

Minutes - SFMA

May 9, 2023

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Mission Statement

The Spring-Ford Music Association, Inc. has been organized for the purpose of promoting and supporting the instrumental and vocal music programs of the Spring-Ford Area School District.

April Meeting Minutes

- A correction had to be made as the word “elections” had to be changed to “nominations” after the minutes were posted on the webpage. Did anyone see the issue or have a comment on the change? Meeting minutes approved

President’s Report:

- Still working with the school district and Dr. Colyer to get a 10x30 or 10x40 shipping container with electricity for storage of band equipment and props. In order to ensure the correct amount of power to run the pit equipment, the school needs to dig the ground and run new electrical. They are still working out the logistics. This container will help so much in the outdoor season. It will help keep the away stands clear and cleaner for concessions. The goal is to still have it completed by the end of the summer. No financials are needed from SFMA, the entire thing will be funded through the school district.
- Tom, the web admin, is stepping down. SFMA is actively looking for someone who is tech savvy and has the time to take over the role. (Tom Speaks) There is little code involved, it is a Wick site with a G-Suite/Google workspace. It is just a couple of hours a month and not super difficult.
- There is a new chairperson stepping up to head the Sponsorship program. Jen Hudgins is going to work on getting sponsorships for the fall. Previously, no one had the time to dedicate to this new way of raising money. Jen will take the next steps to partner with local businesses and hopefully generate funding.
- Mr. Walls is getting set for the new season. SFMA is excited to support him as he learns the ropes of his new role.
- Beckie Landry has formed a committee to work on the search and purchase of a new trailer. The committee consists of: Beckie Landry, John Yonosh, Joe Domin and Lisa Corey.

Directors’ Report

Mrs. Jennings:

- Middle School is having the last concert band rehearsal after school tomorrow
- The Middle School trip is set for Saturday, report time at the school is 5:30am and return should be around 10pm
- Last night, was the 5th grade concert and tomorrow night is the 6th grade concert
- Friday is the High School choral concert
- Next Thursday is a marching band rehearsal for the Royersford Memorial Day Parade
- Incoming 7th grade parent meeting is May 31st from 6-7:30 in the cafetorium, hopefully uniform return will be the same day. Just a reminder that the uniforms are washable.

- 2023/2024 Marching Band commitment form is going out in the next day or two, there should be a nice sized marching band next year.
- Miss Baisch is leaving at the end of the school year, she is getting married and has taken a job at Williamsport Middle School, the search for her replacement begins next week, they received 30 applications and they are interviewing 10 for the first round
- Also losing Dawn Platchek as assistant guard director, have not posted her position yet.

Officers Report

Vice President:

- Thank you all for coming, it's nice to see so many new faces. Later in the meeting I want to talk about a possible amendment to the bylaws.

Treasurer:

- Just wrapping up the indoor season, still looking for a few final receipts and expenses
- The budget is updated and will likely come in under this year, waiting for a few more donations to come in
- The big things are obviously the Dayton trips and fess for indoor, some people still owe and they will be contacted through the directors for payment
- Working on a budget for next year but it should be much of the same, differences that are expected are more truck fees due to fewer home football games. Also less income from concessions for the same reason.

Assistant Treasurer:

- SPA is updated except for the recent flower sale
- As always, if you need to know your student's balance or use any of the funds, just reach out

Secretary:

- At the executive meeting a discussion about planning ahead generated the idea of an SFMA calendar on the SFMA webpage, this would be a place for fundraisers and events. Some people need to plan ahead in order to attend, some of the recent events like trivia night, were not greatly attended.. maybe having yearly events already dated and scheduled will bring up attendance and therefore bring up revenue for the budget. Still in the very initial planning stage. Tom needs to figure out how to build it and post it. Likely a google calendar. (John Yonosh: can the events be downloaded to our personal calendars like the one on the band app.) Yes, that would be the goal.

