

Norwalk Gamer Symphony Orchestra  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 12th, 2024  
Held on Discord

Call to order

*The meeting was called to order at 7:36 P.M.*

Presided Over By:

- Sam Newsum as President with Evan Murphy as Secretary

Attendance

Members

- Alex Cross
- Rei DeMaida
- Vida Djaghouri
- Nina Drozdenko
- Mike Gaudio
- Stephen McAuliffe
- Evan Murphy
- Sam Newsum

Members not in attendance

- Josh Courtney

*A Quorum was established*

Approval of Minutes

*Alex moves to approve the Jun 10th meeting minutes and to accept the minutes as read.*

*The motion carries*

Officer Reports

**President Report:**

-Presented By Sam Newsum

No Report

**Vice President Report**

-Presented By Rei DeMaida

No Report

## **Secretary Report**

-Presented By Evan

No Report

## **Treasurer Report**

-Presented By Stephen McAuliffe

We've completed our annual tax and legal filings

### Old Business

*No old business*

### New Business

*Stephen moves to discuss prioritization of goals for the coming year*

*The motion carries*

*Stephen yields the floor to Sam*

The board of directors had a discussion to rank and prioritize the organization's goals from the last meeting. The following prioritization will be the order at which the board discussions updates and strategy.

- 1) Refine or rewrite the bylaws, especially around the definition of membership
- 2) Establish relationships with venues that have the capacity to host the NGSO for regular rehearsals, performances, or other activities<sup>1</sup>
- 3) Continue to foster an environment conducive to musical development of the membership
- 4) Refine the responsibilities and composition of different committees with the NGSO with focus on reducing individual load for those on multiple committees
- 5) Revise and expand the NGSO's strategy around sources of consistent, reliable income
- 6) Improve our onboarding procedures for new members
- 7) Continue to host online events

<sup>1</sup> Rephrased to combine the formerly-unique goals for rehearsal space and performance space from the prior meeting's strategic plan.

*Alex moves to close the floor*

*The motion carries*

*Nina moves to discuss Rewriting the Bylaws*

*The motion carries*

*Nina yields the floor to Sam*

### Updates

The personnel committee announced that they have already made progress on rewriting the section on membership within the bylaws. They also discussed how they plan to continue meeting to refine the membership section through regular, future meetings.

Rei has made individual progress rewriting several sections on the bylaws they felt have been vague or in need of change. They have offered those changes to the rest of the board as suggestions.

### Action Items

- Alex and Evan will set up a change-tracked copy of the bylaws all board members will be able to contribute
- All board members will read through the whole bylaws and leave comments where necessary.

*Alex moves to close the floor*

*The motion carries*

*Rei moves to discuss Rehearsal and Performance Venues*

*The motion carries*

*Rei yields the floor to Sam*

### Rehearsal Space Updates

Stage committee gave the following update on our current relationships with our regular rehearsal venues:

The stage committee currently book rehearsal spaces week to week. The NGSO has time and location preferences, but the committee then must reach out to venues as availability is not guaranteed.

The stage committee believes it would be beneficial to explore a long term relationship with rehearsal venues to mitigate unexpected lapses in availability and reduce the manual effort of reserving venues week to week.

### Rehearsal Space Action Items

- The stage committee will explore a long term relationship with the American Legion for some number of Tuesdays

- One possible example: an agreement in the form of “The NGSO will pay for an available space the third and fourth Tuesday of every month”
- The stage committee will then move to secure a similar, complementary relationship with the East Norwalk Library depending on the response from the American Legion.

#### Performance Space Updates:

- The stage committee is interested in performing at the District Music Hall but has not yet reached out.
- A representative from the stage committee has toured the Wilton Presbyterian Church as a possible performance space. Our contact for that space attended a rehearsal and invited us to explore performing in that location.
  - A concern is that the geographic location of this space may make it difficult for some members to attend.
- Alex and Sam are actively exploring performance options at the SoNo Collection mall in Norwalk
- Mike G is actively in conversation with Sacred Heart to explore both rehearsal and performance options at Sacred Heart University
- The stage committee has been in contact with Angelica (an NGSO member) who thinks she would be able to help coordinate performances at local middle schools.
  - One idea is to perform as a compliment to a school band performance
  - Another idea is to perform a “tour”: a series of identical concerts across multiple schools within the same day. This type of performance would be planned far in advance as it will likely happen during the workday.

#### Rehearsal Space Action Items

- Board members will familiarize themselves with the current “first contact” letter for performance venues and will contact the stage committee if they feel motivated to reach out to one of the performance venues.

*Evan moves to close the floor*

*The motion carries*

*Nina moves to adjourn the meeting*

*The motion carries*

### Announcements

- The next board meeting is Wednesday, Sept 4th but will be rescheduled to accommodate all board members’ availability