

2022 Homecoming Planning Meeting

March 7, 2022, 7pm, UM Music Building

The planning meeting started at 7:08PM with John Combs, Kristen Guidoni, Kathy McCaughey, Suzie Flint, Amanda Tish, Steve Armstrong, Kris High, Randy Zschaechner, James Smart, Kevin Griggs, Lilly Olson, and Travis Suzuki in attendance. The minutes from the Executive Board Meeting in February were approved, as well as the Treasurer's Report which only had one change of some late dues.

Old Business:

Randy was asked if he had the music folios, but he does not currently. They are at Hellgate Elementary and will need to be collected. They might be stored at the arts education office. As Randy is going to be in charge of the music folios, Bridget Stepan has accepted the Communications position and was only absent due to her spring concert. Randy has shared the password, login, and all other necessary information with Bridget so that she can get started drumming up interest for the summer. The foundation and donors also want us to share out the alumni band scholarship information so that people can donate.

Steve was asked to take over the fundraising and scholarship organization, and he agreed. The idea was presented to have every check written for homecoming and donations go through the foundation, but specified for a specific item. Amanda, Steve, John, and Kate Sundeen will need to set up a time to meet and discuss ideas. The scholarship currently has \$25,000 and will generate some interest, but on average it takes five years to build up a fund. Our current goal is to raise an additional \$25,000 and get the fund up to \$50,000. The anonymous donors will give and replenish for a couple years, but they will not donate the second \$25,000. This is why the statement for social media is so important. Steve will also write a Band Echoes article for this summer.

This brought up the need for the board to move forward with 501(c)3 status. A lawyer will need to be contacted, but first we need to go through the constitution and bylaws to streamline it, specifically the roles of officers. Kathy and John agreed to meet and discuss ideas. Once that goes through, Amanda will need to file additional tax forms, but is familiar with the process and does not anticipate difficulties.

Finally in Old Business, the Holiday Inn was confirmed for our Homecoming Banquet again. Luckily the relationship there seems very strong, which is encouraging. Our only difficulty will be in getting the marching band to the hotel. We will have to request transportation from the Alumni Office.

New Business:

Homecoming for the 2022 season will be September 23-24 and our theme will be Traditions Old and New. John would like to bring back Hail Copper, and play and sing like we do for Montana. Some topics that might be explored include: old buildings with new updates, old

school songs with new standards, vintage instruments with new additions, and continuing the tradition of giving while exploring new opportunities.

Newsletter articles are due to Suzie by May 15th and have been assigned. John will write the opening welcome, Jim, Kevin, and Rob will write theirs about concert bands, marching band, and jazz bands respectively. Steve has an article about matching donations for the scholarship, Lilly one about the Holiday Inn and encouraging people to come, Amanda will include a bit about the Band of Honor in her financial article, and finally John will write a bit about a very exciting, undisclosed, development, as well as the updated code of ethics.

Later this summer we will again be hosting an Ice Cream Social for the GMB. Camp is August 21-26, and the current plan is to have the social on August 23rd. In addition to organizing for the social, we will need to place an order to restock our clothing items. We may need to run a sale on some discounted items, make the tshirts unisex, and we need to address increasing the prices across the board. Along with increasing clothing prices, it has been agreed to increase dues to \$25. We also need to emphasize that guests attending with a member also need to pay dues to participate. Perhaps reorganizing the registration form will help clarify those points.

In order to remind everyone we are planning on a spectacular Homecoming this year, John will contact those board members who are section leaders, so that they can get in contact with their section lists. We want as many people to participate as possible, especially as we will potentially need a sponsor to get the GMB to the Holiday Inn. Board members also need to be working on donations for the Friday banquet. John has a form for members to use as we pop around businesses.

As for Homecoming weekend, there are a couple of things we can hopefully address. As the Holiday Inn has been updated, we can no longer put pins in the walls, which means we will need a sign. An idea for a sandwich board was presented and Paige O'Neill has agreed to try and put one together for the Alumni Band. We also need to try and encourage more members to attend more Friday activities. The Concert Reading session often has significantly fewer members sign up and participate, so Kathy will write an article to encourage members to join in. The board also needs to consider an event coordinator position to relieve Rob of some responsibility around the BBQ. It might be useful to have as we move forward with events. This concluded the meeting, which was closed at 8:24PM.