



Minutes from the North American Brass Band Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 2, 2009
Brown Hotel, Louisville, KY

Members present: Rico Belotti, Don Bookout, Barb Burtch, Jim Grate (treasurer), Lee Harrelson, Arthur Henry, Susan Henthorn (secretary), Anita Cocker Hunt, Joe Johnson, Don Kneeburg, Theresa MacDonald, Rusty Morris (president), Thomas Stein, Helen Tyler, Frank Washburn, Douglas Yeo (vice president)

Members absent: Stephen Allen, Diana Herak, Patrick Herak, Linda Yeo

Guest: Betsy Jones

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Treasurer's Report, By-law change proposal (Board size, term limits), Elections/vote (by-laws, Pres., V.P. Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome from President Morris. Parliamentarian/Vice President Yeo noted that the bylaws-related vote would be postponed until 14 members are present (minimum number of votes needed pass such motions). He introduced Betsy Jones, new *Bridge* editor.

II. Treasurer's report – Jim Grate

The bottom line of the Net worth statement is very close to last September's. The biggest change is in checking, reflecting the reduced number of bands competing this year. Next year's proposed budget is not cast in stone; things do come up during the year, some things deleted. The critical point is that the bottom line for expenses matches the bottom line for income. Currently we have only collected \$30,000, but t-shirt sales are yet to come, usually good for several thousand dollars. (Typo in the header should be corrected to read 3/31/**2009**.) The amount under advertising vendors includes monies from both *Bridge* and program ads. Form 990 (income tax) is public if anyone wants to see it. The checking account is also open for viewing. Doug noted, for the record, that the difference between projected and actual income is due to the reduced number of bands attending. He also noted that because the program is a little bit smaller, the program costs are less. Good relations with the program printer also helped. In response to a query from Art, Jim said that the PayPal transfer will go up after this weekend.

III. Minutes of the last board meeting have already been approved on nabbaboard.org.

IV. Development Committee report – Theresa MacDonald

Good print quality vendor solicitation materials have been developed for both electronic and high resolution print media. President Morris took some of the materials to Butlins; they will be distributed throughout the U.K. on our behalf. He praised the committee for the excellent quality of the materials, and noted the cost efficiency of sending electronic versions.

Theresa reported on the committee's efforts regarding corporate sponsorships. Colin Murphy consulted with her and helped develop a 4-page document which was sent to potential sponsors. The initial request of \$10,000 was reduced to \$5,000 because of the economic downturn. Resulting discussions with sponsors raised various issues, such as the confusion caused by continually changing NABBA's vendor contact. Establishing one person for contact with major supporters would be helpful. The issue of ad placement on the NABBA website was also immediately addressed. Sponsors will now be called "Corporate Sponsors," indicating their involvement with NABBA throughout the year, not just at championships. Sponsors are also looking at *The Bridge* as a vehicle for new product announcement.

Doug also noted the placement of Besson ads in the Championship program. New product announcement was also worked into the *Bridge* article.

The committee continues to collect information about the 185 brass bands in existence – web sites, contacts, etc. The committee wants to conduct a survey of non-NABBA bands as soon as this year's contest work is over. They also continue to look into some sources for grant moneys, but the multi-state issues, among others, makes this a bit challenging.

V. **Festival Support Committee Report** – Rusty Morris

Rusty reported that NABBA supported two festivals this year: North West Brass Band Festival – \$600. Doug Yeo attended and participated. Ohio Brass Arts Festival – \$1,000, because of size of the contest (still need to issue check). NABBA received a full-page ad, etc., and should gain members and support because of festival attendance. Rusty has no further request for monies at this time.

Doug will report on NWBBF more fully in the next *Bridge* issue, but the Festival leaders were very pleased with NABBA's presence. Excellent tuba soloist – recommended for anyone.

Anita asked if Rusty had received communication/application from the International Music Camp, a camp Anita attends every year, and that NABBA supported last year. Rusty asked Anita to have the International Music Camp staff get in touch with him about submitting an application, information on the web site, etc.

