

# January 26, 2020 – MusicNL AGM

## Minutes

### Formal Business of Annual Meeting of Members

- Call to order at 2:04pm
  
- 1. Approval of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Members of MusicNL.
  - Motion by Dean Stairs; seconded by Robert Buck. Approved unanimously.
  
- 2. Approval to appoint DMK Chartered Accountants as the auditors of MusicNL and authorize the board of directors to set the remuneration thereof.
  - Motion by Ann Anderson, seconded by David Smallwood. Approved unanimously.
  
- 3. Approve the setting of the board in between the minimum and maximum permitted in the Articles at six directors and elect the following individuals as directors of MusicNL for the forthcoming year.
  - Board slate:
    - Ann Anderson
    - Marlene Cahill
    - Amy House
    - Théa Morash
    - David Smallwood
    - Glen Tilley
  - Motion by Samantha Mills-Wiseman, seconded by Dean Stairs. Approved unanimously.
  
- 4. Receive and consider financial the statements of MusicNL for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019.
  - Doug Kirby of DWK Chartered Accountants presented the financial statements.
  - Marlene Cahill explained MusicNL’s sustainability plan.
  
- Comment from Carol-Ann Fowler (Carolina East)
  - Awards show venue doesn’t make sense – missing out on box office opportunity.
    - Marlene responds: the equipment costs at all other venues would be prohibitive.
    - Carol-Ann responds: I’m sure there are other venue that include the staging, etc. Other ways you could have made money. If you had talked to the

musicians, they could have given you some ideas. There is a divide between the board and the members/musicians.

- Amy responds: we couldn't make a decision that would have put us further in debt. We have been consulting with musicians and industry folks. We aren't musicians but we do have other expertise. We'll be adding musicians to the board, and looking at the operations of the whole organization.
  - Carol-Ann: Award applicants/nominators normally have to pay an amount per award. MusicNL lost an opportunity for revenue by not charging per award – she applied for 5 awards, for example, but paid only one fee.
- Sherri Breen asks that Doug Kirby and Marlene Cahill explain their respective roles, so the members can understand who's responsible for what. Doug explains bookkeeping/audit, and Marlene explains internal budgeting.
  - Question from Dean Stairs: is our budget zero-based going forward? Marlene responds: yes, and actually includes deficit reduction so the plan is to become deficit-free within the next few years.
  - Comment from Tom Alteen: Fundraising could be a big part of deficit-reduction; how about a big fundraising concert this summer, with members donating of their time?
  - Question from Danielle Hamel: Status of the artist development program? Marlene responds: the budget for AD is only \$15 less than last year. So, we kept all funding program budgets basically the same – no cuts. There have been delays, which is unfortunate, but we're doing our best.
  - Comment from Carol-Ann: She had a PD/Export opportunity. She called MusicNL five weeks in advance (November 2019) and was told her application wouldn't go to jury in time to get an answer, so she ended up having to turn down that opportunity.
  - Comment from Peter Daniel Newman: Sherri can't respond to requests as quickly as she needs to, because she's only one person. MusicNL needed more staff and less money spent on conference/awards. We need to modernize our industry, and MusicNL's funding programs. And also, the quality of some past board members was lacking. There were discussions happening on past boards that should not have been happening. There needs to be professionalization.
  - Amy House responds: we've just started having one-on-one meetings with professional musicians and industry people, we're exploring going to ACOA for help with developing a strategy.

- Comment from Rozalind MacPhail: This is difficult, and thank you for trying to help get us out of this. Losing the export program has been devastating. Firstly: you should increase your membership fees immediately – this seems obvious. Also: why has the MusicNL board not reached out to CFM for support and help? CFM board wrote a letter to the MusicNL board and they haven't received anything in return.
  - Comment from Dave Connors: I wholeheartedly trust the current sitting board.
    - Motion: That there be an intention to develop an oversight program, involving direct communication to MusicNL members.
    - Tauna Staniland responds: Dave Connors's motion makes sense – to have a non-board committee of members that can provide regular input (especially as musicians are sometimes hesitant to join the board because it eliminates them from eligibility from grants).
    - Dave Connors would like also to acknowledge that communication did come from the board in the newsletter.
  - Marlene Cahill responds to Rozalind: we're still in crisis management – just barely out of worrying about having to close the doors.
  - Hilda Cousins responds to Dave Connors: It'll only work to have musicians' input if the board is willing to listen.
  - Comment from Tom Alteen: Japanese saying, along the lines of “when the problem is fully understood, the solution is clear.” If you have any travel funding, a few town halls across the province would be well-spent, to get input from a broad cross-section of the membership.
  - Comment from Doug Kirby: The board deserves a hand for their hard work, Marlene and Amy have done magnificent and difficult work.
5. Conclusion of formal AGM: Motion by Ann Anderson. Seconded by Dave Connors.

