

Primary topic – alternative to Hiawatha Music Festival 2021

Present: Julie Foster-Lindquist (Pres.), Jenna Hartom, Josh Thompson, Ann Fisher, Melinda Britton, Susan Bertram (V.P.) Katrina Keough (Tres.) Bobby Glenn Brown (Sec.) Susan Divine(Exec. Dir.), Candice Blackstone-Larson

Excused: Jeff Krebs

Guests - From the Music Committee Co-Chairs Karen Bacula, Jane Cisluyis. and Lisa Graham

Old Business - Motion to approve Minutes approve from last Meeting by Katrina second by Josh - All Approved

Susan D. explained the Grants received Stages Survival Grant & MCACA / NEA Grant she explained the amounts and where the funds could be used. She asked that the Board meeting that we make an effort to allocate some funds for grant writer.

ED search committee had its 2nd interview with potential candidate

Discussion about possible Festival

Survey Monkey still up - 241 responses 60% said yes to attending and to camping in the Park with COVID restrictions.

Melinda wanted to know more about systems in place and or available to us financial and other to do the Festival practically. Jane -Explained that if we keep festival local it would ease up money and alleviate the need for housing.

Karen requested decision sooner than later - For respect to the musicians we have had on hold and other considerations - IE: housing, contract & travel.

Sue B. - Suggested we look investigating the possibility of a Festival in the Baseball field area - No Concession, suggesting a 2-3 hour Festival over the weekend with COVID protocols in place. With additional mini-concerts in the Commons and Presque Isle Band Shell on Sunday to include gospel. Susan – rental for the weekend in the park for HMC \$14,322 - We would need to renegotiate for just the Baseball field. - 2 units per camp site - approx.-1,000 total people with social distancing. Joshua - What is the cost for a day festival? Local and regional musicians' cost / payment

Susan D. - Local Music Union fee is \$50 per hour per member of the group and varies some more or less

As far as camping most of the Festival Committee will fill the park as we have first choice Thurs - Sun with 2-10 people per site

MOTION - A motion was made by Sue B to investigate the possibility of Hiawatha- Baseball field Festival with COVID protocols - vote is 5 in favor 3- opposed. Motion passed

Discussion continued. As we have been discussing this, it seems as we need to looking at ourselves as “content coordinators.”; A Hybrid Hiawatha! We would need a person with advanced technical internet skills. And a person to coordinate the many platforms available to get the word out on the internet and web.

If we go virtual, we could set a FB Group page and have a donation button for attendance also group chats and a link to ie: Eventbrite to get a ticket- many local non-profits and other groups in

our area use this and it is successful for them - You could pre-record some and do some live . Are the musicians available for this type of Festival – What are their fee or costs? Many we have on stand-by are willing able and available for virtual festival - NO pricing has been discussed as of yet - As for pre-recorded I'm not sure but can ask. You (the Board) need to set a budget and then we can work from that. Prices and cost will vary from group to group.

MOTION - Josh made a motion to investigate integrating a Virtual / Streamed mini Festival for 2021 Katrina 2nd passed

Karen - we have 6-7 musicians potential available to book but I need to contact them regarding a possible virtual instead of Live Festival

Julie- Susan D. any thoughts after this first hour of discussion

Jenna – concerns about having a live event at the Park and camping. Suggests looking at maybe a live event in the Fall.

Susan D.- I'm overwhelmed at the vote to do a 1-2 day Festival. Will do what the Board decides. With all the COVID concerns and uncertainty of attendance, uncertainty of our primitive campground permit, uncertainty of state and federal mandates, just think its unadvisable and irresponsible for us to have an in-person Festival. Concern that the optics of only being able to let in those who are camping, how to maintain crowd control – Who is going to be the Festival committees? Will need people who can meet 1 to 2 times per week starting now. We have many items that we are behind in organizing put on hold and are now behind in coordinating meetings deadlines contracts etc. with Local departments. And a new ED to need to train in.

Julie - Thank you for your honesty - I too am sure, and feel it's irresponsible for us to get a large group of people together for a live Festival in the park - We should look into the possibility of Virtual / Streamed with success and do it safety

Katrina - My original thought was to do live but with numbers unknown for COVID and the protocols it's not worth the risk, and to see the effect on Susan by this, I now believe our goal should be for a virtual Festival due to the emotions and safety concerns

Julie - with our energy and resources available to us I believe we need to put this idea of virtual Festival to a vote

MOTION – Ann Made a motion to pursue a Virtual Festival at the end of July 2nd by Bobby - 8 in favor 1 opposed - Motion passed

Karen - Sounds great but we need a budget - We can contact musicians and get the ball rolling

Susan - with grant money approximately \$28,822 available for Virtual Festival
\$3,000 - \$5,000 for a producer - \$1,000 for Marketing and Publicity and \$20,000 for musicians-rough estimate

MOTION - Josh - Motion to direct funding of approx 1/2 the usual musicians budget to the music Committee in the amount of \$20,000 for musicians for our virtual festival 2nd by Melinda - 9 in favor 0 opposed Motion passed

Karen - I will be in contact with those groups who are confirmed or interested approximately 6

groups and fill in with Local musicians as needed and to for gospel and children, etc. Susan - We need to identify Producer to be a Co-Festival Coordinator with the Exec Director

Most Board Members in attendance agreed to sit on the Festival Committee in some function or capacity - All agreed Ann could excuse herself as she is already on several committees already.

Meeting set for next Thursday, March 18th at 5:00pm with Julie, Sue B, Candice, Katrina, Jenna, Bobby, Josh, with guests, Karen, Jane and Lisa.

Susan D. will work on Press Release and notification of everyone in the next few days.

MOTION – Ann made a Motion for the Board Search Committee to make an employment offer to their top candidate at their meeting with this candidate tomorrow afternoon. 9 in favor, 0 opposed Motion passed

Next Meeting Thursday March 18- 5pm

Moved to adjourn by Ann All in Favor

Adjourned by Julie 8:31PM

Respectfully submitted

Bobby Glenn Brown, Secretary