VI. **Music Committee Report** – Doug Yeo

Current Chair, Doug Yeo, had nothing to report. With Doug's resignation from the board, next year's Music Committee will be: Joe Johnson (chair), Steve Allen and Helen Tyler.

VII. **Bridge report** – Doug Yeo

After referring to the *Bridge* report submitted via email, Doug thanked everyone for their support during his time as *Bridge* editor, especially Anita for asking him to take on the job. He asked board members to support Betsy as she takes over as *Bridge* Editor. President Morris reminded board members to continue submitting contributions to the *Bridge*. Board members should set a good example for other bands by submitting articles for each issue. Pieces don't have to be long or elaborate; even a note about fundraising events, concerts, etc., would be fine. Everyone benefits by reading what others are doing. Doug noted that the address for submissions appeared in the last *Bridge* issue, and also on the website.

VIII. **Site presentation...Grand Rapids**

The board will vote tonight on the venue for the 2011 Championships: Grand Rapids (presentation tonight), Charleston (presentation last September), Raleigh (NC) - letter, Louisville (presentation tonight), and Omaha (letter/printed piece). Doug Yeo, Jim Grate and Theresa McDonald participated in a site visit to Grand Rapids in February.

Grand Rapids presentation – Mary Manier (Convention & Visitors Bureau), Heather Bacle (Sales Manager, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel) See MeetGrandRapids.com for online information.

Among the points Ms. Manier made about Grand Rapids are the following:

1. Convenient location – within a day's drive of more than ½ of NABBA bands
2. Everything within 4 blocks of convention center – lots of pubs
3. Four major museums within walking distance

Heather presented information about the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, including a guaranteed rate of \$129/night, and 50% off parking rates. She highlighted several points/amenities:

- Plenty of meeting room space
- Solo and ensemble venues at no extra charge
- Ten restaurants and lounges, including Michigan's only 5 diamond restaurant

- Sports bar, fitness center, pool, tennis, racket ball, weight equipment, boutique shopping
- Commitment to hosting an exceptional event for NABBA
- Long standing recipient for awards for service
- Directly connected by skywalk to the convention center (DeVos Place), home of the contest itself. Monroe “A” and the recital hall would be warm-up and storage. Everything closely connected, with good flow for bands.
- Michigan Music organizations are excited to spread the word (January) at their conference, etc. Letter of support from Meyer Music as well.
- Only major event happening during that weekend

Doug directed board members to look at the map of the Convention Center. NABBA would NOT use the Exhibit Hall (large green area). The two performance venues are DeVos and one third of the Ballroom. The vendors would be located in Grand Gallery sections A-D (4 of 6 sections), nearly adjacent to the performance venues. One section would remain empty; the sixth would be the warm-up space for the Ballroom. The Recital Hall would serve as warm-up space for DeVos. Other rooms in the hotel, such as the Ford Ballroom, have great sound/acoustics and would be good for solo and ensemble. However, vendors would be in the convention center both days, raising other questions: would they want to come only one day, etc. (See ‘Accommodations’ tab for the hotel layout.) He also noted the ease of moving from one ballroom to another and between the hotel and the Convention Center.

Jim Grate noted that the hotel has a total tax rate of 14%; parking would be \$8.00 (half of their regular price). Doug Yeo thanked Mary and Heather for their presentation and gifts. He reminded board members that the tourism video is on the flash drive each member received. They could supply the actual presentation as well if NABBA would like.

Jim Grate observed that we now have four places to think about. He passed around the folder from Charleston, as well as Omaha’s information; Raleigh sent a straightforward and simple letter, and Louisville should be here later this evening.

In response to a question from Joe Johnson, Jim Grate reported that the Brown Theatre was the venue in the current Louisville proposal, but they may come up with a second venue. Don Bookout asked whether the Galt House and/or other performance venues were considered. Jim Grate said they probably were not, but that the folks doing the Louisville presentation would provide details later.

