

## Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/08/2025

Meeting Start: 6:30 PM.

Attendance:

- Executive Director: Candice Blackstone-Larson
- Board Members: Melinda Britton, Luke Guindon, Julie Foster-Lindquist, Tom Dummer, Ann Fisher, Louise Anderson, Lee Ossenheimer
- Board Members joined remotely: Dick Pierson
- Board Members absent: Sue Bertram, David Wood

## Approval of Previous Minutes

- **Melinda Britton moves to approve meeting minutes from September**
  - **Seconded by: Ann Fisher**
  - **All in favor.**

## Financial Reports

- Bell Financial
  - \$114,935.99
- Business Checking
  - \$133,567.72
- Grant Business Checking
  - \$8.09
- Business Money Market
  - \$105,851.85
- 12-month CD for \$100,000 at Incredible Bank
  - \$101,868.23
- **Treasurer's Financial Report Approval**
  - **Ann Fisher moves to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit**
    - **Seconded by: Melinda Britton**
    - **All in favor.**

## Old Business

- Trailer Licensing Update
  - No update, Lee Ossenheimer will complete the process very soon and likely before the November board meeting. *Bring back next month.*
- Trailer Fundraising
  - Candice Blackstone-Larson has presented a draft of a trailer graphic with decals installed and how they can be sold for fundraising for the "Hiawatha Hauler" semi trailer. She is obtaining pricing and exploring further details.
- Conflict of Interest Policy - Ann Fisher and David Wood
  - No updates, still in progress
- Bylaws Update
  - Meeting will be scheduled soon to have things ready for November board meeting

## New Business

- Jesse Bell with Bell Financial
  - Met with the Board for approximately one hour to review Hiawatha Music Co-Op's investment portfolio. He provided an overview of how the organization's

funds that are managed by Bell Financial are currently invested, discussed the allocation of funds and associated risk levels, and outlined options for adjusting the investment strategy in the future. The presentation was informational; no board action was taken.

- Budget Items
  - Events
    - Sue Bertram will present the Events committee 2026 budget at the next meeting. *Bring back next month.*
  - Annual Meeting
- Hiawatha House Band
  - Joe Foley, Doug Kitchel, Jamie Kitchel, Janis Peterson, Dave Bett and Mark Rizzardi
    - The group would like to use the Hiawatha name with the title “Hiawatha House Band” for community square dances at Hiawatha Fold in 2026, and before the start of the upcoming annual meeting. The band will consist of a variation of people that can fill in at different times and not a set group of individuals.
  - **Ann Fisher moves to approve the use of the Hiawatha House Band name for the traditional music band that will host the square dances**
    - **Seconded by: Louise Anderson**
    - **All in favor.**
- Dan Truckey - Liaison with NMU regarding recordings and documents archive
  - Sue Bertram will present on this topic at the next meeting. *Bring back next month.*
- Change Hiawatha Virtual 2021 Facebook Group page to a Hiawatha Music Festival Group page
  - **Melinda Britton moves to rename the group to Hiawatha Music Co-Op Group**
    - **Seconded by: Ann Fisher**
    - **All in favor.**
- **Tourist Park infrastructure update**
  - Jesse Ossenheimer was given an update at Tourist Park by Marquette city staff regarding water and electric changes. An electric pole is being relocated and the water will be altered with our needs in mind.

## Festival

- Thursday Night Issues
  - Heidi Stevenson - FB Post, ADA General Discussion
    - There was a Facebook post and text messages exchanged regarding difficulties and concerns with Thursday night camping access.
    - No one from the Hiawatha office or active Board recalls or has any record of messages or discussions about these concerns before the festival
    - Candice Blackstone-Larson will contact Heidi to discuss her feedback from the 2025 festival
  - An early entry policy proposal & decision flow chart has been presented
    - **Ann Fisher moves to approve flow chart**
      - **Seconded by: Lee Ossenheimer**
      - **All in favor.**
- Discuss Compensation package for non-working comp tickets
  - AC/Monitor couple combo provides a full compensation packet for 4

- Should non working Comp tickets be entitled to Food, Parking, Camping
  - **Will bring back next month as old business**

### **Executive Director Report**

- Candice Blackstone-Larson reports
- Revision of First Aid Letter
  - Candice Blackstone-Larson and Tom Dummer will continue work on the letter and send it when they are finished
- Troy requested a \$1,000 increase for the teen music area
  - **Ann Fisher moves to increase the teen music area budget by \$1000**
    - **Seconded by: Melinda Britton**
    - **All in favor.**
- Candice Blackstone-Larson is working with Doug Kitchel to replace faulty lighting fixtures in the office kitchen area for \$200
- Grants
  - Submitted Arts Midwest \$4,200 matching grant application for 2026 Kids Concert / Youth Mental Awareness project
  - Travel Marquette grant has been submitted for \$1000

### **Committee Reports**

- Membership Committee report
  - Co-Op month is upon us since it is October.
    - Online posts will be live very soon promoting members to sign up for their 2026 yearly membership in October at prices before they see their scheduled price increase.
- Fundraising
  - Candice Blackstone-Larson is working on the trailer fundraising decal project
- Music Selection Committee
  - Offers have been made to the following artists:
    - Christina Vane and Jerron Paxton
- Events committee
  - Upcoming Neal Woodward master artist series concert
    - Concert @ The Fold on Thurs, Oct 16
    - Workshops in local schools on Wed Oct 15, Thurs Oct 16 & Fri Oct 17th
    - Hiawatha Workshop @ The Fold on Sat, October 18

Next Board Meeting – November 12, 2025 at 6:30pm

### **Meeting Adjournment**

- **Melinda Britton moves to adjourn the meeting**
  - **Seconded by: Ann Fisher**
  - **All in favor.**

**Meeting Ended: 8:32 PM.**