

Norwalk Gamer Symphony Orchestra
Meeting
March 6th, 2024

*The meeting was called to order at 8:07 P.M.
Rei motions to accept minutes as read.
Nina seconds.*

Officer Reports:

Treasurer

No report.

Secretary

People have reported that they like pictures in their emails.
Why did you add pictures? I want to increase engagement.

Vice President

Rei signed tax forms on our behalf for the twitch account! We have copies of the forms in NGSO Google account shared to all those on the domain. We made affiliate on our twitch account!

President

No report.

Old Business

Lexi motions to discuss the progress towards the creation of the website privacy policy.

Rei seconds.

Lexi yields to Evan.

Evan reports that it has been created and vetted, and now posted to the website! Thanks, Rei!

Evan motions to close the floor.

Rei seconds.

The motion passes.

Lexi motions to discuss progress towards the creation of the liability waiver.

Josh seconds.

Lexi yields to Evan.

Evan reports that a draft has been presented to us from our pro bono lawyer. Evan is fielding other opinions.

Sam presents - What happens next?

Evan answers - ideally current members would sign it at a rehearsal, and new members would do it on the website. Maybe we should keep a handful of hard copies on hand.

This will now be a mandatory requirement for membership.

Sam asks another question...are you all comfortable with the judgment of the personnel committee making the decision to finalize it, or does the board want another shot to look it over?

The board would like another chance to look it over.

Evan motions to close the floor.

Stephen seconds.

The motion passes.

Lexi motions to discuss an update on the NGSO/TUUCW barter.

Rei seconds.

There is no current update at this time.

Evan motions to close the floor.

Josh seconds.

Rei motions to discuss an update on potentially rewriting the bylaws.

Evan seconds.

The board has no update on this yet at this time, and will make the best effort to look things over between now and then.

Rei motions to close the floor.

Evan seconds.

The motion passes.

Josh motions to discuss how it went at ALGO/LEOGO 5.

Rei seconds.

We had ALGO5 booth! Several people stopped in over the course of the day. We sold one shirt and one sticker. We made three or four leads in terms of recruitment. We made connections with people within the community!

Josh says good value for the price (which was free)!

We had two people show up to rehearsal as a result of that!

Rei motions to close the floor.

Nina seconds.

The motion passes.

New Business

May 18th concert name -- delegate to Music Committee, but expedite to assist Social Media committee

Nina motions to discuss the title of our May 18th concert.

Rei seconds.

Our previous concerts have been attached to events. Nina feels we need to have a cool name for our concert in May for marketing purposes. Nina thinks attaching the library to the title might detract interest.

Rei thinks it's a good idea but not necessarily for this concert because it's hard to come up with a theme attached to this set list now.

Sam reports that the music committee discussed this already - 2 easy routes

1. NGSO Spring Concert
2. NGSO: Homecoming (first concert in norwalk in five and a half years)

Sam agrees that this is a good idea - he observes that other classical groups giving interesting titles to their concerts.

The Music Committee will make the final decision to name it.

Rei motions to close the floor.

Nina seconds.

The motion passes.

Lexi motions to discuss an update regarding the NGSO Twitch account.

Nina seconds.

Lexi yields to Nina and Rei

We are affiliate! Thanks to all those who have streamed! Fortunately no randos! Our membership is engaged and having fun - both streaming and watching. People are enjoying it. Evan questions - does being an affiliate mean that we have ads now? Yes, we have ads. Rei elaborates further - we can turn ads on. If we didn't make affiliate, we couldn't monetize.

We have the option to run ads or turn them off. They don't think they default to being on. We can disable ad breaks by opting in for preroll. But also maybe we shouldn't run ads and just rely on follows, donations, and subscriptions. If we want to make more of a fundraising effort, it would be advisable for people to donate to us through paypal.

Nina motions to close.

Evan seconds.

The motion passes.

Rei motions to discuss the NGSO name.

Nina seconds.

The name visibility of Norwalk is not a recognizable location. It might be holding us back. Do we consider going by something more recognizable, like the CTGSO?

Nina adds - The NJGSO were previously the Montclair GSO. Most people don't know where that is, but Nina guesses that they rebranded to be more recognizable and comparable to the WMGSO. This would be a good tool to better network with other GSO's.

