

PLANT CITY COMMUNITY CHORALE

September 12, 2023

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TIME: **7:00 p.m.**

LOCATION: **1501 Gertrude Dr., Brandon, FL**

PRESENT: Michael Brandt – Executive Director (ED)
Kim Rupp – Treasurer
Lisa Sode – Secretary

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Coleman Flentge – Choral Director
Joyce Nestor – Concert Manager

Executive Director Michael Brandt called the PCC Chorale (PCCC) Board of Directors (BoD) meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Sode is behind in getting the minutes prepared. August and September minutes will be presented at the next BoD meeting on October 17, 2023.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Budget vs. Actual for July 2023 was presented and also reviewed as a guidepost for the BoD to create and eventually finalize the 2023-2024 budget.

The QuickBooks Income Statement*, July Balance Sheet*, July Balance Sheet Detail*, Profit & Loss*, and the Fiscal YTD Profit & Loss* were presented and reviewed.

**Copies of these financial documents will be made available to the Members via an email request or by viewing the quarterly updates on the PCCC Website.*

ACTION ITEM

OLD BUSINESS

Women’s Ensemble Update Provided by Lark Underwood

REHEARSALS UPDATE

The last Summer WE rehearsal was held 8/7/23 in the Wesley Room at FUMC.

WE will return to its usual 5:45p-6:45p Monday rehearsals in FUMC's Sanctuary on 8/14/23.

WE continues to work on ***Adiemus, He's Gone Away*** from *3 Mountain Ballads*, and ***Lift Thine Eyes*** (from *Elijah* by Mendelssohn).

In addition to these Concert pieces, WE continues to "refresh" previously performed works to solidify its outside performance repertoire.

WE MEMBER UPDATES

Jane Carter (Alto) has joined the Women's Ensemble.

Shirley Sheppard (Sop2) has dropped this Session as she and her husband Derald are traveling through October.

OUTSIDE PERFORMANCES

WE Director, Marilyn has decided no Concert Session will have more than 3 outside gigs, and the WE Ladies agreed.

At this point in time, the group has four (4) confirmed performances:

PLANT CITY WOMEN'S CLUB

WE has accepted a performance request for 12/12/23 (10:45a-11:30a) from the Plant City Women's Club (PCWC). Because the building has no piano, the music performances will be *a cappella*.

The PCWC has decided a 30 minute program would be appropriate, and has invited WE to join them for lunch.

This is a paid performance, but no amount has yet been set.

HAUGHT FUNERAL HOME

WE has accepted an evening performance on 12/12/23 (6:00P-7:45Pp) for Haught's annual Community Memorial Service.

WE will sing three pieces, one of which will be the owner, David Wolfe's favorite carol *Silent Night*, the other two have not yet been selected.

This is a paid performance, but the amount varies each year—usually by increasing.

PLANT CITY LIVING CENTER

WE has accepted a performance request for 12/15/23 (10:45a-11:30a) and will be performing a 30 minute program of songs, sing-a-longs, poetry and riddles.

PLANT CITY RESOURCE CENTER

WE has accepted a performance request for 12/15/23 (12:45p-1:30p) and will be performing a 30 minute program of songs, sing-a-longs, poetry and riddles.

These are unpaid performances.

Website/YouTube Channel Update

Shepard reported she found some appropriate, appealing images for the website until the new concert poster is completed.

All approved Minutes and Financials have been posted onto the Chorale's website.

She is waiting for AD Coleman Flentge to finish editing the St. Andrews concert video so individual songs can be posted on You Tube and the website.

The Spotlight performers at the Nazarene performance may become available to post, but the lighting at that venue was not good for recording.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas 2023 Music Selections

Prior to the meeting, Flentge provided the BoD with possible musical selections for the 2023 Christmas concert so that they and Nestor could listen to the pieces and discuss them at the meeting.

