

Meeting – June 28, 2020 1:07 PM

PRESENT: Jonathan Cron, Gabrielle Dion, Susanne Ford-Croghan, Derrick Hopkins, Linda Murphy, Michael Rafferty, Amanda Rondeau, Andrew Russell, Abigail Seymour, Eileen Wrisley

ABSENT – Nora Mockus

Minutes from Last Meeting – Motion to approve minutes – Abigail Seymour, Susanne Ford-Croghan, seconds, it was unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020 Season

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the season has been postponed/cancelled. We were two weeks away from performing [*title of show*] at the Plattsburgh city Hall Rotunda. The performances were rescheduled until October 2020, but the City cancelled all events in the Rotunda indefinitely. All of the people involved with the benefits have expressed a desire to return when permissible. Derrick recommended that all musicals and plays be cancelled. Casting was not announced for *The Addams Family*. However, *Frozen, Jr.* casting was completed. The directing team recommends moving forward with a different how as Adirondack Regional Theatre plans to present *Frozen, Jr.* during their 2021 season. *Escanaba in da Moonlight* as a project was beloved by Sandra Stortz, but upon further review of the play, it is recommended that this play not be presented since there are controversial content issues at the end of the play that might not be suited for this time in our country's history.

Vacancies

With Sandra Stortz's departure, we have some vacancies such as Board member, Vice President and Chairman of the Play Selection Committee.

Since Sandra's resignation, Linda Murphy has taken on the responsibility of the Play Selection Chairperson. It is a thankless job of reading and research, which she enjoys. As a chairperson, she has been making recommendations and reading others that have been recommended. Her report will give a full description of the work completed by Linda and Derrick. At the time of our closure, we had two interested candidates for the Board: Linda and Nora. As the Board, we will need to discuss each candidate and appoint someone to the Board. Selecting a Vice-President needs to be completed as well. The roles of Play Selection and Vice-President spend a lot of time talking to Derrick about the direction of the company and the shows we present. Both

can be filled by one person or split. It is recommended that we split the position to prevent burnout. We may also need to get a new associate.

Summer Concert and Play

-There is considerable interest in presenting a socially distanced concert and play in an alternate venue from the City of Plattsburgh Drive-In stage. We could do a concert where it would be a smaller version of the July benefit than previously planned. It would be two acts with a run time of 90 minutes featuring a small combo and 8-10 singers. For a play, we have interest, it's just about finding a venue. The Plattsburgh Venue is not great. Derrick thought about the Elks Club because of the Pavilion or the Pavilion at JC Park. Highlands Vineyard would be another possible venue due to the views.

Fundraising

We received funds from Stewart's. Derrick spoke with a representative from their office as the money was designated for a show. Even though the performances were cancelled, we were encouraged to "cash the check" and "take the money". We've received some online funds from Facebook birthdays and the Beth and Chad concert. The question to ponder is whether we should do another mailing asking for donations.

Plattsburgh City Concert Series

Derrick was approached by Benjamin Pomerance about a concert series that he was organizing. There have been some issues, mostly is the negative pushback from our involvement as a non-city group and Derrick had to speak to The Strand Center for the Arts to discuss their concerns. The Plattsburgh Concert Series would be more for big bands and less for intimate night for theatre music for a bunch of cars who are 500 yards away. Highlands Vineyard could be closed, but we're not sure. Amanda Rondeau is going to call Lindsay.

New Space

Derrick looked at the old TD Bank, NA building in Keeseville with Andrew Prescott as a possible home base for ACT, but it is not a good place for us. Nothing has panned out yet.

Policies

Derrick postured a question as to whether we should create a committee to tackle some policies or would the Board like him to write them and we can discuss them at our next meeting. Do we want a committee and post our auditions policies and procedures and directors' participation in shows to the group? It was discussed that Gabrielle Dion, Michael Rafferty, Linda Murphy, Susanne Ford-Croghan, and Derrick Hopkins will be in the committee.

The Operating Budget

There is no need to revisit the budget to revise it for all of the benefits.

