

Greenbelt Community Orchestra

Board Meeting Minutes

January 06, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Present:: Anne Gardner, Susan Stewart, Sarah Wissel, Suzanne Lomax, Matt McLinden

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

1. **How do we think things are going with the 3 conductors? What about sectionals?** A point was raised that the conducting time was not equial for the last concert. This is being addressed for the upcoming concert. However, this is difficult since two of the conductors are not available for a few weeks. The sectionals are a bit tricky for the winds/brass. They are perhaps more useful for the strings.
2. **Relationship with the Concert Band. July co-op roundup/percussion fund. Liaison.** Anne had been hearing grumbling from band members about finding band equipment. She sent an email to the band conductor to clarify the issue. It would be useful to have a liaison with the band. Anne had asked Jon, the timpanist, and will ask him again. It is important to know times when the band has taken equipment off premises as well as when the orchestra can return equipment after concerts so that there are no misunderstandings. The orchestra and band were awarded the COOP round up fund for July. This totals around \$3000 and will be used for the purchase and upkeep of percussion instruments. The MOU was passed along to the band and they are still working on it.
3. **Financial report, Recognition group renewal in Feb, fundraising committee (business sponsorship, Franklins fundraiser, grants)** Sarah reported that we are ahead about \$4000 compared to the Fall. The finances don't seem stable enough to increase the conductors' stipends. However, we will be able to rent/buy music for the May concert. In terms of fundraising, we need to draft a letter to circulate to businesses for sponsorship. Perhaps groups or individuals could sponsor the cost of a music rental and be acknowledged on the program. Also, making businesses aware of specific goals of the orchestra (eg. a pops concert, Women's History Month concert) would help to target specific donors. Other thoughts were to have two performances of a concert as the performances in the gym are standing room only. This might involve a Saturday evening and a Sunday afternoon. It was noted that the Community Foundation has April 15 and October 15 deadlines. Also, the Greenbelt Recognition Group status needs to be renewed and operating grant proposal submitted by February 3.
4. **May concert program?** As there are very few weeks of rehearsal between the March and May concerts, a simple program might be best. Andrew had suggested Coleridge-Taylor's Song of Hiawatha with choir & tenor; however a collaboration with ERHS might be difficult. An American theme had been suggested, but everything is still under copyright. The board is in favor of repeating some things we've done before, e.g. Adoration, a movement of New World Symphony, Veronica's first piece, especially works from the less well attended May concert last year. We could then buy arrangements of pieces by Copland, Gershwin, Mancini, Williams which are about \$100 each. We should circulate some ideas of pieces, perhaps in Google docs. A "pops" concert should be popular with audiences and might be a good idea for a future concert. Anne also mentioned that her brother in law is a professional singer and might be able to come and do a concert.
5. **Election in May.** Elections for the board positions will be held after the May 7 rehearsal. Supporting positions might include: an orchestra manager, publicity chair (Janet has offered to do the programs), fundraising, membership, librarian, liaison with the Concert Band, and social chair.

6. **Summer small ensembles?** As the room is reserved year round, small ensembles could meet during the summer. We will play at the Labor Day Festival photo and art contest, as was done last year. The New Deal would also be an excellent venue, and perhaps a local church.
7. **November concert:** There has been a suggestion to do the Planets for the November concert with NASA imagery and perhaps commentary (from a member of the Chromatics?). The board was in favor of the music; the logistics of the imagery will need to be worked out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Adjourned at 8:23 PM