Sam comments one thing - as Rei mentioned, we are exploring opportunities to rehearse outside of Norwalk, we have explored options at TUUCW and Fairfield at SHU. Sam thinks we have not asked ourselves heavily - if we were to start exploring other geographic places, where would we look? Incidentally, Norwalk has some advantages that we have not plumbed the west of Norwalk. This could get us to think more about open up to programming elsewhere.

Rei says that the orchestra is historically referred to like family and that the name NGSO can feel exclusionary at times because it is too far for some people.

Evan puts forward a "silly and ultimately" meaningless challenge - we get 75 active members, and then at that point we make a push to be the CTGSO. He notes that becoming the CTGSO seems like a big title for us.

Lexi notes that saying Norwalk is very upfront about where we operate, but responds to Evan that we shouldn't wait too long to rebrand.

Nina wants to reach out to the NJGSO to ask their advice.

Stephens suggests changing it to the "Nutmeg Gamer Symphony Orchestra."

Rei second to close the floor.

Nina seconds.

The motion passes.

Rei motions to discuss hosting a booth at ALGO 6.

Josh seconds.

We want to do it!

When is it? October 12th.

Maybe we can perform some music!

Rei motions to close the floor.

Josh seconds.

The motion passes.

Lexi motions booting at Retroworld Expo.

Rei seconds.

Lexi thinks we should table.

The biggest challenge for us is that it is a demanding schedule. It is open for long hours on a Saturday and a Sunday.

Nina notes that we don't have to keep the table open the entire time. We can post signage that we will be right back.

How much does it cost? Artist booth is \$275 and the standard booth is \$475.

Rei wonders if it will benefit us to try surveying the membership now to volunteer for that weekend.

We liked Josh's sign up form! He polled people based on availability and then assigned them. It would be a good idea for selling merch!

Let's announce this, and see if we can gather quick in person responses. And then send a survey later. We can also tell people to talk about it over dinner!

Let's try involving those who are not already in membership!

Nina argues at least one person of leadership being present to handle the table in regards to recruiting and leadership.

If there's enough interest, we'll get the table.

Rei motions to close the floor.

Nina seconds.

The motion passes.

Rei motions to discuss SHU band room usage.

Stephen seconds.

Sam yields the floor to Evan, we got 27 responses! That's unprecedented! People are generally optimistic about using the group.

The average - people said they would use the space said 1-2 times a month. And the other half said 3-4 times a month.

The most popular answers for how to use it were dress rehearsals and recordings.

Evan pulls up the results from the survey.

So we tell Mike to go forward with this - we are interested. We need to talk to him about where to go from here with this.

We feel like the safest bet would be to reserve the space for 2 times a month.

But Evan argues it's a good idea to reserve the space for all four Sundays since that wouldn't require people to be there.

Rei motions to close the floor.

Evan seconds.

The motion passes.

Rei motions to discuss leasing options.

Evan seconds.

Rei yields to Sam.

For the first time someone else booked us a rehearsal! Vida did it! Woohoo! She feels it could be easier. It would be best for us to sign a long-term lease with a rehearsal venue. Sam asks us, are we comfortable Sam and Vida potentially exploring lease options?

Yes!

Rei notes that this would give us more secure rehearsal schedules.

Sam and Vida will go forward with looking into our options.

Lexi expresses a concern at booking long term with ENL because of the lack of accommodations (no ramp or elevator).

Rei motions to close the floor.

Stephen seconds.

The motion passes.

Lexi motions to discuss the introduction of new members for approval.

Stephen seconds.

Lexi yields to Sam.

Sam noticed in the by laws that the only way to be accepted as a member to the NGSO is to be voted on by the board.

Rei notes a memory of a time where they were delegated to define the membership.

Rei feels like we are putting a cart before the horse by doing this. Let's amend the by-laws first, and then define the membership.

Lexi motions to close.

Josh seconds.

The motion passes.

Rei motions to adjourn the meeting.

Evan seconds.

The motion passes.

Announcements

Announcements:

Rehearsals

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024

6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

East Norwalk Library

51 Van Zant Street

Norwalk, CT 06855

Next General Members Meeting

General Members Meeting

Wednesday, March 20th, 2024

8:00 P.M.

Discord Voice Chat

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 1st, 2024

8:00 PM

Discord Voice Chat

Performances

Norwalk Public Library (Main Branch)

Saturday, May 18th, 2024

1 Belden Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06850

Retro World Expo

Saturday, August 24th, 2024

Connecticut Convention Center

Hartford, CT

Events

Virtual Recital #11: Beach Episode

Tuesday, May 28th, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Discord Voice Chat