Various issues about Grand Rapids were discussed: weather (would be unusual for it to be an issue); airport shuttle (yes); host hotel with plenty of nearby restaurants; potential connections with local and/or regional music organizations (especially the ability to provide percussion, spread word, etc.) and media outlets; potential of locale to draw some different/new bands vs. losing others (bands will find a way if they want to compete – we need to find the best place for NABBA then publicize); close proximity to Canada; recap of various issues involved with holding the competition in the same venue for five years (continuity vs. change of scenery, fairness issue regarding distance to travel). Regardless of the selected venue, some bands will want to go, others will not.

In response to a question from Anita, Doug indicated that Wayne Wilcox, who has helped with program layout and lives in Grand Rapids, initiated the Grand Rapids proposal. He saw the solicitation for proposals on the NABBA site and pursued it with Jim Grate. Doug reiterated that the dates offered by Grand Rapids are April 8-9, 2011, noting that Easter falls on April 24 in 2011. Anita asked whether Grand Rapids would be able to help with equipment, Doug reported that this issue would not be pursued with any venue until one is selected, but noted the presence of plenty of colleges in the area. Jim Grate also mentioned the symphony’s equipment would be available, so we would only need a second set.

A discussion about the cost of air fare to Grand Rapids, Louisville and Raleigh followed, including the idea of which cities might have direct flights from other major airports. However President Morris pointed out that for many bands, travel to very few cities, such as Atlanta or Chicago, would involve direct flights. Jim Grate also noted that invitations were extended to two places in Atlanta, with no

response. Theresa MacDonald reiterated the point about costs varying from band to band with each location, but even so, would like to see a northern location selected for at least one year. She also agreed that varying locations for the Championships might sow seeds, promote and grow NABBA in various areas, and foster the start of some new bands, or new participants in future Championships.

Don Bookout observed that the Brass Band of Battle Creek might provide a tremendous draw. Doug agreed that many issues remain regarding a possible gala concert, etc. Rusty also noted the potential for a gala concert to be an income source for NABBA. BBBC's presence might help sell tickets outside the initial NABBA crowd. Anita Cocker Hunt observed the excellent crowd BBBC drew in 2002.

President Morris brought the discussion to a close, noting that further discussion would follow the Louisville presentation, but he would like the board to make a decision tonight if at all possible.

IX. Votes – Proposals & Elections

A. Proposals

Amendment #1: By-law change proposal – Term Limits – Article VI, Section 4

No member shall hold more than one office at a time, no member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the offices of President, Vice President or Secretary, and no member shall receive compensation for his/her service as an officer. (Rico Belloti moved, Frank Washburn seconded, both February 11, nabbaboard.org).

Doug Yeo reminded everyone that a motion to change the by-laws requires a 2/3 vote. With 20 current Board members, a successful motion requires at least 14 votes to be adopted.

Rico observed that the purpose of this amendment is basically to encourage continuity by eliminating the term restriction for the office of Treasurer. Another association he is part of dealt with the same issue. Given the state of everything concerned, he would like to solidify the position. Keeping the person doing the books constant longer than two terms would be a positive for NABBA. Making this change for the position of Treasurer would be the first step; if it works, we could consider making the same change for the other offices. Anita Cocker Hunt spoke in favor of eliminating the term limit for the position of treasurer, but firmly believes it should also apply to the other offices. **She proposed to amend the language of Amendment #1 by eliminating the clause “no member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the offices of President, Vice President or Secretary”.**

After Doug explained the history of the language (bylaws review two years ago – avoid fiefdom because others were not be willing to step up), Art Henry asked if this has changed in two years. Doug noted that with term limits in place, we currently need a new treasurer and asked if anyone is willing to step up and accept nomination for Treasurer. Art then asked if the situation was not considered for other offices as well. Anita suggested that if an officer is in the position and doing a good job, they should be allowed to continue. If they are not doing a good job, we have elections. The issue just came up with Jim because he is doing an outstanding job and we don't want to replace him at this point. Rusty reminded board members that the position of Treasurer is by far the most difficult, most important, and most pressured role. Before Jim took over the office of Treasurer, the books were not in as good a shape as they are now. He has really improved NABBA's bookkeeping.