Committee Reports

Chaperones (read by Secretary):

- Sorry I was not able to attend tonight's meeting, best of luck to all of the candidates running tonight
- A big thank you to all the chaperones who went to Dayton
- Thank you to everyone who helped chaperone during the indoor season
- There is a need for some chaperones for Memorial Day. Please reach out to Sam if you are able to help

Concessions:

- Nothing coming up

- Very happy that the away stands will be cleared out
- A plan to organize the concession items will happen this summer
- Carrie Rutkowski is taking over as lead next season, Colleen Felder is stepping back but will still be involved and supporting Carrie

Fundraising (read by Vice President):

- Flower sale had 41 customers with 162 plants sold, earning SFMA \$700 after expenses
- Trivia night this past Friday, much smaller crowd than in the past, yielded \$894, thinking maybe the month of May is not the best choice for this event, would like to revisit a winter month for the next one, February maybe?
- Would like to start talking about bringing back an old fundraiser, comedy night. Soul Joel's offers fundraisers, their website shows many already listed
- (Gwen MacDonell remember the flower sale pick up is Thursday 5:30-8 and it is a one-time only pick up, there is no way for the flowers to be held)

Raise Right:

- April SPA = \$205.48
- Continue to order physical gift cards on the 1st and 15th of every month to keep shipping costs down

Hospitality:

- Managed 2 meals for percussion in Dayton, went well
- Already looking ahead to the marching band season, meeting with Mr. Walls to plan out when he thinks meals are needed

Membership:

- 7 new families signed up in April, largest enrollment in a long while

Ram Crew:

- Props are finally done (laughter)
- Already looking ahead to marching band season and believe it or not, already talking about indoor
- Anyone interested in driving or helping to build props, please step up, we never have enough help
- Want to start cleaning out the props soon, we still have so many old ones that need to go, it's a good time to sell them for the upcoming outdoor season

Uniforms/Merchandise:

- Nothing much happening with the marching band uniforms, need to have them cleaned after the Memorial Day parade, will need helpers getting them to the dry cleaners, then will need help putting them back in order and hung up
- Not sure what is happening with percussion uniforms, don't know if they are being sold or not
- No more merch sales until the fall
- No band camp survival kit this year
- Still looking for a new supplier, any new ideas for products please let me know

New Business

Bylaws amendment

- Eric Fretz suggested the bylaws be amended to allow for absentee ballot voting for Board Member elections, any amendment to the bylaws needs to be brought to a vote, this is not the time to make a decision but wanted to bring it up to the membership now while the board is still working out the details, issues that need to be overcome:
 - How would the votes be collected and counted? A request for an absentee ballot would have to be emailed to all 3 members of the nomination committee on the same email, they would then validate the membership status by the senders' email address, send a PDF ballot back.
 - When would they be collected? The ballot could then be submitted between 7am and 12pm on election day. Again, emailed to the entire nomination committee
 - One of the biggest issues is the amount of extra work that this would put on the committee.
 - Some members spoke up and said that in order to have a vote, a person should attend a meeting, if not the election meeting, maybe even mandate two meetings a year? Or volunteer twice a year? Something that would verify that the person voting is actually involved and active as a member
 - Another member suggested that maybe the election takes place over multiple days or multiple meetings
 - Former PTA President, Heather Bitzer, stated that the PTA also only offers in person voting
 - A suggestion was brought up to have a group formed to specifically work on this idea so it is not left to only the board, SFMA is not in the business of elections, it is for the students, so a lot of time shouldn't be spent on this – if you are interested in working on this proposal to be presented to the membership for a vote, please see a board member

Memorial Day parade

- High school has a stand still performance at Zion Lutheran Church in Spring City.
 - No chaperones are needed. Would like to bring a couple of parents to help with water.
 - There was a question of whether music stands could be brought over in the trailer, Beckie Landry said no, because the trailer is full. Joe Domin said they could figure out how to move them with the flatbed.

Meet the Instrument Night

- June 1st for incoming 4th graders (current 3rd graders)
 - held at the 7th grade cafetorium
 - students get to try the different instruments and speak with older students to see what might interest them
 - SFMA doesn't do a ton, the instructors will solicit the older students for help
 - SFMA manages the check in process and the food for volunteers
 - Mech will not be sold at this event as it did not sell well in previous years

Old Business

End of Year Banquet

- June 2nd
 - Not catered like previous years, will ask each section to bring a different item ie: choir brings side dishes, color guard brings plates, etc

- Same format as last June, in the high school cafeteria with music and dancing

Elections

Winners:

- President: Lisa Corey for a 2nd term
- Secretary: Gwen MacDonell for a 2nd term
- Assistant Treasurer: Dawn Svendsen for a 2nd term
 - Thank you to the members who accepted nominations and to everyone who participated in the elections process. If you are interested in a board position, May 2024 elections will include the Vice President and Treasurer positions.

Meeting Adjourned