



CHARLES IVES AUTHORITY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
A Nonprofit Organization

Minutes Board of Directors Meeting, April 15, 2015

To: Mayor Mark D. Boughton and Members of the Charles Ives Authority for the  
Performing Arts Board of Directors

Re: Minutes of the Ives Authority Board of Directors meeting held April 15, 2015

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DANBURY TOWN CLERK

2015 MAY 21 P 12:51

BY: f.a.b.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. The members were recorded as:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Greenberg, Sherri Hill, Frank Herbert, Tanya Wulff Truax, Tony Vournazos, Noel Roy, Gina Marcus, Fernando Jimenez (by speaker phone)

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Brett DeWeese

ALSO PRESENT: Phyllis Cortese, Executive Director; Sophia Vournazos; Mayor Mark Boughton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After motion by Gina Marcus seconded by Brett DeWeese, the minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT: Phyllis Cortese

- Phyllis thanked Chairman Steve Greenberg and Vice Chair Noel Roy for their many years of dedicated service and stated that both have submitted their resignations. Steve has about 10 years of service to the board and Noel about five years. Both propelled the Ives Board forward with tremendous momentum.
- Phyllis reviewed the lease renewal with WCSU and explained the addition of a parking fee for events. She gave the example of a festival, such as the Latin Music Festival, where a flat \$3,000 fee for parking will be paid by the promoter. Les Pinter for the city will incorporate the parking fee language into the contract, and the fee will vary by event, as agreed upon by President Schmotter and Sean Loughran.
- Tanya asked to consider raising the park rental fee and Brett concurred. Brett also brought up the topic of charging food vendors for the ice they use.

- Phyllis said she attended an ad hoc committee the previous evening and it is the mayor's vision to merge the Ives Authority with the Danbury Cultural Commission, which has been providing funding for Ives fine arts events. This will result in a combined new vision, mission and name – that will still incorporate the Ives name. She thinks it is a giant step forward for the arts in the state, and it's a positive progression for WCSU and Danbury.
- Phyllis stated that it may even results in Ives hosting events at the CityCenter band shell. Tanya mentioned that Andrea Gartner had recently resigned from CityCenter.
- Phyllis suggested placing a temporary, interim chairman of the Ives Board, at which point Steve spoke about what a fun, challenging opportunity it is.

MOTION MADE AND APPROVED: After motion by Brett DeWeese, seconded by Tanya Wulff Truaxx, and approved unanimously by the board, Frank Herbert was named the interim chairman of the Ives Board. Frank stated he would be willing to hold the position for about six months or so.

SPECIAL GUEST: Mayor Mark Boughton

- At 6:40 p.m., Mayor Mark Boughton joined the meeting. He suggested holding Ives Board meetings at City Hall in the future.
- Mayor Boughton said he had met with WCSU President James Schmotter three weeks ago and Schmotter had agreed to the old contract between the city and the university, with the addition of the parking fee agreement.
- The mayor expressed his appreciation to everyone on the Ives Board.
- He discussed merging with the Cultural Commission and explained how they work by giving grants for the arts. He stated the new entity would bear the name Charles Ives Cultural Commission, or something close to that, and he will be meeting with the members of the current Cultural Commission to discuss this merger and how it can reinvigorate what they and the Ives are doing.
- Mayor Boughton stated he would love to see some Ives-run ticketed shows on the Danbury Green next year.
- The mayor said that once the agreement with the university has been signed, the city will release funds for the roof repair.
- Once the new president is in place at the university, the mayor will meet with him to dispel any negative comments that have come from some WCSU middle managers.

- Phyllis brought up Bob Connor and the mayor acknowledged that from a cost basis, he is expensive. Frank suggested that the board cut Bob's fee; hire someone to run the venue on a day-to-day basis and only hire Bob for major concerts. Frank said he had someone from Western's School of Visual and Performing Arts who is qualified to manage events and do lighting/sound for small events. Tony agreed with Frank's proposal from a financial standpoint.
- Frank said Bob is aware of the situation. Frank will oversee the opening of the park and getting everything running, along with some maintenance and repairs. Sophia is working with the tent vendor, portable bathroom rentals, etc. Frank will also talk with RKE.
- The mayor offered to write a letter from his office to sponsors. He thanked everyone on the board again, and left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT (continued): Phyllis Cortese

- Phyllis went over the list of holds and confirmed shows. She is speaking with some major promoters.
- Phyllis reminded the board of the Department of Transportation sponsorship, which is \$9,500.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tony Vournazos

- Tony reviewed the balance sheet and said we have two months' worth of assets right now to pay bills.
- He said we have to re-evaluate our insurance coverage to save about \$5-6,000.
- Tony reviewed the Friends of the Ives balance sheet and said funds there can cover June and July expenses.
- Phyllis left the room and there was a discussion about Phyllis and Sophia's bonuses and Phyllis' contract. Frank requested that the board hold off on any discussion of bonuses until research is conducted on what the board previously voted on in that regard. Steve added his belief that an old contract was replaced by a newer agreement.

MOTION MADE AND APPROVED: After motion by Frank Herbert, seconded by Gina Marcus, and approved unanimously by the board, the board voted to postpone any discussion of bonuses until research into past voting history is conducted.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: After motion by Frank Herbert, seconded by Gina Marcus, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

- Tony resigned as legal counsel as of May 1, 2015.

MOTION MADE AND APPROVED: After motion by Frank Herbert, seconded by Brett DeWeese, and approved unanimously by the board, Tanya Wulff Truax was named the board's interim treasurer.

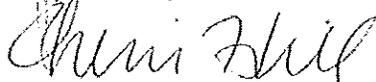
OTHER BUSINESS:

- Steve thanked the board for their time, talent and caretaking of Ives. He also thanked Frank and Tanya for stepping up to fill interim positions. Steve, Tony and Noel all indicated they will be available to assist the board going forward.

After motion by Tony Vournazos, seconded by Sherri Hill, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 20.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Hill, Secretary