

Minutes of the Semi-annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 17, 2010
RCMP HQ Meeting Room, 3rd Floor

Meeting Called to Order: 1330 hrs

Wayne reviewed agenda and proposed a change to the order so that 'big ticket' items could be covered before anyone had to leave.

1/ NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PIPE BANDS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

Wayne reviewed the key points from the meeting:

NATIONAL POLICY AND PROGRAM PROCEDURES:

They are now near completion with agreement on many previously contested issues. The core document will include the following points:

- National Vision for the bands
- Composite Band Protocol (how formed, standards, etc)
- Roles & Responsibilities of COs, HQ & Div, to the Bands
- Executive positions of bands, especially P/M & D/M, to report to CO regularly
- Band membership eligibility aligned to new National Entrance Standard
- Working ties between National Council Chair & Corps Sgt. Major and Band Executives & Regional Sgt. Maj. , to be enhanced
- Communication, website – focusing on 'common look and feel' & compliance with national RCMP communications policy
- Revised RCMP Sponsorship Program policy guiding band fundraising
- Solo pipers must be aligned with & answerable to the closest band (was 'convention' previously)
- Fee schedule employed by "H" Division will be referenced in Financial section.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COUNCIL OF PIPE BANDS:

Has been reviewed and revised and now:

- Mandate includes a role in making recommendations to CO NHQ, regarding composite bands, international travel and activities involving inter-divisional co-ordination
- Council to take a role in vetting key band appointments, especially P/M
- Competency profile to guide selection & appointment of P/Ms (to be prepared by Ogilvie/Moug)

NATIONAL STANDARDS:

Entry Standards:

- Fairly generic
- Common baseline for all bands
- Individual bands can institute higher standards
- Moug/Ogilvie to finalize pipe music
- Drum scores for composite band performances will be massed band scores.

Uniform, Dress & Department Standards:

- Document on dress standards has been ratified
- Goal is to ensure all bands wear the same uniform and accoutrements – ‘plug and play’ personnel
- Some changes:
 - Kilt pin style at discretion of band. No kilt pins to be worn for composite band events
 - Single tab, gold garters (flashes) approved
 - Epaulette slides for No. 2 dress to be researched
 - RCMP black leather duty belt to be adopted for all bands
 - Black leather sporran, etched RCMP badge on pouch cover, gilt studs & chain to be adopted for a No. 3 dress
 - Dark blue T-shirt and/or golf shirt will be adopted for relaxed dress. Details pending.
 - RM D/M’s wearing ‘boots & breeches’ no longer an issue. Research to be done to ratify appropriate regalia, appointments, etc.

National Website:

- Prototype band website was showcased
 - Meets government/RCMP ‘look & feel’ requirement
 - Will be generic with common content
 - Serve to connect & navigate public to band sites
 - To be tested in A Division

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Core Funding:

- No move forward with submission to TB
- Likely not to happen in the near future
- Band still to raise own funds

Sponsorship Program:

- Updated
- Guide band fundraising activities
- Band execs to be familiar with policy
- Assistance will be available from Strategic Partnerships and Heritage Branch to interpret and implement
- Muir to be point of contact

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Two presentations were made, one by Supt. Greg PETERS, OIC, of the Strategic Partnerships & Heritage Branch and the other by Corps Sgt. Maj. Gene MAEDA.

Supt. Greg PETERS

- Supt. Peters provided overview of upcoming events which MIGHT involve composite bands.
 - HRH Jubilee celebrations 2012 (possibly Royal Windsor Horse Show Tattoo in support of Musical Ride and/or Jubilee parade in London)
- Indicated an interest in Council generated international composite band opportunities

Sgt. Maj. MAEDA

- Provided an overview of the Warrant Officers program and the role the bands play
- Bands work closely with Sgts. Major to reinforce the importance of national standards for uniform, dress and deportment.
- Bands to set example & lead way for Regular Members

2/ **BAND GOALS & EVENTS FOR 2011 (and beyond)**

General Goal(s):

- Continue to **improve quality of:**
- **Music**
- **Look** (drill, dress & deportment)
 - Personal appearance, posture, appropriate dress
 - Replace worn kit, meet national standard
 - Update dancers' costumes, buy few kilts
- **Show** (concert) offer
 - More concert venues & opportunities for dancers
 - More choreography & variety in music (e.g. small group presentation?)

Events for 2011 (90% certain)

- May 16 - Band & Dancers Concert in – Decision required today - Yea or Nay?
- May 28 – Apple Blossom Parade
- Aug 1 – Natal Day Parade
- Aug 19 – Gold Cup Parade (2nd day concert?)
- Oct 16 – NS Fallen Peace Officers Memorial

Events for 2011 (30 – 90% certain)

- RNSIT (June 18 – July 9)
- FIMMQ (Aug 19 – 26)
- 9/11 10th Anniversary, NYC (Sept 11)
- New Hampshire Highland Games (Sept 17-19) – support to “A” Division
- Problem – composite band activities not likely to include everyone who is interested.
- Need something for everyone!

