



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES

JUNE 18, 2015

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at 12:02 pm, in the Playhouse Recital Hall.

PRESENT: Rob Haynes, Chair
Susan Adams, Deputy Chair*
Christopher Ball
James Brown
Sabrina Cordeiro
Colin Doylend*
Wendy Soobis

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Council Liaison
Sandra Elliot, Audience Services Manager
Peter Kendall, Booking & Sales Manager
Guy Leroux, Project Manager - Financial Shared Services
Miles Muir, Technical Director

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Charlene Imai, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence during a portion of the meeting.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Susan Adams
SECONDED by Wendy Soobis

THAT Christopher Ball be granted Leave of Absence for the meeting on July 16, 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Colin Doylend absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Christopher Ball
SECONDED by Sabrina Cordeiro

THAT the Minutes of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting held on May 21, 2015, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Colin Doylend absent for the vote)

1. Comments from the Chair

Rob Haynes, Chair, provided the following comments:

- Attended the Vancouver Opera Press Conference where it was announced the company will transition to an annual festival model in Spring 2017. Three major opera productions will be presented during the festival, as well as additional events, at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse Theatre and its plaza spaces. It was also indicated the O'Brian Centre will be opened up for use by other organizations. Board members expressed their support for the Vancouver Opera but wanted to ensure staff were doing everything possible to address any concerns by other arts organizations that might be affected by the VOA's decision.
- Sean Bickerton, Executive Director, Vancouver Recital Society, has left the company.

2. Board Roundtable Discussion

Board members commented on their recent experiences at the Theatres, including:

- Pictures being taken although signs are posted at the artist's request advising patrons not to do so;
- Use social media (e.g., Twitter) to market the Civic Theatres and what they have to offer, such as competitive concession prices on bar items;
- Corporate event;
- Uniforms worn by Theatres front-line staff. It was pointed out that bar staff will be moving to more appropriate black and white attire in the future.

Staff responded to questions and addressed concerns.

Colin Doylend arrived at 12:20 pm, during discussion of Item 2.

3. PACStats (Performing Arts Centres Stats) Meeting Report

Guy Leroux, Project Manager - Financial Shared Services, reported on his recent attendance at a conference in Austin, Texas, where CEOs, CFOs and other executives meet annually to discuss PACStats trends and data, as well as exchange ideas and experiences.

Mr. Leroux then responded to questions.

4. Director's Report

Guy Leroux, Project Manager - Financial Shared Services, referred to the Director's Report, highlighting the following:

- Revitalization of Vancouver Civic Theatres
- Financial Report for May 2015
- IT - WiFi coverage for QET and Playhouse back of house completed; training for all staff on new booking system scheduled for July and August
- Facilities - LED lighting demonstration completed and into acquisition stage.

Staff responded to questions, including lighting in the civic theatres, potential booking conflicts, and Lion King ticket sales.

5. Business Review Strategic Goal #5

Rob Haynes, Chair, reviewed the background on the four goals contained in the Business Review, and how they came about.

James Brown, together with Susan Adams, worked on a fifth goal, which was suggested at the last Board meeting - to deal with aging civic theatre facilities. Mr. Brown introduced, for Board discussion, Goal #5 and its priority actions - Vancouver Civic Theatres to provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet emerging trends.

Discussion ensued on the City's capital projects process, strategy around requesting funding from senior levels of government, and what actions need to be taken right away re Goal #5.

6. New Business

- Wendy Soobis reported on her attendance at the Arts and Culture Policy Council meeting on June 16, 2015, including the grant application process, the establishment of possible ACPC sub-committees. The minutes of ACPC, work in progress, will be available for viewing under the Meetings tab at: <http://vancouver.ca/your-government/arts-and-culture-policy-council.aspx>

Susan Adams left the meeting at 1:13 pm, and did not return.

- It was again noted the Board accepts the Vancouver Opera's decision to change its performance presentation model, as well as ensuring other VCT users are also supported.
- Guy Leroux responded to questions regarding VCT rental rates.
- It was suggested that Council be invited to hold a "ceremonial" Council meeting at one of the civic theatres, to appreciate the theatre experience.

Adjournment

MOVED by Colin Doylend
SECONDED by Christopher Ball

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Susan Adams absent for the vote)

Next Meeting

DATE: Thursday, July 16, 2015
TIME: 12:00 noon
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon

The Board adjourned at 1:27 pm.

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