Reporting

In order to expedite meetings, it is suggested that all members of the Board who submit reports, agenda items, and any pertinent information at least one week before the Board meeting. Reporting in advance should cut out time used for reading minutes, reports and other paperwork. As an example, school boards discuss some items, but it is more business resolutions and personnel issues.

2021 Season

How to do we do grant writing? Do we postpone? Linda suggested still applying for the grants as things will probably be open by next Spring. Derrick also questioned if there should be themed seasons or if we should just pick shows and then choose a theme based on those plays/musicals. It was also presented as to whether we should be looking at creating or utilizing an outdoor venue for 2021 and if our season should only be in the summer since an outdoor theatre doesn't really work from October to April.

The first venue would really big our guinea pig for the spring. We'd have to figure out when to start the show and see what the governor will do as we go into the next year.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have a nice balance on the checking account. Donations are coming in. We currently have \$8,269.38 as of June 24, 2020.

PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

We are looking for shorter (1 to 2 acts) plays we can use outdoor spaces, so the minimal set, the better. For a list of potential plays are the following:

1. *The Outgoing Tide* by Bruce Graham;
2. *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe DiPietro;
3. *The Last Romance* by Joe DiPietro;
4. *Doubt, a Parable* by John Patrick Shanley;
5. *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay-Abaire;
6. *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* by Alan Ball;
7. *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang;
8. *Master Class* by Terrence McNally; and
9. *Seminar* (Playwright?)

For musicals, we were looking for small pit and Jr. shows where there is less orchestra. It was best that we not do *Frozen, Jr.* due to the fact that ART is doing it for next year. There are a lot of Junior shows that might not be coming out due to COVID19, so we may have some ideas later on such as *Finding Nemo Jr.*, *Newsies, Jr.*, or *Matilda, Jr.*

Some of the potential musicals we could produce are as follows:

1. Always Patsy Cline;
2. Bright Star;
3. Bridges of Madison County;
4. Light in the Piazza;
5. My Fair Lady;
6. Oklahoma;
7. Cinderella (a Junior show); and
8. The Addams Family.

Amanda Rondeau made a motion to accept the reports. Michael Rafferty seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Promissory Note

Andrew Russell made a motion to have ACT pay the full amount of the Promissory Note to Derrick Hopkins now that the Company has enough money. Susanne Ford-Croghan seconded it and it was approved with Derrick Hopkins abstaining.

PERSONNEL

Michael Rafferty made a motion to accept Sandra Stortz's resignation from the Board. Andrew Russell seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Linda Murphy to Play Selection Chairperson

Abigail Seymour made a motion appointing Linda Murphy to the Chairperson of the Play Selection Committee. Gabrielle Dion seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Postponement of [title of show] to 2021 and all of the benefits

Amanda Rondeau made a motion postponing [title of show] and all benefit shows to a later date. Andrew Russell seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Cancellation of *The Addams Family*, *Frozen, Jr.*, and *Escañaba in da Moonlight*

Abigail Seymour made a motion to cancel *The Addams Family*, *Frozen, Jr.* and *Escañaba in da Moonlight*. Eileen Wrisley seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Plattsburgh City Concert Series Commitment

Derrick volunteered and has 5 others; directing traffic, selling concessions, and parking cars. Derrick's point will be having box office in the front, he's directing cars and trucks, and there would be 3 people setting up parking. Michael Rafferty moved to commit ourselves for the first two Saturdays – July 4th and July 11th. Gabrielle Dion seconded it and it was unanimously approved. We were told that we can make money off of concessions as the box office goes to the artists. We can sell bottles of water.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Amanda Rondeau motioned to move the Board to an executive session. Susanne Ford-Croghan seconded it and it was unanimously approved. Abigail Seymour moved to take the Board out of executive session. Michael Rafferty seconded it.

APPOINTMENTS

Board Member

Amanda Rondeau moved to accept Linda Murphy as a Board Member. It was seconded by Susanne Ford-Croghan, and it was unanimously approved.

Vice-President

Linda Murphy moved to accept Michael Rafferty as the Vice-President. Gabrielle Dion seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting Date – July 26, 2020 at 1PM at the Town of AuSable Building (later on was cancelled)

Andrew Russell moved to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Linda Murphy. It was unanimously approved. End of meeting at 2:30 PM