Doug cautioned the board to remember that when dealing with our foundational document, we should not amend bylaws for an individual, but for the good of the organization itself.

He then replied to a question from Helen Tyler, stating that when an officer's term is up, the nominating committee still puts forth names for election. Automatic renewal of the office does NOT occur. Don Bookout spoke of the importance of continuity in all offices, especially in

light of our semi-annual meetings. Rico said he would have included all offices in the motion, but saw a potential for conflict of interest, since he lives in the same town as the President.

Amendment to the amendment proposed by Rico passed unanimously.

Amendment #1 bylaw change also passed unanimously.

Amendment #2: By-law change proposal – Board size

Article V, Section 2. The number of voting members of the Board of Directors shall be no fewer than 13 (thirteen) and no more than twenty-one (21).

Article V, Section 12. The presence of two-thirds of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum provided, that if less than a quorum of the Directors shall be present at the time and place of the meeting, the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is present, and notice of any adjourned meeting need not be given.

Article V, Section 16a. In the event any vacancy on the Board of Directors reduces the number of Directors to fewer than thirteen (13), such vacancy will be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Directors to bring the total membership of the Board up to thirteen (13) members. (Douglas Yeo moved, Linda Yeo seconded, both February 21, nabbaboard.org).

Speaking in support of the motion, Doug Yeo noted that the bylaws currently require 21 board members. This means all vacancies must be filled, requiring a time consuming and difficult effort to identify people to stand for election. For the last election we only had enough people to fill 20 positions. The board then faces the issue of needing to twist people's arms to get them to stand for election. Stipulating a range of members rather than a fixed number provides flexibility, helping eliminate the need for special elections. Lee Harrelson spoke in support of the motion, observing that the board would not be required to have 21 people, yet would still have the ability to elect a higher number if quality candidates could be identified. Rusty reminded the board that when the bylaws were revised, even higher numbers for board membership were proposed. It is time consuming to get quality folks to run and that's not what we want. We want people who desire to serve. Doug also noted the implication in requirement for quorum; instead of listing a fixed number, since the number of board members may change from year to year, the language stipulates quorum as 2/3 of the total number of board members, whether they are in attendance or not.

Amendment #2 – Passed Unanimously.

B. Elections/vote

Doug Yeo, parliamentarian, clarified that for elections, successful candidates require an affirmative vote from a majority of those present; in this case, nine affirmative votes will be required. He further observed that in the past we have had nominees leave the room during discussion. If we again ask candidates to leave during the discussion, they should be asked to return for voting. Tom Stein spoke in support of asking candidates to leave the room during the discussion, as it is essential for board members to be able to speak freely; we need to set this as a precedent.

1. President

Anita Coker Hunt, Nomination Committee chair, presented Rusty Morris as candidate for President. When Tom Stein asked if anyone else had been considered, Anita responded that nominees would be sought from the floor. No further nominations were forthcoming. **Rusty Morris was elected.**

2. Vice President

Anita reported that she had spoken with four people about the position. Two candidates have accepted nomination: Rico Bilotti and Don Bookout.

Before he and Rico Bilotti left the room so the board could discuss the two candidates, Don Bookout noted that he and his wife are moving to Indianapolis, so he would not be ‘banding’, and that he has only five years of experience brass banding.

After the two candidates left the room, various board members spoke on behalf of each candidate. Lee voiced his concern about feeling unqualified to vote without further information. Joe noted that when we vote for a board member we have qualifications and statements in writing, observing that there is something fundamentally wrong with the process that excludes the same prior to election of officers. He spoke strongly in favor of having something in writing from each candidate for office prior to the election. Doug responded that in the future we can ask for material in advance.

Discussion about various issues ensued: two people from the same band on the executive committee, strength of candidates regardless of band membership, the importance of focusing on making decisions for the good of NABBA, etc.