### **Informal Business of the Annual Meeting of Members**

- Robert Buck: why didn't the province ring the alarm bells before the deficit increased this much? They were aware all the way along and didn't do anything about it?
- Peter Newman: The narrative that previous board members have been inept is not true. There were voices on previous boards that said we can't continue to operate this way,

but that's "how things were done." Important not to make generalizations about past board members.

- Robert Buck: MusicNL is underfunded. We need to strike now and go to government to get an increase. Our tourism relies on musicians and we receive comparatively little funding compared to MIAs in other provinces/jurisdictions.
- Tom Alteen: But, money for what? You need to do some grassroots research!
- Robert Buck: Well, the economic impact study. Although it probably underestimated the economic impact of the music industry in the province.
- Danielle Hamel: Will we get showcase opportunities at our next awards? It's important.
- Amy responds to Danielle: We can't answer that right now.
- Carol-Ann Fowler responds to Amy: The fact that you don't have an answer or a goal for showcasing for next year is horrible.
- Daniel George: We also have to recognize that MusicNL doesn't have an obligation to be the only source for our export/showcasing funding/opportunities. We have to make our own opportunities too.
- Carol-Ann Fowler: rumour that we could have combined with ECMA and only paid for the physical awards. Is this true?
- Dean Stairs: There is a Wednesday night during ECMA, but not at no cost, and not for the awards specifically.
- Samantha Mills-Wiseman: There were professional working musicians on the board, contrary to what some people have said (e.g. Glenn Parady).
  - I've seen Doug Kirby present at many past AGMs. Sometimes staff forgot to print and we didn't get printed statements. Also, it was never presented as being as bad as it clearly is.
  - Also, revenues have gone down from last year, according to these financial statements?
- Marlene responds to Samantha: There were some one-offs from funders last year, including economic impact study, website redesign and mobile app. This is why we had more revenue in the previous year.

- Samantha Mills-Wiseman: This is the most people I've ever seen at an AGM, which is good but where were they before?
- Carol-Ann Fowler: Maybe in the future we could schedule the AGM so that showcasing musicians can attend.
- Neil Conway: We should follow the lead of the successful recent campaign to increase funding to ArtsNL. We have time to prepare a proper campaign, so let's get advocating.
- Josh Keilley: Would like to see increased transparency and access to financial statements, minutes, etc.
- Rachel Cousins: there is a problem with lack of accessibility for youth. Young musicians need to be taken seriously. E.g. after her showcase last year she had to leave the building because she was underage. Networking can't happen. It can be very isolating.
- Dean Stairs: And what about funding for people who are under 18? Currently not eligible. Consider adjusting these guidelines.
- Rozalind MacPhail: once again, go grassroots. Create mentorship opportunities for young musicians.
- Marlene Cahill responds: we did put a small amount of money toward youth-focussed events this past year (e.g. Mr. H presents).
- David Smallwood: Mr. H presents is a great model that should go elsewhere.
- Rozalind MacPhail: have you considered initiating some task forces/working groups that members could take part in? E.g. outreach.
- Carol-Ann Fowler: Want to thank the previous board members and staff for their hard work, Glenda Tulk especially.
- Josh Keilley: Are there any changes to market access?
- Marlene responds: No.
- Peter Daniel Newman: why is there an age restriction for applying for funding?
- Ann Anderson responds: it may be a legal thing, enforced by government.

- Peter Daniel Newman: Maybe the members should decide how the money is spent.
- Neil Conaway: About the youth/older crowd sharing ideas. Yes, but more than ever, it's important to ask kids for \*their\* mentorship. We need to learn from our young people.
- Hilda Cousins: There needs to be more transparency about making grants recipients etc. available.
- Entire board agrees that funding results should be made public.
- Meeting concludes at 3:47 pm.