



NABBA

North American Brass Band Association

Full Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/18/2020

Location: Huntsville, Alabama and online through video conference

Called to order: 6.00pm central

Present in person

- Tony Granados, *President*
- Patrick Herak, *Vice-President*
- Alex Schnautz, *Treasurer*
- Jason Collier
- John Bell
- David Jones

Present via video conference

- Gavin Pritchard, *Secretary*
- Melanie Ball
- Aaron Campbell
- Brian Dobbins
- Mark Taylor
- Lindsay Walker
- Bill Waterman
- Jon Heaven
- Chris Ward

Absent

- Edward Eccles

Order of Business

Proposed Agenda (Final) Friday

6:00pm - Call to Order / Welcomes

6:15pm - Treasurer Report

Taxes

All caught up on all tax filings that should have been filed. Lag from IRS. We have been putting the wrong year on our filings. Alex looking to sort this.

Alex to finalize steps to complete transition of incorporation to Nebraska. Question of why the switch and it was explained that it is more favorable for a non-profit (no state filings).

Glenn offered to stay on to advise for a nominal fee.

Report

Alex went through the end of year report file, located in the google shared drive.

Tony explained that Brass Pass fees for 2019 will be deducted from our fee to them over the next 2 years.

Question of the sum paid to the company supplying us the mobile app functionality.

Action Item: Jason to reach out to the mobile app people to see how many years left are on the fee we've already paid

Jon noted we don't need 123 contact forms anymore - we can do everything in the new database - BUT we will need to budget for the new database

Year end balance \$47,295 (down \$7,669)

Alex is now registered as signee with Wells Fargo - Looking at different bank account as Alex does not have a Wells Fargo close to where he lives

7:30pm - Ft. Wayne Presentation

Welcome to Josie O'Donnell from Ft. Wayne, with;
Kelly Updike - Embassy Theatre
David Bolla - dual director of sales for courtyard & hampton
Missy Eppley - Convention Center

Question of accessibility of halls. Embassy has not made improvements as of yet due to the status of a historic building. No wheelchair accessibility. Confirmed that there is better accessibility at the new 2nd venue.

Question of total cost for Fort Wayne. It was explained that these wouldn't be exact numbers as it would depend on what we would actually use. Currently quoted around \$37k.

Question of Hoosier room suitability. New room upstairs has sound bleed so not possible. Looking into soundproofing and Dave will oversee. If not suitable other options would be looked into and used.

8:00pm - DEI Update

Courtney Jones, Guest

Survey was discussed and lack of diversity in ethnicity was highlighted as well as the fact that inappropriate comments were made by some filling the survey in.

We were then walked through the DEI Recommendations document.

9:00pm - Call to Close

Saturday

9:00am - Call to Order

Operations Committee Report - By-laws, SOPs, Code of Conduct

Melanie reported that due to Covid etc this year, not much has been done. Suggestion of a list of dates going forward to work on this with a priority list.

Presentation of an excel spreadsheet that has been prepared addressing Bylaws items of focus.

Priority for the next 3 months

- Revision of bylaws
- Code of conduct board members
- Code of conduct for NABBA members

Contest Committee Report - Rules Discussion

Few significant changes to the rules from back in May. Things were put on hold, then priorities of the sub-committee were forced to change.

Largest change was in the band rules document for borrowed players/amount of bands that can be played for (rules and reg 7).

Suggestion to add reference to registration rule 4 about emergencies to the borrowed players rule (rules and reg 7). Further discussion needed.

Suggestion to review the rules surrounding 10-piece participants being allowed to participate in other ensembles. Rules as currently written don't allow for 10-piece participants to play with any other small ensemble even if they aren't playing with a full band in the main competition. Contest committee to address this.

10:00am - Huntsville Presentation (includes tour)

Team from Huntsville gave a brief verbal intro/presentation before a walking tour of the facilities.

12:00pm - Break for Lunch

1:30pm - Full Board Discussion

Contest Committee Report, con't

COVID Plans

Presentation on options for a 2021 event.

- Remain in Fort Wayne with altered structure
- Outdoors in Fort Wayne later in Summer at outdoor venue
- Great American Brass Band Festival collaboration
- Regional Events
- Virtual Event - online competition

Ranking of recommendations from Contest Committee in order:

1. Remain in Fort Wayne
2. Regional Events
3. Outdoors in Fort Wayne
4. Virtual

GABBF as a separate opportunity as can work in several ways - stand-alone, one of regional options, later alternative to NABBC

Other ideas were then presented on the spot:

2021 no NABBA, but host a NABBA S&E championships

2022/2024 NABBA in F Wayne - S&E in Huntsville

2023/2025 NABBA in Huntsville - S&E in F Wayne

Question on restrictions on size of gatherings. Confirmed that as of today, they are allowing up to 500 in the hall.