Helen asked if something is charged to be voted at a meeting, must happen then, to which Doug replied, “Yes, it must.” (Article 6, Section 3). Doug further observed that several years ago the board eliminated the bylaw that restricted board membership to only one member of a band at a time. Similarly, we have no bylaw against representation on the executive board either. The appearance of stacking the board/executive committee is an issue we already face.

In response to a question from Susan, candidates agreed to come in one at a time to speak on their own behalf, in lieu of having written statements. (It was noted that they would not have had time to prepare a full statement.)

Following statements from each candidate, Rusty said that he would feel very comfortable working with either candidate – that both would be good in the position.

Don Bookout was elected.

3. Treasurer

Anita presented Jim Grate as the only nominee for Treasurer. He was elected.

Jim reported that Jackson Hill, former controller, has inoperable lung cancer and provided Jackson’s address and phone number for board members.

X. Contest Committee Report – no report

Rusty reported that after the weekend was over, he would email Lee with details to discuss on nabbaboard.org before September.

XI. Championship Weekend update

Doug Yeo reported that vendors would begin set-up at 7:00 a.m. and praised Anita Cocker Hunt for the excellent job she has done with the vendors. He reminded announcers to ask people to visit the vendors. He also described the process of getting cards stamped – 15 squares, 16 vendors (each stamp different) – as a way to get people to visit the vendors. All cards that have 15 stamps are eligible for door prizes on Saturday evening, drawn between the last two championship bands and the youth band. If a winner is from a band in the wings, or in warm-up, the winner will NOT be announced until later to try to avoid judges learning the identity of any band. Completed cards should be turned in at the NABBA table. He also reminded announcers to refer audience members to page 8 in the program. Doug also clarified that the printed schedule should be followed rather than move performers ahead, since both performers and audience members have planned accordingly. He also reminded reviewers of the deadline for getting reviews to Betsy for the next *Bridge* issue. Announcers should also remind audience members to turn off cell phones and pagers and that unauthorized recordings are not allowed. Doug went on to talk about why this year’s Championships would not be recorded. Last year we fell short of number of CDs ordered, so this year Soundwaves required an upfront commitment. Not enough bands committed

to purchase recordings so Soundwaves would not agree to record the Championships. The age of piracy has obviously caught up with NABBA recording, etc. This is an issue to be discussed at a future time. We cannot police everyone in the audience, but our official policy is that we do NOT allow unauthorized recordings. If we see anyone setting up for obvious recording we need to determine if they DO have mechanical license approval, then see someone at the NABBA table, etc. Doug finished up with a few other suggestions and details for those helping with timing and announcing. Jim Grate distributed each announcer's list of contestants; other questions followed regarding time limits (6 minutes playing time for soloists; nine for an ensemble), and how to deal with those who exceed their time. Avoid a boisterous approach, but let them know they are over time, perhaps with a wave. Judges and the controller/asst. controller should then be informed of the infraction. Any questions arising about instruments being used should be settled immediately with the controller.

Rusty reviewed details for photo runners (get each band from the stage to Frank), Stage Manager and Asst. Stage Manager (getting bands on and off stage, see that stage is returned to posted layout, banners, signing in bands, etc.) and Controller (headset to communicate with controller) and Judges' Assistant (provide any help the judges need, plus run sheets to the Clymers). Doug added that Announcers/reviewers for solos and ensembles will take their packet of judges' comments to the Clymers' room.

Theresa mentioned she had already had conversations with the judges about recorders. Rusty and Jim noted that they were to have spent time tonight in the judges' room with the recorders and practiced with them. Theresa was assured that a spare set of instructions was available.

