

## COMMUNITY PLAYERS

### BOARD MINUTES

JULY 1, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Benchoff, presiding, M. Dasher, K. Nagel, R. Mumford, C. Linton, D. Mullins, P. Cuesta, M. Hatfield, N. Drehmer, S. Thompson, D. Allen, S. Barnes, B. Calloway, K. Johnson, T. Robinson (via Zoom)

MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Broadbent, K. Adkins, C. Dasher, B. Ilczuk, A. Northam, M. Bogdan. Attending via Zoom: T. Welsh, L. Bratten, J. Gietka

Meeting was called to order by President Benchoff.

Minutes of the June membership meeting were approved (Motion, Linton, second Mumford)

Treasurer's report was accepted. Note was made that we have refunded only \$392 in ticket returns for our two cancelled shows. Another \$45 in refunds have been requested but not processed yet. Return of royalty fees for Kiss Me Kate has been requested and is expected within several weeks. It is noted that we have received a \$200 donation from the zoo docents in recognition of our support for the zoo.

President's report: Sharon noted that our two planning sub-committees had come up with several good ideas for keeping us in action and in the public eye during the coronavirus crisis. Those ideas are on the agenda for discussion.

Sharon noted that we have been trying to be more diverse in all activities and proposed a diversity statement to be on our website and on important documents such as audition notices. Statement was approved. (Motion, Nagel, second, Calloway)

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Facility: Ken reports that the warehouse is in great shape. He and a few others, including Kate Adkins and Sammy Barnes have been working on cleaning it up and organizing, while not building any sets. It looks terrific.

Newsletter was mailed today. Rusty asks that material be submitted to him by the fifteenth of the month to be included in the next newsletter.

Publicity: We are looking for a new chairperson for this committee

Scholarship: We received a nice thank you note from recipient Alana Troxell

Patrons: We will keep the same donation levels as last year. Kel will get a letter out to patrons when solid information is available.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Membership committee moved that dues for the next year be \$10 for students, \$25 for individuals, and \$50 for families. It is an increase, but we have restored free attendance at dress rehearsals for

members. There was considerable discussion. After passage of a question call (motion, Mullins, second, Robinson), the dues structure was passed.

Website: Shelbie is working on design we received from Caroline O'Hare. Full implementation would be expensive. Shelbie is now working with Tom Welsh on making the changes to our current website, which will not incur costs. We still will have no way to pay dues or accept donations on the website.

Grants: Rusty has submitted an application to SWAC for a grant.

## NEW BUSINESS

The board had appointed two sub-committees of the planning committee to look into what we can do in the 2020-21 season in view of the continuing pandemic. One was to look for ways to get the planned season on stage if possible, the second was to look at alternative activities. In terms of looking for venues, their functions overlapped. Both groups met, and their minutes will be attached to the minutes of this July meeting.

Many ideas were discussed and further brainstormed. At this point it is unlikely that Wicomico High School will be available to us in the fall. Consideration is given to looking at other venues such as the civic center or some civic organizations like the Elks, etc., who might have suitable space. Outdoor venues can also be considered, including the possibility of doing shows in the space adjacent to the warehouse at our Nutters facility. Tom Robinson is looking into the possibilities of both outside and inside performances at Nutters. We might be able to do outdoor shows with audience members remaining in their cars, and broadcasting the audio on low range FM radio, as is being done at several area churches. Using the downtown amphitheater was also discussed. Transporting set pieces, technical equipment, etc. would be problematic, as would be security for any items left at the site for repeat performances.

The alternate activities committee suggested the possibility of doing readers theater or audience participation murder mysteries. Matt Bogdan suggested such things as trivia nights, Family Feud nights or talent contests.

The entire planning committee will meet to further discuss these issues and make recommendations to the board.

Tom Robinson gave a preliminary report as to what we would need to do to be able to do shows at Nutters. Probably we would not need to have sprinklers unless we had a capacity of three hundred. Parking requirements would be one space for every three chairs. Fifteen paved handicapped spots would be required. Seats would need to be interlocked, at least with zip ties. Emergency exits would need to be upgraded. Tom was authorized to spend up to \$500 for architect's fees to develop preliminary plans which could be submitted to the Zoning Board. (Motion, Robinson, second, Mumford)

President Benchoff asked M. Dasher to continue to follow closely any state or local restrictions on gatherings and performances, whether they are getting more strict or being relaxed, and keeping the board informed.

An audience survey will be sent out on Survey Monkey to ask our audiences what they feel safe doing and what type of alternate activities they would choose to support.

Question was brought up a to whether we should have our August meeting in person with social distancing and masks, or remote via Zoom. Consensus was that we should meet in person combined with a Zoom set up for those who might need it. The Wi-Fi during this meeting was unreliable, causing the remote participants to miss parts of it. David Allen was authorized to spend up to \$500 to upgrade the Wi-Fi in the rehearsal space. (Motion Mumford, second, Dasher)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Kel Nagel, Recording Secretary