



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES

MAY 22, 2014

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 12:02pm, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon.

PRESENT: Rob Haynes, Chair
Susan Adams
Sarah Kim
Michael Noon
Wendy Soobis
Karole Sutherland, Vice-Chair
Karen Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Charlene Imai, Meeting Coordinator

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Susan Adams
SECONDED by Karen Wilson

THAT the Minutes of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting held on April 24, 2014, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Chair's Comments

Rob Haynes, Chair, commented on the following:

- Mr. Haynes met with Councillor Deal, Council Liaison to the Arts and Culture Policy Council (ACPC), to clarify the role of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board and how the Board advises Council.
- Mr. Haynes and Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services, met with Marcus Youssef, Chair of the ACPC, regarding the relationship between the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board and the ACPC, noting that any of the Board members could attend an ACPC meeting - there are no Board members assigned to ACPC. Mr. Haynes suggested the Board make a presentation to ACPC in order that the ACPC fully understands the role of the VCTB and what it does.
- TicketLeader - Board members and users have expressed concerns. Mr. Haynes noted City staff will be having a meeting with long-time users of the civic theatres to obtain their input and feedback. It was suggested the Board step back and wait until the meeting with users has taken place. It was reiterated that the Board's role is to advise Council.

2. Director's Report

In the absence of Todd Ayotte, Interim Director, Civic Theatres, this item was postponed to the next meeting. A written report was not provided.

3. Resident Companies Report

Karen Wilson provided the following comments:

- Package of brochures for upcoming events being held at the Civic Theatres will be distributed at the next Board meeting;
- Concerns expressed by users re Playhouse booking confirmation timeline; it was suggested these concerns and other operational issues be addressed by the new Director after her arrival in June;
- The performances of Don Carlo in the QET were fabulous and this was echoed by other Board members.

It was suggested Friends of Chamber Music, as well as other licensees, be invited to present to the Board an update on their activities, if they wish.

4. Marketing Update

Wendy Soobis advised she and Todd Ayotte will be meeting with Georgia Straight staff in early June to discuss the update to the civic theatres advertising layout and design.

5. Discussion re New Director

Susan Adams, together with Rob Haynes, led the group in a discussion on how the Board can contribute to make it easier for Sandra Gajic to transition into her new role as Director of Vancouver Civic Theatres.

Ms. Adams cited Section 3 of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board By-law - the jurisdiction and function of the Board.

During discussion, Board members provided comments, highlighted as follows:

- Changes to budget system so that staff can provide more accurate reporting;
- Review concessions in all civic theatre facilities - more user-friendly, more profitable;
- What is the new Director's mandate - what kind of contributions can the Board make?
- Marketing;
- Presentation to the Board by the new Director;
- Express to new Director the Board's support for more money to be spent on marketing;
- Delay the proposed welcome reception;
- New Director's interest in participating in a Board retreat;
- The importance of discussing the contents of the Business Review with the new Director.

Board members discussed ideas on how to honour Todd Ayotte for his contribution and leadership during his tenure as Interim Director.

Councillor Ball commended Board members for their contributions to the arts community.

6. New Business

Discussion continued regarding Board members' TicketLeader concerns. Rob Haynes will reiterate to Brenda Prosen, General Manager, Community Services, that when she meets with the users, that she acknowledges to them that the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board did give its concerns and advice to City staff.

There were enquiries about the status of changing the name of the Annex, as well as status of the Annex exterior. The Board postponed discussion of the Annex exterior to the next meeting.

Adjournment

MOVED by Susan Adams
SECONDED by Karole Sutherland

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting

DATE: Thursday, June 19, 2014
TIME: 12:00 noon
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon

The Board adjourned at 1:25 pm.

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