

VYSO
Board of Directors
Meeting, June 27, 2017
Nuba Restaurant

Present:

Bettina B. Cenerelli (Chair)
Kerry Chow
Judith Fraser
Katie Hearn
Kristina Lee
Holly Littleford (ex officio)

Blanca McGrory
Julia Tan
Leanne Tan
Laurinla Tran
Nicki Stieda (Minutes)
Sean Streifel

Regrets:

Paddy Macleod

1 Call to order.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

2 Welcome and approval of the Agenda

The Chair welcomed all members, thanked new members and remaining members for attending. Information is handed to all Board members who are reminded of the \$20 membership fee; parents of musicians pay the membership fee as part of the musician's tuition fee.

The agenda is presented.

Proposed: Judith Fraser

Moved: Kerry Chow

All in favor.

3 Minutes of the May 9, 2017 Meeting

The Minutes of the May Board meeting will be approved in September.

4 Presentation of the preliminary Budget

Sean Streifel presented the preliminary budget. The 2016-17 season terminated with a surplus, including a very successful Canada 150 concert (with a \$15,000 revenue). The Chair thanked the Treasurer for his excellent work. The Finance Committee will meet soon to follow-up on the budget planning process. The VSYO is in very good shape for the 2017-18 season.

In 2017-18, additional expenses are scheduled to finance the move of the VYSO library to an additional room at St-James (the original space needed to be vacated to make room for an additional bathroom). The new room may also be used for sectionals, meetings and storage space.

The Lottery is to be held in December. The budget allocated \$5,000 to finance prize purchases; the Board will not have to collect prizes as decided by the Board in the past season.

Donation receipts are to be issued therefore in the same year they are paid.

Kristina suggested to map out early marketing plans with the Finance Committee.

Kerry inquired about possibly lower Telus costs given a new deal for the VYSO.

ACTION: Emily will clarify upon her return to the office.

The search for a new Debut Orchestra conductor will start in the Fall.

5 Report on Auditions

The Chair thanked VYSO faculty and members for their implication in the audition process; Holly commended audition committee members on their careful considerations. As an example, Judith Fraser invested 33h in auditions in May and June. There was very little movement to report in the Debut and Junior Orchestras: musicians appreciate Rick Dorfer and do not want to leave or move up. The Senior Orchestra faces a big renewal for the new season. In total, the numbers of auditioning students increased to 350; 50 aspiring musicians (of which many flute players) were turned away. There will be additional auditions in August for unfilled seats (clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, viola and bass). Some musicians may have moved from the VAM to the VSYO.

Given the unanimous appreciation of Rick Dorfer by his musicians, the Chair encouraged a discussion around the need of changing to four conductors. The discussion should be continued at the MDC level (in absence of Rick); Rick should be informed in January whether his contract to conduct both orchestras is renewable for another year or years. The MDC will make a proposition in this matter to the Board for final approval.

Laurinla Tran appreciated the improved communication to parents she has noticed over the past couple of years.

6 Report on the Constitution Renewal

Given the changes to the BC Societies Act, a renewal of parts of the VSYO Constitution became necessary. The Chair explained the main changes and walked the members through the document. She presented some of the suggested changes and encouraged Board members to carefully reading the new Constitution for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

- Change to quorum.
- AGM does not need to be held anymore at least 15 months after the previous meeting, but at least once per year; the AGM could be held at different times of the year.
- Previous restriction for Board members to serve for a maximum of six years is put up for discussion.
- The possibility of excluding a Board member when missing three Board meetings in a row without justification is up-held.
- Suggestion of a minimum of two years' participation as Board members.
- Description of Executive positions have been included in the Constitution.

It is planned that changes should be approved by the AGM in September by a 2/3 majority; however, Constitutional changes need to be finalized only by November 2018.

A discussion followed around the time limitation of Board members in general and Executive Members in particular. Members suggested to maintain a cap for Executive members to a maximum of six years, but to leave it open to Directors at large to serve for a longer period of time. One Board member disagreed to restricting the time to serve for Executive members.

A proposition is made to encourage a minimum of two years on the Executive and for Directors at large and a maximum of two times three years for Executive positions. Members requested that these changes be put in writing to further discuss. Exceptions could be made possible. Usually, two thirds would have to agree to an extension.

Legal review of changes to Constitution

Given the large number of changes to the Constitution, the size of the VYSO, and the fact that the date of the last legal review of the Constitution is not known, the Chair asked members whether a legal review should be envisioned. The question of risk to the organization is discussed. The current revised

version has been prepared by Holly Littleford and Bettina Cenerelli using a template.

Lawyers may charge between \$1,500 and \$5,000 for a revision of the new Constitution. Members agreed that it was essential to protect the foundations of the organization.

ACTION: Laurinla Tran, Bettina Cenerelli and Katie Hearne suggested to request additional quotes from different lawyers.

Members agreed.

7 VYSO Committee Work

The Chair presented the various committees and encouraged Board members to participate in at least one committee in the next season. She also stressed the importance of attending concerts throughout the season. Committee meetings should be documented in Minutes which should be sent to the Secretary prior to the next Board meeting.

Some members already expressed their interest in the following committees:

Sponsorship and Marketing: Katie/Kristina

Audience development: Julia

Planning and social events: Kerry

HR and Scholarships: Nicki

8 Miscellaneous

Kristina suggested creating a 'tag line' and a 'running theme' to facilitate marketing efforts.

Kerry presented briefly plans for a social event at the start of the season (skating party; end of August/beginning of September); students may however not be in Vancouver prior to the school start; a social event at the end of the season may be more appropriate. In general, members are open to the idea of social events.

ACTION: Kerry is encouraged to looking further into the possibility.

Holly announced that Katie Neale is leaving Vancouver; the Board thanked Katie for her excellent work over the past couple of years. Heather Gunn has been hired as a replacement. She will work 20 hours/week.

Kerry announced that the VYSO T shirts are ready.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.