Various other contest related details followed:

- Frank discussed various details regarding the photos that he and an associate, Ginger, will take over the course of the weekend. He will send all photos to Betsy.
- Barb noted that last year the Brown had staff lead the Saturday night bands from warm-up to the stage.
- Rusty asked board members to be visible, make good decisions without consultation with executive committee as appropriate.
- Regarding percussion, one soloist and one ensemble may want help to move equipment. The backdoor of the theatre opens directly on to the stage. Jim will open the door Friday 11:15 a.m. for ½ hour. Saturday bands may bring equipment. At 5:00 Friday, when soloists are finished, the back door will also be open for an hour. Discussion followed about how to get percussion from the 16th floor of the hotel to the Brown. Material from 16th floor cannot be moved until 6:00, but may need to do the last hour or rehearsal without percussion. The question of the best set of tympani to be used for the competition remains. If the percussion from the University of Cincinnati is the best set, that would be less hassle, as it will arrive at 11:00 a.m. Friday and loaded directly on to stage.
- Soloists may appear to perform without a membership card. They CAN get a card from their band member stack at the NABBA table, but DO trust them if they did not get their card yet. (Should check performers for current card.)
- Rosters will be brought to the Asst. Stage manager.
- Cases should be stored behind the registration desk at the hotel – second floor, Bluegrass room; this is the warm-up area for soloists as well. There will be a monitor at that door.
- Volunteers will receive t-shirts. Barb is handling all volunteer stuff.
- The recital room / warm-up room is much smaller than main house. Seats will be at a premium.

XI. Equipment moved from storage locker for 2010 (New Albany to Raleigh and back)

Someone will need to go to the locker and take it to Raleigh. The contents of the storage locker are primarily contest related materials, including judges' paraphernalia, however past judges' scores are also stored there. Accessibility and accountability are issues, as we have no one in the Louisville area at this point. The Chatfield lending library in Massachusetts may be willing to accept our scores, lend them, etc. Helen suggested dividing items into 'sections' and having individuals keep various sections; all of one thing would be in one place. If one person can't take it, another could. Jim reiterated that the

biggest bulk is the section of scores. Susan suggested dividing only the contest needed material between folks. Helen advocated organizing and cataloging everything in the locker. Perhaps this year we do as we have done in the past, but with an organized list we'll be ready for 'the split' idea for the next competition. Doug pointed out that if we decide to keep things the same this year, we still need to designate someone to pick everything up and get it to Raleigh. If we do split the stuff up, those responsible **MUST** make a commitment to return the material the next year. Helen suggested that a year would provide less cause for stress, and allow folks time to think about the issue.

XII. NABBA soloist in Australia – Rusty Morris

Dr. King sent an invitation about 2 weeks ago via Ron Holz for "the NABBA championship soloist winner" to participate in the Australia Keller Soloist competition. The Executive Committee determined that the issue is not as straightforward as it might seem. Although NABBA is being asked to cover only the airfare (Keller would do the rest), we do not have enough time to sort this out; we have too many categories to declare only one person the overall winner and must have a discussion about whether NABBA can support such a venture. But Keller still wants to invite someone. When our contest is over, President Morris will send a note listing all the winners, and Keller will contact the soloists individually. At this point, this is not a NABBA sponsored event. Helen noted that in the UK, individuals must pay their own way, but are free to get sponsors, etc.

XIII. NABBA All Star band – Rusty

John and Steve have idea of an all-star NABBA band coming to Butlins for January 2011. We have some information sheets for the bands, etc. This is sort of a fact finding to identify interest, etc. Members would pay their airfare, with everything else handled by Butlins. Similar to the Australia proposal, many issues remain, i.e., how to choose people to go in the future. No commitment on anyone's part has been made at this time.

XIV. Board terms ending in 2009 - Doug

Doug read the names of those whose terms expire in 2009. Board members who do not wish to continue should let Rusty know by Saturday. Those wishing to continue must re-apply for election.

XV. September Board meeting dates – Rusty Morris

The September board meeting will be September 11-12, possibly in Raleigh. Jim suggested we consider a more convenient location, or perhaps the site selected tonight for the 2011 competition.

XVI. Discussion/vote on future Championship sites (including dates): Louisville, Omaha, Raleigh, Grand Rapids, Charleston. Need to decide tonight because dates 'disappear'.

Because all proposals have come to Jim, Doug asked Jim to lead the discussion on various sites.

Omaha is no less centrally located than Little Rock, but everyone would have to travel to Omaha. The costs for Omaha are staggering; costs for the other sites are more similar to one another.

