggests that the Green Team suggests that the Blues Fest has suggested that the city lent them composting buckets to do so at the Blues Fest, but the Green Team says we have been told NO by the city when we asked for the same buckets. Hmmm.

**Proposed Archive:** Sarah Gimple is excited to pursue an archival space on our Hiawatha website. According to "Sarah's Pitch," which Candace reads to the Board, she is interested in using old stories, photos, and peoples' written or filmed memories going back to the very first Festival. I believe she wants to call it: "From roots to the future."

Regarding this idea, Julie is excited!

**Some others:**

Ann proposes: "Can we employ Tik Tok to spread the word about Hiawatha?" (The Marquette History Museum, she points out, has had 4 million views of its content recently [!]).

Tom suggests: "Can we make a Wikipedia page?": Apparently, Wheatland has one.

Social media/ office asst. for Sarah's position: so ... hopefully this proposed software project will give her focus.

Brand Kit? We lack one. Every time Sarah made a new poster, it was from scratch, and the posters centered on the respective band, not Hiawatha.

**SEARCH FOR NEW BOOKKEEPERS and ACCOUNTS:** (Barkovia is stopping with regard to nonprofits). Ann is happy that we're moving on to a new person or group.

Candace has a tip on a Catherine MetIver (sp?).

Committee on documenting all compensation levels, policies, and practices: Julie, X, Y.

Maxine King wants to contribute time (says Tom), and swapped emails with her regarding the membership list (which is a DISASTER, he says), and that's where he's directed her. Her charge will be to combine them employing a googledoc.

**Festival:**

Susan's quick look at the books. City is sitting on our check: \$21,000 doesn't take into account our \$17,000 check. Etc.

We did well, financially: "we did not lose money," said Ann cheerfully.

Fest recap to be held on Aug 20 at 6:30pm: all coordinators to write a report. Any info to share with group.

**Committee Reports:**

Events: Folk Arts Festival 2026 in the works (Zoe speaks, maybe?)

Membership —

Fundraising —

**Consent Agenda:** No consent agenda.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30pm-ish.