Flentge would like to do Gloria in D Major by Vivaldi for the second half of the concert. He indicated that we would be borrowing the music from St. Clements. There is some question as to whether they would have forty copies available. However, it is a Public Domain so we would have free access to more copies, if necessary.

Sode asked about instrumentalists. Flentge is unsure where he will get them. The piece is scored for a single trumpet, a single oboe, violin 1, violin 2, viola, and a cellist or a bassist. String parts could be outsourced to his students. He does not have any contacts on an oboe but does know of a trumpeter.

Sode then asked about the cost of hiring these instrumentalists. Flentge's estimation is that each musician would cost \$100-\$150 for one rehearsal and one performance. He also indicated that at St. Andrews when they need musicians, they ask the audience to donate toward or sponsor the performers. His suggestion was that we ask the members if they would be willing to do the same and then receive recognition in the program. Flentge indicated that it could be done with just piano, and that chamber music was not a necessity.

Brandt asked if Flentge felt the soloist parts could be filled within the chorale given that 3 of our top Sopranos will not be able to sing with us on that date. He indicated that he felt that could be done.

After discussing the options for songs for the first half of the concert, 7 pieces were decided upon by all. All but 3 pieces are owned by PCCC helping to mitigate the cost.

Ensemble Pieces

It was discussed that the Ensemble would only perform 2 pieces for the Christmas concert.

Sode and Nestor pressed that the Fall concert should also only include 2 Ensemble songs. Flentge indicated that the Ensemble was preparing 3 songs. Brandt mentioned that he has received significant pushback from members about the number of songs and that the prevailing sentiment is that the Ensemble should only be allowed to sing 2 pieces. Nestor reminded all that the initial minute notes from the Ensemble inception stated 2 songs to be performed, as the Ensemble was being created to go out in the community to spread word about PCCC. Flentge asked if it would be agreeable for the Ensemble to sing their 3 songs between 7:15 & 7:30 while people are being seated and waiting on the Chorale. All present agreed that is a great idea.

Flentge brought up the fact that the Ensemble portion gave the Chorale a chance to rest and asked if, for the Christmas concert we should build in a 10-minute rest/intermission. Nestor agreed it would be possible but that it has never been necessary before. In the past, the Chorale would sit down while the Executive Director and Chorale Director addressed the audience.

Community Outreach

Coleman shared his passion and ideas for creating more community outreach and suggested we partner with a local charity for our Christmas concert. Perhaps allowing them to set up a table or booth, therefore showcasing who they are and what they do to help the community and showing that we are more than a group that makes music, but also an organization that wants to give back to the area. The Food Bank was discussed as a possibility. All agreed it is a great idea and that we will include a blurb in the press release for the Christmas concert that asks for patrons to bring canned foods for the food bank. It was discussed that since the Christmas concert will be in Brandon at Nativity Catholic, partnering with the church's food bank would be a great way to start the program.

Promotions

Flentge suggested videotaping one of our rehearsals and putting it out on social media to build interest in the Chorale and to create a more digital, modernized mode of promotion in the hopes of increasing ticket sales. Sode asked if Flentge knew anyone who would be able to create the video and he felt that Gabriella would be willing to take on that task.

Flentge also suggested reaching out to local assisted living facilities to offer discounted tickets and also reaching out to schools to create an educational outreach program. Suggesting that perhaps having the Ensemble perform at different schools to create a partnership.

Rehearsal Disruption

Brandt brought up the issue of Sydney's baby now being of the age that he is a bit disruptive in our rehearsals. He asked Flentge his opinion and whether he felt we would lose Sydney and her mom if we asked her to take the baby out of the sanctuary if he got fussy. Flentge agreed that it is disruptive to him and felt that if approached properly and provided an alternative place for Sydney to take the baby, she and her mom would be okay with the request.

Future Board Meeting Dates

The next monthly BoD Meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, Brandt called for adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Sode

Lisa Sode – PCCC Secretary