

Minutes

Mosaic Harmony Board Meeting

August 12, 2025

Attending: David North, Jim Price, Barbara Ott, Kurt Jaeger, Hey-Jin Kong, Teri Bertsch, Beverly Cosham, Amy Havaich, Laura Weiss (on zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Hey-Jin Kong moved to approve the minutes from the July 1 board meeting. Barbara Ott seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LAURA WEISS' REVIEW

Having Sue Price and Barbara Ott at the weekly planning meeting with David and Laura has worked out great. Moving forward, Beverly will be taking Barbara's place at these meetings, and they will continue. Meetings are held on Monday at 11:00 am via Zoom.

Hey-Jin had an action item to meet with Amaris Whitaker to talk about continuing work on social media but has not done that yet.

Laura suggested that the choir needs someone to represent us to the public and that that person should be David. David has agreed to take on that role. Laura and the board will work behind the scenes to identify and follow up on opportunities.

Moving into the next year Laura will communicate directly with the board and not go through David for that communication.

We will all try to be more mindful about how we use email. In particular, we will avoid long email threads where everyone is copied. These become very difficult for everyone to follow.

Barbara asked if, in her new role as fundraising chair, she should be coordinating with Jane Cruz on grants. We all agreed that this makes sense.

TREASURERS REPORT

Jim sent out a final approved budget. We finished last season \$6,000 to the better which is good news. In addition, we have already received a \$15,000 donation for next season and our first dues check.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

We have two events in September this year. The first is the IFC Unity walk on September 7. David plans to do the same songs as last year for that performance.

The second performance is the closing act at the Reston Multi-cultural Festival. This will be a 45-minute set and David expects to do 8 songs. These will be a combination of regular standbys and some songs from the spring concert.

David took an action to send out the set lists for these concerts during the next week so they can be posted on the web site and included in reminder notices to the choir.

David announced that our theme for the upcoming season will be centered on encouragement. He is planning to bring back the song "Be Encouraged" for this season and is working on a list of 8 songs to work on during the season.

FIRST REHEARSAL.

The first rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 2. Kurt will send out a reminder in late August and again the day prior to the rehearsal. He will include information about both of the September events in the reminders.

Jim has already created events in Signup Genius for the first two events so these can be posted on the website and included in the reminder emails.

Teresa McConnel is planning to host a mingle at our first rehearsal so everyone can catch up on what is going on in our lives.

Teri Bertsch is planning to launch the new membership drive at our second rehearsal on the 16th. She would like to have some kind of gift or reminder to hand out to any new people who show up. The board discussed some ideas about what that might be. Amy will work with Teri to see if they can put something together.

FALL FROLIC

Laura Romstedt will be travelling in September, but she can host an event at her house in October. The board agreed that holding the fall frolic in October would be just fine.

DO TELL MAMA

We agreed that we wanted to continue the Do Tell Mama event this season, but we will need a new venue since the Ramenofskys are no longer with the choir. Beverly offered that there are two suitable rooms available at the Reston Community Center that she can reserve if we have a date. There is a piano and a kitchen available at the center already. After some discussion we decided on November 15th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. If there is a problem with this, we will try for November 8th as a backup.

OTHER BUSINESS

Amy noted that she will reach out to Teresa McConnell to start coordination on community building events. This will include the mingles and the fall frolic.

Kurt offered to conduct sessions with Amy and Beverly once he returns, to help them understand how to use their google accounts.

OPEN DISCUSSION ON MEMBERSHIP

Hey-Jin requested that we talk about what we as an organization can do to encourage members to join, stay, and participate more fully in the choir.

- Laura Weiss noted that the Spring concert had a big impact on a lot of folks. There are many members of the UUCF choir that have expressed interest in singing with MoHa.
- Amy noted that it was the members themselves that encouraged her to stay. The people were just welcoming and kind during rehearsal. She really likes Laura's warmups and misses them when Laura is not there.
- Laura suggested that if she is not present that maybe Kurt could fill in for her.
- We agreed that we need to always be sure to have cards to hand out at rehearsals and events. Teri says she has these and will make sure that happens.
- Laura suggested looking at the singers.com website. She also talked about research into why people sing. People have different reasons: some want to be with friends, others have a specific purpose in mind. She suggested exploring "Emergent Strategies" by Adrian Marie Brown.
- It was mentioned that simply asking people to participate can go a long way. Maybe this is something the section leaders could do. Amy and Hey-Jin agreed to look into doing a workshop for section leaders to talk about what they can do and how to go about it.

An interesting discussion followed about how everyone learns differently and how people's creative processes are different.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

The next board meeting will be via Zoom on September 9, 2025, at 6:30 pm

ACTION ITEMS

1. Kurt will send reminders for the first rehearsal
2. David will identify the section leaders for the upcoming season
3. Amy and Hey-Jin will work on a section leader workshop
4. Amy and Teri will discuss welcome gifts for new members
5. Teri will bring membership cards to all rehearsals and concerts
6. David will send out set lists for the first two performances.
7. Jim will contact Peggy to post the Signup Genius links on the website.
8. Beverly will see about reserve space for Do Tell Mama at the community center
9. Beverly will begin attending the Monday planning meetings with Laura and David
10. Hey-Jin will contact Amaris about continuing social media outreach
11. Kurt will set up sessions with Amy and Beverly to talk about google accounts.