

Harping for Harmony Foundation Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2015

In attendance: John Lozier, Ruth Heavener, Cindy Lewellen, William Bryan, Domingo Mata and Ana Maria Erazo

Time: 8:05 -9:10pm.

Church of the Brethren, Morgantown WV.

Notes:

John thanked the board members for attending the meeting and welcomed Ana Maria and Domingo. He informed that the agenda was sent earlier by e-mail along with some attachments (Bylaws, Final Report and Minutes) “to current and potential board members and other interested persons.”

Ruth Heavener informed the board members that she no longer wishes to continue as President of the organization and with that John in his capacity as Executive Director took the reins of the meeting. He read the agenda and presented it for discussion

The agenda was approved by the participants and included the following items:

1. Review of bylaws
 2. Review of minutes from previous meeting
 3. Report of the Executive Director
 4. Decide to proceed as board, or otherwise.
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1. John asked if anyone had observations regarding the bylaws and these were unanimously approved.
 2. Previous minutes from April 15, 2013 were approved; these included a financial report by the Executive Director, a review of the mission and the election of the board.
 3. John presented/handed out his financial report as Executive Director (years 2013-2014) The report included the following:
 - A brief introduction regarding the fact that the organization has been relatively inactive in the last two years.
 - A succinct account of the origins of the organization, and how the revenues have dropped in the last five years.
 - Current situation, including a renewed effort focusing in Latin American harp music and the revision of the HHF website and email campaign using mailchimp. He also informed of the 2014 sponsorship of Paraguayan harpist Nicolas Carter and Pedro Gaona; also the sponsorship of Venezuelan Adolfo Cardozo, and
 - The plans to move forward which include three priorities:
 - Environmental education through children’s music in the Spanish speaking world
 - Support for harp students at all ages and skill levels

- Concerts and workshops with Latin American harpists.

The report was approved and suggestions regarding the three priorities included reaching out projects funded by the international cooperation in Latin America to explore the possibility of obtaining aid for environmental education addressed to kids. This effort should take into consideration budget deadlines. Also the possibility of obtaining a grant through home schooled children's parents in Morgantown was introduced. This might include those parents that could be interested in their kids being part of the Almost Heaven Harp Circle, this way kids could have access to musical education which is hard to get, being home schooled.

4. Regarding if the board should continue, board members agreed to continue the activities of the HHF. Board members accepted Ruth resignation as President and asked her to continue as board member, to which she agreed. Ana Maria Erazo and Domingo Mata were accepted as board members. Ana Maria was elected by consensus as Secretary, John Lozier was also by consensus elected as President and William Bryan and Cindy Lewellen were reelected as Treasurer and Vice-president respectively.

Ana Maria offered to start a file to record the attendance of the Almost Heaven Harp Circle, Cindy offered to send the emails of those that have been involved in the circle in the last year as a start. The board agreed to meet again during the fall and was decided that the president will contact the members when necessary. Domingo and John agreed to explore the possibility of responding to a request from WVU for volunteers to make presentations in the international week, where presentations about other countries customs are made at the county schools. John also said he is planning to make contact with people at WVU to see if he could get an intern to help HHF to improve the web page and to make the video about environmental education.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted Ana Maria Erazo

To: Board of Directors, Harping for Harmony Foundation
From: John Lozier, Executive Director
Subject: Situation and Financial Report 2012-2014
Date: 3/18/2015

Introduction

Until recently, Harping for Harmony Foundation had been relatively inactive for two years. This is for discussion regarding renewed efforts and the establishment of an active board of directors. To prepare for discussion, please review material at our website, harpingforharmony.org.

Origins

Since its founding in 1995, the mission of Harping for Harmony Foundation has been my personal mission: harmony and community, locally and globally, through harp music. It has always been my mission to provide financial support to harpists of all skill levels, for appropriate projects. This we have done, but on a very limited scale.

As a registered non-profit, our financial support is a mix of donations, sales and services. Although there were many small donors, the lion's share of revenues were from sales (harps I built) and services (my musical performances). More resources are needed to reach our potential. We need to be more effective at fund-raising.

I had a contract with WV Department of Education for several years, ending in 2011. During that time I received a small salary as Executive Director. From \$14,000 in 2010, our revenues dropped from to just over \$1000 in 2012, and to \$700 in 2013. At the most recent board meeting, in April, 2013, there was some question whether the organization would continue.

Current Situation

Since 2014, I have renewed my efforts, with focus more than ever on Latin American harp music. I have revised the website (harpingforharmony.org) and embarked on email campaigning (with mailchimp). These efforts are promising, but have not been very productive to date.

In 2014, backed by several substantial donations, we sponsored Paraguayan harpists Nicolas Carter (in Morgantown and elsewhere, \$1700); and Pedro Gaona (in Front Royal, VA, \$424); and Adolfo Cardozo, Venezuelan educator (\$1000). We also have sponsored Leah Trent's participation in the Irish Spring festival, each year since 2011 (\$300 each year). In 2013, a year of relative inactivity, spending included \$990 for my own travel to the Southeastern Harp Weekend in Ashville, NC, as well as the \$300 for Irish Spring Festival. In 2012, we donated \$500 to Colombian harpist Hildo Ariel Aguirre Daza, to assist him to travel for events in Mexico City.

Also, in 2014, at personal expense, I spent 6 weeks in Bogota, Colombia, at Hildo Ariel's music school, Academia Llano y Joropo in Bogota. We established an enduring friendship. I also developed relationships with many harpists and other musicians in Colombia.

Plans Going Forward

Three priorities are 1) environmental education through children's music, especially in the Spanish-

speaking world; 2) support for harp students at all ages and skill levels, especially in Latin American styles, techniques and repertoire; and 3) concerts and workshops with authentic Latin American harpists, in the US and elsewhere.

The first priority, environmental education through children's music, is the work of Venezuelan educator Adolfo Cardozo. Examples can be found at our website. I am working on production of audio-visual materials, using his songs with Spanish and English subtitles and a presentation of suitable slides or video clips, for online publication (e. g. Youtube). Adolfo and I are in regular communication by email.

The second priority, support for harp students, has been met thus far at little expense, with regular Almost Heaven Harp Circle and with occasional workshops. Going forward, I foresee a need for scholarship support for promising young students at Academia Llano y Joropo and elsewhere in Latin America. I would connect this with the first priority, training young musicians to provide musical support for environmental education.

My third priority is to provide live concerts and workshops with authentic Latin American harpists, for new audiences and participants everywhere. Also, to educate the public with my own live and multi-media programs. I have offered such a program at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Morgantown, and elsewhere. I have also tested these approaches as a substitute teacher, in Spanish classes at our public schools.

Financial Report, 2012-2014

	revenue	expense	balance
Start 2012			\$1,327.54
2012	\$1,079.58	-\$1,108.50	\$1,298.62
2013	\$700.00	-\$1,290.00	\$708.62
2014	\$4,652.24	-\$4,667.93	\$692.93
2015 to date	\$944.11	-\$416.73	\$1,220.31

An active board of directors is essential to continuing as a nonprofit organization. I am asking friends present or reading this to affirm the mission of Harping for Harmony Foundation, and to accept the responsibilities of board membership.

Thank you. John Lozier