

Arlington Band Boosters
General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 16th, 2024

The General Membership meeting of the Arlington Band Boosters was called to order at 7:09 p.m. on May 16th, 2024 in person at Arlington High School and streamed via Facebook live by Dave Kamen.

Present

Dave Kamen, Matt Somma, Eileen Eckert, Beverly Embry, Alicia Madramo, Eric and Barbara Gillman, Nicole Raskopf, Paula Wrafter Andrea Hagan, Barabara Desilets, Darrell Keech, and Lisa Sassi.

Approval of Minutes

April minutes were distributed and approved during the executive session held on May 2, 2024. Please see notes below as to what was approved and vote on.

Information from Executive Session:

Item #1: A request was made by Darell Keech for practice flags for the guard in the amount of \$500. Money will be used out of the general fund for the purchase.

Item #2: Old uniforms will be used for now. A date has not been established as to when the new ones will arrive.

Darrell Keech has requested funds from ABBI to purchase new plumes. This will replace the ones we colored for the show last year. The amount requested is \$3800. This is for 126 plumes with cases. Funds will be taken from the ABBI uniform account to purchase. At the time there was \$14,000 in the Uniform Fund.

Item #3 There were 2 anonymous donors who donated money toward the purchase of new percussion equipment in the amount of \$15,000. Darrell has asked ABBI to pick up the remaining cost of the new equipment, which is \$4007. We currently have \$5,000 in the Instrument fund. account and this will deplete the instrument fund account.

Side note: new instruments of French Horns are still on back order until winter.

A motion was placed on the floor by Dave Kamen to vote on Items 1-3 for purchase. Lisa Sassi accepted and approved the motion and Beverly Embry seconded the motion. Board members were in favor.

Treasurer Report: (Nicole Raskopf)

Nicole Raskopf presented the March and April Treasurer reports at the Executive Session on May 2, 2023.

Directors Report: (Mr. Darrell Keech)

Darrell Keech spoke about the upcoming Marching Band season. The show will have some local tie ins. The kickoff meeting is on May 19th and the deadline to register for the season will be May 31st. The students are going to attempt to play at the kickoff meeting.

The school is working on refreshing the trophy cases. They are looking into LED lighting.

Bert Cousins suggested there be no separation of practice for the guard during the marching band season. All groups will practice together. Practices will be Tuesday and Thursday. There will be no Wednesday guard practice.

If we are looking to sell any past show items or props, we need to sell now. Everyone is looking now for the upcoming seasons. Please let Darrell Keech know if there is anything we want to sell.

Jazz groups- Rich Guillen was at rehearsal and Evan Rzodkiewicz was off today.

Music in the Parks was a success. The directors have been visiting the middle schools. The jazz night is coming up. There will be a Memorial Day concert coming up and Spring concerts to follow.

Thank you to everyone.

Winter Percussion/Band Hospitality:

Susan Smith's student is graduating, and she needs someone to replace her for Band Hospitality for the Invitational. Eileen Eckert thought Andy McCaffery was taking this over but will reach out to clarify.

Brenda Swatek is taking over as the Winter Percussion liaison.

Uniforms and Chaperones: (Andrea Hagan)

Uniform fittings are on the calendar for Saturday, June 8th. June 10th will be makeup day by appointment only.

Chaperone information will go out in July for interest.

ASOA Liaison (Paula Wrafter)

The orchestra went to Music in the Parks for two different weeks. Auditions are happening now for next year. There is a Google form for Alumni to participate in the Community Day performance. ASOA voted in their board and officers last week.

Props and Pit Crew (Barbara Desilets)

Barbara Desilets reported that the trailers are ready for the upcoming season.

We need to check the batteries at the beginning of the season.

Barbara Desilets asked Darrell Keech if we are reusing the scaffolding from last year? Yes, the question is how damaged it is and can it be repaired. There may be sections that need to be replaced.

Is Pit Crew allowed to put it up or is the district's responsibility? Darrell Will inquire about this.

Vice President Winterguard Liaison: (Eileen Eckert)

Eileen Eckert is working on an informational folder to be handed out at the marching band kickoff meeting. It will include the following: Foam and Wash, Volunteer needs, Adams Gift Card Flyer, Merchandise Flyer, Yearbook Flyer, Who is ABBI flyer.

We need a roster of board members with their personal email addresses.

Kick off meeting ideas:

Dave Kamen listened to a 1-hour podcast about a volunteer corp. There were good tips about being present and personal touch when engaging with members. We should wear name tags with job functions or have signs to grab people's attention.

Darrell Keech: Leadership will be there at 12:30 p.m., they can handout folders?

Another suggestion is to have face-to-face contact with parents and ABBI members.

The tables should all be next to each other. With all committee heads at the table.

Dave Kamen likes the idea of the big signs with jobs and pictures. We should follow up with phone calls within 24 hours of the event.

Tables set up so the parents must walk by all the tables.

Do we have any art easels? Or use a music stand instead.

Andrea Hagan suggested we need to talk to new members and not the old members. We can catch up with others later.

Nicole Raskopf needs two tables for merchandise.

We need two tables for signing up and 6 music stands.

Karen MacNish currently has the ABBI tablecloths.

Dave Kamen will be unable to attend the kickoff because he is moving his daughter out of Fordham to her apartment. Matt Somma will adjust the slide show and will speak on behalf of ABBI. Matt Somma will share information Darrell Keech presentation for Sunday's kickoff.

Merchandise (Nicole Raskopf)

Does anyone want to see any new items this year?

Suggestions from the floor:

- Golf shirt or polo shirt.
- Safari hat like Mr. Keech wears during marching band.
- ABBI polo shirt Possibly have ABBI pay for it?) visual element like the pit crew shirts.

Budget and Finance Committee:

Budget needs to be voted in by July 1st.

Nicole asked Mr. Keech if he had a budget prepared.

Right now, Nicole Raskopf and Eric are on the finance committee. Eric Gillman will reach out to former committee members to meet before the 30th of June.

June meeting official we need to change over signors on the bank account and who the signors will be. President, Vice President and Treasurer are the only signors with a debit card.

We need additional debit cards outside of the Treasurer.

Do we want to have an assistant treasurer? Nicole Raskopf is willing to do and help. We need to see what the terms are for the assistant treasurer in the bylaws. Let the next board decide on the assistant treasurer. ASOA has an assistant treasurer, but the position isn't always filled.

Beverly Embry mentioned that she will be at the kickoff meeting to help recruit for band camp.

Eileen Eckert mentioned she will need to know who is coming so she can make signs for each person.

Jazz Cab: (Karen MacNish)

Could not attend because she is preparing for Jazz Cab.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, 2024, in person at Major Abstract Corporation on Route 55. This is for the board and committee heads only.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Dave Kamen to adjourn the ABBI general meeting was accepted by Andrea Hagan and approved by Beverly Embry. All members were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: Beverly Embry