Charleston is a 'tired' place, with several deficiencies – second venue distance, riding shuttle, how difficult it might be to house the S&E contest, etc. We could resolve the later by going to churches but that solution may not be very satisfactory. To combat the short coming, Charleston is offering us 'cash' – we would make money.

Raleigh and **Grand Rapids** are about equal-distant for bands. Raleigh has been the most difficult with whom to work. They do have two venues side by side that must be rented. We lose money when we have to rent S&E venues. Regarding **Louisville**, the traditional visitor's bureau has had very little interaction with IUS. So they want to deal with us. But they couldn't get someone to show up for tonight's meeting. But the hotel wants us here; its employees have been excellent to deal with. Grand Rapids is fabulous once you get there. It's all indoors, all in one location; we don't have to rent S&E venue, etc. We would only need to come up with one set of percussion.

Doug noted that Raleigh will be a good location, even if we are having difficulty staying in touch with them. As part of the on-site visitation group, he reported that Grand Rapids **really** wants to have us there. The group came away with a **very** good impression of how the championship would work in there. 'Recruitment' of bands *might* be an issue; we would need a strategy to develop attendance. Doug reflected that although we have previously held the championship in different locations each year, we are still further ahead in our planning at this point, as site locations used to be made year to year.

The issue of the travel distance required for most of the currently competing bands remains an issue, although several currently non-participating Michigan bands might consider competing in Grand Rapids. Don Bookout observed that sites are pitching their sites as if we are doctors, i.e., 'selling' shops, etc. Grand Rapids' pitch indicated they were a little better attuned to what musicians / NABBA members need.

Doug briefly discussed the Louisville proposal, which is basically from the Brown Hotel and Theatre. We would still need a second venue if we have more bands. Spaulding University, a Masonic Temple, etc., have been considered as possibilities, but are still a few blocks away. The Louisville proposal does not address that issue.

In response to a question from Lee, Jim clarified that we do have the ball running for part of the convention center for Friday evening; we can use the main concert hall. Rusty also noted that with two venues, if we contact the Brass Band of Battle Creek, we know we can revamp the competition if needed. Theresa reported that the room rate was conditional on a certain number of rooms, so we would encourage folks to stay there. Jim noted that it's always possible that some bands might go across the river to stay at a cheaper hotel, saving \$20 a night. Theresa suggested that another fabulous brochure could be drafted and distributed more widely, along with other promotional materials, to really promote the site well. Barb noted the Grand Rapids site might be a draw, as many bands like having everything under one roof.

Don Bookout moved to hold the 2011 NABBA championships in Grand Rapids, MI, April 8/9, 2011 (seconded Frank Washburn).

In response to a question from Theresa about the risk of choosing a site like Grand Rapids, Joe observed that the Florida and Georgia bands would be most impacted. Jim reported that three bands fly: Boston, Florida, & Atlantic (NJ), so a decision for Grand Rapids would primarily impact some of the other bands who drive. Doug reminded the board of previous competitions in Minnesota, Toronto, Chicago, Iowa, and Wash. D.C., so this would not be a precedent. Joe said his band would have to consider it, but would have two years to discuss and plan. Theresa remarked that quite a few Michigan bands are not currently members of NABBA. She would be interested to see how many might become NABBA members if the contest were held in Grand Rapids. Joe added that some bands located in the northwest might also be interested.

Motion carried, unanimously.

Jim observed that the original proposal posted on the NABBA website said we would consider three years. He asked what we should do in light of the fact that we just voted on only one year. Theresa asked if sites wanting to host the NABBA Championships are required to pitch for three consecutive years. Doug responded that there is something valuable in committing to a contest venue for one year to see how it works and see if we want to return. Jim said that he was just anticipating the possibility that the Grand Rapids representatives might ask for clarification on this. Rusty responded that when we contact them with this news, we may ask them for 2012 dates. Anita is also interested to see NABBA members' reaction to Raleigh.

Frank Washburn expressed his appreciation for the condolences of the board on the passing of his wife.

President Morris declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan K. Henthorn, NABBA Secretary