Question on cancellation fees etc. As of today we haven't signed any contracts.

Question on social distancing etc. on stage. Embassy has said there wouldn't be any requirement from their side on that. Also, we would need to speak to Brass Pass as to space used/required due to how much they used last year.

Question on reduced fee for reduced competition. Confirmed that that is on the table for discussion.

After discussion, general opinion was that outdoor later in the year would probably be the more favorable.

Informal poll by hand raise to see which way to go with April in Fort Wayne

Result - April in Fort Wayne 3, Any other date/venue 11

Agreed to table official vote until 6pm session.

Contest committee to dive deeper into the options.

Discussion on Huntsville RFP

Concern with Mars Hall - stage size, backstage storage etc. Very impressed with the main hall, but discussion would need to be had regarding solo and ensemble rooms.

4:00pm - Break for Dinner

6:00pm - Final Meeting - Final Discussions/votes:

Question raised of should we have an up and down vote on current RPF as written/submitted, or should we look at revised versions/suggestions?

MOTION: Vote on either honoring the RFP as requested, or look for options outside of the scope (Mark makes proposal, Pat seconded)

Friendly amendment - strike all after comma - accepted. Motion now reads:

“Vote on honoring the RFP as requested”

Result - Yay 11, Nay 3, Abstain 0

Motion passes

Following the vote, the discussion continued on the RFP's as submitted

Question was raised on what the list of our priorities looks like to make an informed decision. Comment was made that we have been looking over these proposals for a while so possibly should have formed an opinion.

Question on financial hit of a move due to bands not attending.

Finances and location were brought up as high priorities for a decision.

MOTION: Vote to accept the informal vote as the official vote for the previous “informal poll by hand raise to see which way to go with April in Fort Wayne” (Bill makes proposal, Jon seconded)

Result - Yay 2, Nay 13, Abstain 0

Motion fails

Further discussion had. Should we go back to use Ft Wayne in April now that we are leaving there from 2022? Do we need to make a decision on this right now? Concerns raised to make sure we are considering health issues as well.

Suggestion to entertain a motion:

MOTION: To cancel the traditional contest as stated in RFP and pursue alternative event

Friendly amendment - Specify that event would be in Ft Wayne

Further discussion - why are we now stating that the event as is wouldn't happen? Concern that if not in traditional format, interest would not be there to attend.

Suggestion of motion withdrawn, contest committee to revisit options and present again to the full board in the next few weeks.

RFP Proposals

MOTION: Up and down vote on the RFPs as presented by Fort Wayne and Huntsville (Chris makes motion, Alex seconded)

No further discussion

Result - Fort Wayne 3, Huntsville 11, Abstain 1

Confirmed Huntsville wins the RFP bid for NABBA 2022-2024

Nominations Committee

Suggestion is to seek selections for the nominations committee. Recommendation for Melanie Ball, Chris Ward & Brian Dobbins. All 3 accepted the nominations.

MOTION: Move to accept the slate of nominations and move to a vote (Jason makes motion, Jon seconded)

No further discussion

Result - Yay 14, Nay 0, Abstain 1

Motion passes

Paul Lovatt Cooper

MOTION: Move to move ahead and pay Paul Lovatt Cooper for his composition with a view to recoup the costs through a sponsor at a later date (John makes motion, Melanie seconded)

No further discussion

Result - Yay 14, No 0, Abstain 1

Motion passes

Mark Sugarman Payment

MOTION: Move to approve payment for the invoices as presented by attorney Marc Sugarman (John makes motion, Alex seconded)

No further discussion

Result - Yes 13, No 0, Abstain 2

Motion passes

Question of are we in a position to vote on rules or do we need to table them? Question on whether it would be needed right now as we don't know if we'll need them for the upcoming contest. Feeling is it would be preferred to revisit and review. Vote tabled.

Presentation on the new database system we have through membershipworks
Board members to have link shared to sign up as members.

Final thoughts and thanks from Tony to finish the weekend off

MOTION: Move to conclude the September Board Meeting (Bill makes motion, Pat seconded)

No further discussion

Result - Yes 15, No 0, Abstain 0

Motion passes

9:00pm - Call to Close