

WCUW 91.3FM

910 MAIN STREET, WORCESTER MA 01610

Minutes of the October 30th meeting of the WCUW General Membership, 7:00 pm Meeting

Via Zoom and In Person at 910 Main Street

MINUTES

Attending: Uma Ananth, Mark Babson, Greg Check, Gail Hunt, John Solaperto, Scott Hayman, Ed Arndt, Executive Director, Troy Tyree, Ex-Officio

Absent: Nicholas Cozzens,

Guests: 31 General Members attending both in person and on Zoom.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mark Babson

Approval of September 17, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the September Board of Directors Meeting were approved unanimously and without corrections. John Solaperto moved to accept the minutes without corrections and general member, Steven Martin, seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Welcome and report from WCUW Chairperson, Mark Babson

Mark welcomed all in attendance and reported that WCUW has had a good year even in the face of some major challenges, including the need to shut down Front Room concerts and activities while we upgraded our sprinkler system, installed a new fire alarm system, established a new art gallery and completed the Record shop. He reported that we received significant capital gifts but that we still need to improve our fundraising to support annual operating expenses. Our annual operating expense is approximately \$120,000.

Savings/Restricted Account update:

The treasurer, Greg Check, shared that our combined balance in the savings account is \$62,453.22 as of October 29th. Also, WCUW has been awarded an American Recovery Program Grant from the City's Cultural Development Office of \$95,000. The funds have not been received yet, but a contract has been executed. The use of the funds is unrestricted. It was noted that, while annual operating fundraising continues to be a challenge, the Station's financial position is excellent.

The Harold Stevens Gallery Update:

Gail reported that the Harold Stevens Gallery is fully operational. The first show featured Stephen DiRado's photographs of Harold Stevens and friends. Stephen is the Curator of the Gallery. The second show featured Kofi Poku's photographs of prominent Musicians. Don Hartman, the painter, is currently exhibiting his work. The Gallery has been well received. Artists' opening receptions have attracted several hundred attendees. The gallery

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committee continues to work with Stephen to solicit and promote local artists, many of whom would not otherwise be able to show their work in galleries. Maia Simone and Bailey Schierring, two of Stephen DiRado's photography students from Clark University, serve as assistant curators.

Report from Troy Tyree, Executive Director

Troy thanked volunteers, members, and the Board of Directors for making 2024 "the best year ever". He extended a special thanks to the volunteers who are non-programmers that are keeping WCUW clean, LP's priced and equipment working! These volunteers are Marlene Narrow, Joe Ruivo, Donovan Wellington, Lee Griffin, Rudy Cepco, Scott Health, Jonathan J. Babcock.

He also reported that, now that the fire alarm system is installed, activities will resume in the Front Room, including Cinema-Worcester Movies. Five films will be shown in November, starting on November 14th. A schedule can be found on WCUW's website as well as at Cinema-Worcester.com. Troy also reported that April Mae and the June Bugs will play in the Front Room on Sunday, November 17th, at 4:00 pm.

Finally, Troy wanted to extend a special thank you to **Dan Hunt** for his time and talent in creating the **Harold Stevens Gallery**, the **ReBop Record Shop**, and the **Glass "Wall of Fame"**, and announced that the Board of Director would like to give him a gift certificate of \$500.00 to spend on whatever he wishes. Dan was in the room and, while grateful, politely declined the gift! Dan received a rousing round of applause for all his efforts and goodwill!

Board Chairperson, Mark Babson, prior to commencing the Board Member elections, thanked all our Major Donors, Grantors, Individuals, Underwriters, Sponsors and Board Members who stepped down in 2023-24 as follows:

Major Donors, Grantors, Individuals to thank at the WCUW Annual Meeting

Fletcher Foundation

Mass Development -TDI Initiative

Mass Cultural Council

Worcester Arts Council

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

DayMarc Foundation

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City of Worcester, Cultural Development Office

Harold Stevens

Stephen DiRado, Harold Stevens Gallery Curator

Allen Fletcher

Walter Henritze and the Big 91 Alumni

Scott Rossiter

All our donors, general members, and volunteers

Underwriters and Sponsors

Assumption University

RSVP of Family Services of Central Mass

Music Worcester

YMCA of Central Massachusetts

Regional Environmental Council

Casella

Union Music

Knight-Dik Insurance

Board Members who stepped down in 2023-24

Rick Hendra

Mitch Gordon

Brother David Connell

Darren Pinto

Nicholas Cozzens

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Review and Approval of Board Member Candidates as well as those running for re-election. After introductions of each person, the following people were all unanimously approved and welcomed to serve on the 2024-25 Board of Directors.

New Candidates:

Mike Warren

Lee Griffen

Robert (Robin) Scott

Ann Souza

Directors Running for Re-Election:

Uma Ananth

John Solaperto

Directors Continuing:

Scott Hayman

Gail Hunt

Ed Arndt

Mark Babson

Greg Check

With no other business, Mark Babson called to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.