

Norwalk Gamer Symphony Orchestra  
Board of Directors Meeting  
June 10th, 2024  
Held on Discord

Call to order

*The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM*

Presided Over By:

- Sam Newsum as President with Evan Murphy as Secretary

Attendance

Members

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

*A Quorum was established*

Approval of Minutes

*Rei moves to approve the May 1st meeting minutes and to accept the minutes as read.*

*The motion carries*

Officer Reports

**Secretary Report:**

-Presented by Evan Murphy

Pleasure to be working with you all

Old Business

*Evan moves to discuss the NGSO table at Retro World Expo*

*The motion carries*

Evan shared that he created a retro world table form and asked if it should be included in an upcoming email. The consensus is that the form will be distributed in the next weekly email.

*Evan moves to close the floor  
The motion carries*

## New Business

*Vida moves to discuss the congratulations of service of outgoing board members*

*The motion carries*

The active board shared their gratitude toward Lexi's service as a board member and secretary.

*Lexi moves to close the floor  
The motion carries*

*Josh moves to discuss the purview of the recruiting committee*

*The motion carries*

It was explained that the recruiting committee is willing to take on additional responsibility. One area of responsibility was for the recruiting committee to perform organizational outreach. This could possibly include sources for potential members or possible rehearsal and performance venues. The idea of rebranding the committee to "outreach committee" was discussed but not acted upon.

*Josh moves to close the floor  
The motion carries*

*Stephen motions to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year*

*The motion carries*

Stephen showed off key differences between 2023 and 2024 budgets line by line. Key differences include:

- Rehearsal costs are significantly less than expected for the 2023 fiscal year
- Merchandise was given more funds to spend and a higher expected income
- Donations were budgeted for much more as we have seen increased donation activity
- There were many more smaller changes available in the publicly published budget

Stephen then showed the new 2024 budget implementing the previous changes into the budget format then opened the floor for discussion:

- The board decided to allocate an additional \$100 to the merchandise expenditure to make a full merchandise restock possible
- It was proposed to remove funds from "concert space rentals," but ultimately was left unchanged

Budget was unanimously approved and will be presented at the next general members meetings

*Alex moves to close the floor  
The motion carries*

*Evan moves to discuss the 2024 vision statement*

*The motion carries*

The board discussed the following goals for the 2024 fiscal year:

- Establish relationships with venues that allows for the NGSO to have more periodic concerts, to help us establish distinct and regular seasons.
- Establish relationships with venues that allows for the NGSO to have long-term, formal use agreements for spaces for rehearsals and other activities.
- Refine or rewrite the bylaws, especially around the definition of membership.
- Continue to foster an environment conducive to musical development of the membership.
- Continue to do some online events.
- Continue to refine the responsibilities and compositions of different committees within the orchestra, with focus on reducing individual load for those on multiple committees.
- Improve our onboarding procedures for new members.
- Revise and expand the NGSO's strategy around sources of consistent, reliable income

It was decided that the above goals would be labeled as the NGSO's "strategic plan." Alex volunteered to implement some level of accountability for the group on the plan. It was agreed that these goals could use some refining to make them "measurable."

As a result, Sam will turn the above strategic plan into a short "vision statement" to present to the general membership at the June 19th meeting. This plan will involve themes of "refinement and stabilization"

*Evan moves to close the floor*

*The motion carries*

*Evan moves to conduct a committee census and overview*

*The motion carries*

New members of the board were informed that they were expected to join at least one committee as part of the membership. The board then reviewed the state, purpose, and health of each committee.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Health</b>
AV Team	Recording, filming, editing, of digital content and rehearsals	Great
Finance Committee	Construct budget and file organization taxes	Great
Fundraising Committee	For organizing merchandise and other avenues of income for the orchestra	Needs Help
Library Committee	Keep physical records of the current music and bring it to rehearsal	Great
Music Committee	Deciding on current season music. Construct rehearsal plans. Edit, update, write music. Run online events.	Great

Personnel Committee	Responsible for keeping records of members and current membership	Good
Fundraising Committee	Focused on recruiting new members into the NGSO and newly refocused on community outreach	Could benefit from new members
Social Media & Engagement Committee	Manage social accounts on Facebook, Youtube, instagram, Patreon, etc. Make social media promotions and graphic design	Could benefit from new members
Stage Committee	Securing rehearsal and concert venues. Managing communications with venues	Looking for committee chair  Could benefit from new members

The census also result in the following:

- Vida joined the stage committee and personnel committee
- Mike joined Music committee and stage committee
- Alex joined recruitment committee and personnel committee
- Lexi asked to be removed from fundraising and personnel committee
- Several inactive members were removed from the fundraising committee

*Alex moves to close the floor  
The motion carries*

Mike moves to discuss the Sacred Heart arrangement

*The motion carries*

Mike proposed that June 24th would be a good time for a tour of the Sacred Heart University (SHU) facilities. It was also announced that Sept 8th was approximately the time the NGSO would be able to start using the space.

A tour was not decided upon due to concerns of a yet-unscheduled rehearsal

*Mike moves to close the floor  
The motion carries*

Nina moves to adjourn the meeting

*The motion carries*

## Announcements

- Sam thanks again to Lexi for her hard work
- Evan announces next rehearsal on June 18th - 6pm at East Norwalk Library
- Evan announces next SMEC June 12th - 8pm on Discord

- Evan announces next General Members Meeting June 19th - 8pm on Discord
- Evan announces VGLP June 26th - 8pm on Discord
- Evan announces Retro World Expo performance August 24th - TBD in Hartford

**Saxophonically Submitted by,**  
Evan Murphy