

Norwalk Gamer Symphony Orchestra
Board of Directors Meeting
July 17th, 2023

*The meeting was called to order at 8:06 P.M.
Evan motions to accept minutes as read.
Ben seconds.*

Reports

Finance Committee Report

Stephen reports that the current account balance is at \$2688, with outstanding debts.

Fundraising Committee Report

We have stickers now! We ordered a total of 180 inventory. The committee is discussing ways to sell them outside of concerts such as a presale for members.

Personnel Committee Report

No report.

Music Committee Report

Discussing the various statuses of our potential pieces, there is a meeting right after this.

Social Media & Engagement Committee Report

We had a great meeting last week discussing restructuring the Patreon. This will require some cross-committee work.

Stage Committee Report

RWX confirmed that we cannot use the large hallway to perform in. We will perform at 11am. We are permitted to do a preshow at the entrance where badges are handed out. SugoiPopCon was previously confirmed for 2pm.

Old Business

New Business

Ben motions to discuss our performance on SugoiPopCon.

Rei seconds.

The motion passes.

- Ben discusses some difficulties regarding disconnect between various points of contact within the organization.
- SugoiPopCon expresses that they are concerned about the volume level of the orchestra.
- They have proposed that we load in at 8am, and perform at 10am. This is against the contract we signed with SPC.
- Ben recommends that we respectfully decline to perform. Ben opens the floor for discussion.
- Nina expresses concern that we will have to exclude people from performing, regardless of the time change.

- Sam notes that the time slot provided implies a lighter audience.
- Rei expresses that it would be challenging to meet the expectations of the event organizers with the short amount of time provided to us. They note they have made some strange requests, which include recommendations of non-video game music.
- Lexi expresses concern for membership's success and confidence with the guidelines provided.
- Ben says that he believes the organization is a little ambitious in its planning.
- Sam opens the floor for defense of this performance.
- Nina expresses confidence in the orchestra's ability to make it work, but echoes Lexi's sentiment that we feel unwanted.
- Rei says they feel that we are outgrowing performances of this size. They recommend that we do not continue to extend efforts if we do not have to.
- Evan asks a "naive" question. Did SPC originally intend to welcome us as we were prior to the time change?
 - Ben answers that the audio engineer had previously communicated some of these complicated guidelines prior to this.
- Ben says that based on what he is hearing, he feels that we are leaning towards canceling. He explains that he will provide feedback for the venue including that there was an agreed upon contract that needs to be followed; and that everyone in planning should be on the same page when it comes to communicating these

Josh motions to suspend the normal order of business to vote on retracting from our performance at SugoPopCon.

Rei seconds.

7 yays.

0 nays.

0 abstentions.

The board votes in favor to retract from this performance due to adversarial organization.

Rei motions to resume normal order of business.

Nina seconds.

- Lexi takes the floor. She requests that Ben provides constructive feedback to SPC, while still showing support for the organization for potential opportunities.
- The music committee no longer plans a set list for this performance.

Evan motions to close the floor on this subject.

Nina seconds.

Lexi motions to discuss a potential barter between the NGSO and the TUUCW.

Nina seconds.

The motion passes.

We begin by reviewing Lexi's report.

"at Wednesdays meeting I would like to discuss a barter between the NGSO and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Westport (TUUCW). They are offering us three rehearsals per month in exchange for two Sunday services per academic year (one per semester).

They would expect 20-30 minutes of music. They would expect a large ensemble, not a small ensemble. They would like us to play VGM, and they really don't want us to work super hard to prepare things we aren't already preparing.

I did explain to them that there is some concern present with associating with the congregation, and they had also agreed that they don't think of this as an association or endorsement on the TUUCW side. They really just want to showcase a niche form of art for their community. that being said, this is an open dialogue and we can discuss terms on both sides.”

- Ben comments that this is very fiscally responsible.
- Rei provides the following questions:
 - I'm open to discussion, though I will say that much of my opinion hinges on two things:
 - If they want a large ensemble, then will we need to make this a required/mandatory performance? There's been much discussion lately about our performance obligations with a large emphasis placed on all our performances are optional. If this performance will be mandatory (outside extenuating circumstances) in order to meet a contractual obligation then that leads me to #2
 - Lexi says no people should not have to perform at service, especially if they are uncomfortable with this
 - Will we be required to stay for the entire service? Or will we be able to show up, play, and leave -- while they continue on with the rest of their service.
 - Lexi speaks to the general structure of services, which is music interspersed throughout the service.
- Evan asks if I was under the impression that the music would be split through the service.
- Ben: how open to terms are they for doing just one chunk of music instead of splitting?
 - Lexi does not know.
 - Josh asks...can we do immediately following the service?
 - Is it possible to step off stage when we're not playing?
- Evan says there are a lot of good ideas here, and there are ways to mold this into something very possible for us.
- Sam expresses concern for timing as there is a lot of change happening within the TUUCW, as told by Mike C.
- What happens if membership says no?
 - Let's make sure that we are not promising anything to the congregation.
- Nina asks...how do we vote on this?
 - This is a special situation because of the involvement of religion.
 - What do we consider enough of membership to go through with this?
- Evan says something abrasive. These are all valid points...it's wise to follow through with them. But we need to decide if we want to explore this opportunity. Here's where it gets abrasive. We can back out at any time during the negotiation process.
- Ben emphasizes that this is a good financial decision.
- Rei tempers this with caution about excluding people at the expense of our involvement in religion. People would potentially leave.
 - This needs to be done in a positive way without alienating people.
- Nina says there's not just risk of people leaving, but also due to potential pushiness, maybe they don't feel comfortable saying no, which potentially breeds resentment.
- Lexi presents her recommended plan of action:
 - The board votes on whether or not we should try this.

- Our board meets with leadership at TUUCW.
- We seek the approval of the membership.
- Nina asks the board (as homework) what is our policy for voting.

Lexi Motion to vote on participating in a potential barter with TUUCW.

Rei seconds.

8 vote yes.

0 vote no.

0 abstentions.

Lexi motions to resume.

Rei second.

Lexi motion to close the floor.

Nina second.

Josh motions to discuss an ad hoc committee on recruitment.

Ben seconds.

- Josh wants to lead a committee for recruitment. The expected timeline is two months.
- Goals
 - Collect members for the committee.
 - Then come up with a plan, which will be presented to the board.
 - With the approval of the board he will go forward.
- Nina asks, "Why can't this be a personnel committee task?"
 - Recruiting is not the responsibility of the personnel committee.
- Lexi expresses excitement for Josh!

*Action items

Announce it at the General Members Meeting.

Lexi motions to close the floor.

Josh second.

Nina moves to adjourn the meeting.

Rei seconds.

The motion passes.

Announcements

- The next General Members meeting will be held Wednesday, July 19th at 8:00pm.
- The next Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 6th at 8:00pm.
- The Music Committee Meeting will be meeting directly following this meeting.
- The Music Committee will be hosting the next VGLP on Wednesday, July 26.
- Next rehearsal will be tuesday july 19th at 6 pm at new canaan