



## VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

### MINUTES

September 19, 2013

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, September 19, 2013, at 12:10 pm, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon.

**PRESENT:** Rob Haynes, Chair  
Susan Adams  
Michael Noon  
Wendy Soobis  
Karole Sutherland, Vice-Chair  
Karen Wilson  
Iris Woo

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Elizabeth Ball  
Todd Ayotte, Interim Director, Civic Theatres  
Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services  
Sharman King, Member, Arts and Culture Policy Council

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Charlene Imai, Meeting Coordinator

#### Acknowledgement

Rob Haynes, Chair, acknowledged the presence of Sharman King, a member of the Arts and Culture Policy Council, who was present to observe the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting in order to understand the role and work of the Board.

#### Leaves of Absence Requests

MOVED by Iris Woo  
SECONDED by Wendy Soobis

THAT Susan Adams and Karole Sutherland be granted leaves of absence for the October 17, 2013, meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Iris Woo

SECONDED by Michael Noon

THAT the Minutes of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting held on July 18, 2013, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 1. Chair's Comments

Rob Haynes, Chair, provided the following comments:

- As per the July 18<sup>th</sup> minutes regarding financial update, staff will be providing an updated projection to year end. Todd Ayotte, Interim Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, agreed to circulate the information to Board members at the end of next week.
- The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra will be hosting its opening gala next weekend and they have agreed to include as part of the event, the induction of Bramwell Tovey and the VSO into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame.
- One of the responsibilities of a Board member is to attend every show possible - not just the ones a member may like - and provide feedback on the show they attended. As an example, Mr. Haynes advised he recently attended "The Weeknd" concert at the Orpheum. High intoxication (drugs and alcohol) and bad behaviour from audience members was clearly visible. Mr. Ayotte advised that following a debrief with staff, he will provide a summary to the Board.

## 2. Director's Report

Todd Ayotte, Interim Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, provided the following updates:

- Catwalk renovation at the Orpheum was completed in August;
- Re-roofing above the Media Club and restaurant will be completed by the end of the month;
- Lifecycle replacement of bar equipment is out to tender;
- Mr. Ayotte met with City Streets staff and BC Hydro representatives regarding the street repairs planned for Cambie Street. He noted that BC Hydro will start their work in October and the City work will commence in January 2014, to be completed in the spring.

Mr. Ayotte referred to the recent issue, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Best of Vancouver Georgia Strait newspaper, wherein the Queen Elizabeth Theatre was awarded number one for Live Performing Arts Venue, with the Orpheum coming in second.

Concern from the Board was expressed regarding people sleeping outside the Orpheum. Staff has acted accordingly and has increased professional security monitoring of the Granville entrance.

*In order to accommodate the guests who had arrived at the meeting, it was agreed to vary the order of the agenda to deal with Item 5 next.*

#### 5. Resident Companies - Guest: Vancouver Chamber Choir

Mr. Haynes introduced and welcomed Jon Washburn, Artistic and Executive Director, and Steven Belanger, General Manager, Vancouver Chamber Choir, to the meeting.

Steven Belanger provided an overview of the Vancouver Chamber Choir, including their legal mandate, artistic mission statement, history and contributions to the choral art with regional, national and international contexts.

Jon Washburn also presented to the Board and highlights of his presentation included:

- VCC's first Orpheum performance was in 1976 and they continue to perform in the Orpheum two to three times a year;
- VCC is considered a mainstream organization, made possible only because of the City grant they receive;
- VCC will now rotate their Messiah performances every two years with the Vancouver Bach Choir - Cantata Singers have dropped out of the rotation;
- Excellent relationships with the back-stage crews and Front of House staff;
- Thankful and appreciative of Civic Theatres staff - good relationship, accommodating.

Mr. Ayotte and Board members addressed the issues presented by Mr. Washburn.

Mr. Haynes noted Mr. Washburn was inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame the last time around.

Mr. Haynes then thanked Messrs. Belanger and Washburn for their presentation and they left the meeting.

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*The Board took a brief recess at 1:06 pm and reconvened at 1:08 pm.*

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### 3. Business Plan Update

Karole Sutherland advised the Vancouver Civic Theatres Business Plan is expected to be considered by Council in November.

Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services, reviewed the next steps in the process before the Business Plan is approved by Council.

Board members emphasized the need for them to review any presentation/report, to provide input, before it is submitted to the stakeholders for approval. Mr. Newirth agreed to do so.

### 4. Governance Discussion and Review

Rob Haynes advised that Board members had met over the summer to provide input for the creation of a document regarding the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board, entitled "Meaningful Governance". The creation of this document was requested by the City's Brenda Prosken, General Manager, Community Services.

Mr. Haynes noted he will be meeting with Ms. Prosken and Mr. Newirth shortly to review the Board's document.

### 6. New Business

Karen Wilson informed the Board of the Vancouver Opera's open house on Sunday, September 29, 2013, from noon to 4 pm, at 1945 McLean Street (3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and McLean Street).

### 7. Adjournment

MOVED by Karole Sutherland  
SECONDED by Wendy Soobis

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Next Meeting

DATE: Thursday, October 17, 2013  
TIME: 12:00 noon  
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon

The Committee adjourned at 1:30 pm.

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