Issue:

- It is clear that ‘big ticket’ composite band events will not be able to include the large number of players (across the country) who would be interested in participating.
- It is likely that standards applied to potential candidates may restrict the eligibility of the bulk of band members.

This is of great concern to the band executives across the country. They feel some ‘reward’ type event (e.g. trip) should be sought and be available to all levels of membership. However, it is clear too that bands will have to generate their own events of this nature.

Possible Solution:

- Band organize trip to 'to be determined' location
- Venue of opportunity for music and fun, by ourselves or with other RCMP band(s), examples:
 - US National Police Memorial, Washington, DC, May
 - St. Patrick's Day Parade (Montreal, Boston, NYC)
 - UK (Scotland/England/Ireland)
 - Other destination (Europe, USA, down under)

To make this work, band members would need to pitch in to help.

3/ BLUE SKY SESSION

Kevin MacDonald picked up on the theme and summarized the issues before opening the floor to proposals/ideas:

Where would you like to take a trip to (percentages in brackets are estimates)?

- Cruise – St. Lawrence River, trade services for passage, possible shows on shore (50% interested)
- Rose Bowl Parade (January) – Pasadena, CA (25 % interested)
- Scotland (August) – go to World's (75% interested) 1 to 2 weeks.
- Montienack(sp?), France – band/dancer event
- Celfest (Cuba) – April (75% interested)
- Maxville Games – (50% interested)
- Celtic Colours – should try to put in to our regular routine
- Disney World, Orlando –
- Grandfather Mountain Games – October (50% interested)
- Bermuda Tattoo - April (65% interested)
- Newfoundland Trip – Summer (75% interested)
- Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade - March

Kevin then had the group look at events that they could be done in 2011 (less expensive, easier to plan, etc) and had them 'vote' for preference.

- Celfest (Cuba) – April (75% interested)
- Maxville Games – (50% interested)
- Grandfather Mountain Games – October (50% interested)
- Bermuda Tattoo - April (65% interested)
- Newfoundland Trip – Summer (75% interested)
- Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade

- Newfoundland won over Boston
- Cuba won over Newfoundland
- Cuba won over Maxville
- Cuba won over Bermuda

Kevin then asked personnel to volunteer to take on doing some preliminary research and to bring an information package back to the executive.

- Cuba – Alexandra
- Newfoundland – Yvonne
- Jack/Angela – Boston
- Bermuda – Donald

The same exercise took place for events in 2012

- Scotland (August) – go to World's (75% interested) 1 to 2 weeks.
- Montienack(sp?), France – band/dancer event

With the vote:

- Scotland over South of France
- Jack Graham volunteered to look into a trip to Scotland.

Kevin then did a round of questioning trying to determine the numbers of bodies interested in funding for the trips was to:

- Come from their own pockets
- Come from band funds
- Come from a mixture of the two
- Come from a sponsor

It was overwhelmingly clear that the members would like as little of the cost (apart from personal expenses) to come from their own pockets as possible. This led to a round of discussion on fundraising as well as estimating who would be willing to help with fundraising and how many would be willing to help with organizing the event..

FUNDRAISING IDEAS:

- Play at Canada Games 2011
- Celtic Colours (?)
- Sell CDs
- Barter performance for support (performance area).
- Quiz Nights
- Band concerts in communities around province
- Auction

WHO WILL DO FUNDRAISING: 90% will to do this

ORGANIZE: 50% willing to help with this.

NOTE: *There was a concern about confirming the 2012 trip as soon as possible. Several members are interested in going with an Ontario based band to Scotland but would prefer to travel with our band. They need to know by January 1, 2010 as they have to put money down for the other trip at that time.*

*Those gathering information on the various potential trip locales are reminded that preliminary information needs to be in to the Executive by **November 1!***

4/ FINANCIAL STATUS OF BAND

Mac reported on the bands finances as of this month. The band has no debt, a healthy bank account (bearing in mind the yearly uniform replacement, etc has not taken place).

Wayne noted that the healthy financial picture was largely due to the cruise ship income and thanked the group of people who were continually appearing at those events.

5/ QUARTMASTER REPORT

Jim Gillis did a brief report on the state of equipment and the plan to upgrade and bring ourselves in line with the new national standards.

6/ NOMINATIONS FOR AGM (March 2011)

Denis Stairs did a brief presentation on the work he will be undertaking to seek nominations for the upcoming AGM as a number of positions are nearing their end of term. He also indicated there was the possibility of taking on specific tasks without having to take on an Executive position.

7/ DISCUSSION

Two topics were brought forward for discussion.

1. Monthly weekend band practices over the winter. A number of individuals have indicated that Saturday would work better for them than Sunday. From a show of hands it was determined that we would try Saturdays this winter, with the first practice being Saturday, November 20, 2010, from 10 to 4. Location TBA.
2. Band Concert, yes or no. Consensus was we do the concert. It will be scheduled for the weekend of May 14/15 (Saturday night or Sunday afternoon). Details to follow.

8/ Q&As

A number of questions were posed from the floor.