



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 12:02 pm, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon, 630 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, BC.

PRESENT: Wendy Soobis, Vice-Chair
Sue Adams
Diane Brown
Ann-Marie Copping
Anna Hagan
Donna Wong-Juliani

ABSENT: Christopher Ball (Leave of Absence)
Adrian Fischer (Leave of Absence)
Rob Haynes, Chair (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Dominato, Council Liaison
Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres
Guy Leroux, Associate Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Vice-Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

VARY AGENDA

MOVED by Anna Hagan
SECONDED by Diane Brown

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board vary the agenda to meet In Camera today as the first order of business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

IN CAMERA

MOVED by Donna Wong-Juliani
SECONDED by Sue Adams

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board will go into a meeting today which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

(j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [*disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party*] of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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The Board recessed at 12:04 pm and reconvened at 12:17 pm.

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Leave of Absence Requests

None

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Donna Wong-Juliani

SECONDED by Diane Brown

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board approve the Minutes from the meeting of October 17, 2019, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Chair's Comments

The Vice-Chair commented on the following:

- congratulated VCT staff on the success of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre's 60th Anniversary celebration "Mid-Century Madness";
- congratulated the Director of VCT on appointment to the *Board for the Canadian Arts Presenting Association*;
- provided an update on the timeline for appointments to the VCT Board, noting Council will be meeting on December 10, 2019;
- reminded the Board of the December 12, 2019, meeting; and
- announced that Rob Haynes' term is ending and that they have not reapplied to the Board. In recognition of Rob's many contributions and significant knowledge of VCT, Wendy sought feedback on inviting Rob to continue serving as 'Member Emeritus'. Wendy noted that there is precedence for this role. Councillor Dominato also noted that they would like to acknowledge Rob at the next Council meeting and requested some background information about Rob's contributions.

MOVED by Donna Wong-Juliani

SECONDED by Diane Brown

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board extend an invitation to Rob Hayes, retiring Chair, to continue to serve as a Member Emeritus on the VCT Board, in light of Rob's tremendous contributions and knowledge;

FURTHER THAT the Vice-Chair forward the invitation on behalf of the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) Update

The Vice-Chair provided a verbal update from the ACAC meeting held November 19, 2019, including the following:

- the Director of VCT was invited to present an overview on the VCT and its role in the new Culture | Shift cultural plan to familiarize ACAC members; highlights included;
 - VCT's efforts to make its venues and other spaces, including the Annex, more accessible to arts and cultural organizations; and
 - the VCT Grant program's contributions to arts and culture in Vancouver;
- Cultural Services staff reviewed next steps in implementing the Culture | Shift, including a review of operating grants and juries; and
- Cultural Services staff also provided an update on next steps in implementing the Vancouver Plan, including staff secondments and inviting ACAC to strike a sub-committee.

Councillor Dominato provided a brief verbal update on implementation of the Vancouver Plan in relation to public engagement and, in response to questions, confirmed that a Special Council meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2019, to hear from the public on the 2020 Capital and Operating Budget.

In response to questions, the Vice-Chair advised that an information session on the new Vancouver Plan is scheduled for November 28, 2019.

3. Cultural Services Update

Postponed to a future meeting.

4. Midcentury Madness Update

The Director of VCT provided highlights from the celebration of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre's 60th Anniversary, "Midcentury Madness" and, along with the Associate Director of VCT, responded to questions. VCT staff noted there was tremendous positive feedback from the public and that in addition to the main event in the QET lobby, Vancouver Opera staff also provided backstage tours. VCT staff also noted the objective to break-even was achieved.

The Board extended congratulations to VCT staff on a successful event.

The Director of VCT also provided an update on the upcoming National Geographic shows in February and March 2020, noting season subscriptions have sold out, likely due to extensive media coverage and advertising.

5. Board Competencies/Succession Planning Update

The Vice-Chair provided an update on the discussion led last month by Sue Adams regarding board competencies and succession planning, and asked Councillor Dominato to share the background of this work and its resulting recommendations with fellow Councillors:

"As part of their yearly work plan, the VCT Board conducts a review of the current Board composition, as well as the skills and attributes of Board members.

This process is useful to help determine the desired succession for the Board and also takes into consideration the implementation of the new cultural plan, "Culture I Shift"; current and emerging trends in the sector; and the VCT business model.

When filling vacant positions on the Board, the current VCT Board recommends that Councillors identify and consider candidates who, in addition to passion for and knowledge of arts & culture, have experience and knowledge in areas such as theatre management, accounting, reconciliation, diversity and entertainment law."

Councillor Dominato agreed to share this information with the Nomination Subcommittee members: Councillors Boyle, Bligh and Wiebe, before their next meeting in early December.

6. Finance Report

The Associate Director of VCT reviewed the October 2019 financials and, along with the Director of VCT, responded to questions in relation VCT grants.

7. Director's Report

The Director of VCT reviewed the report and encouraged members to attend the Indigenous Fashion Week event that evening and responded to questions.

In discussion, Board members noted the cold temperature in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre recently and that the Ushers addressed the issue promptly.

8. New Business

a) Condolences

Sue Adams acknowledged the passing of John Mann, frontman of the band Spirit of the West, their connection to VCT and their contributions to Canadian culture.

b) Council Liaison's Comments

Councillor Dominato commented on the following and responded to questions:

- the Nomination Subcommittee will be meeting on December 4, 2019, to review applications;
- the United Nations has observed 2019 as the *International Year of Indigenous Languages*;
- staff will be reporting back to Council in the New Year on the Rental Incentive Review and Empty Homes Tax; and
- upcoming agendas, including member's motions.

c) Enquiry from a Sports Organization to use a VCT Venue

The Director of VCT sought the Board's feedback on an enquiry received for use of a VCT venue for a competitive sporting event and whether such a use is suitable, noting VCT venues, as public spaces, are accessible to everyone. VCT staff responded to questions.

During discussion, Board members suggested that other venues, such as the PNE or ice rinks, might be more suitable and referred to the Board's mandate that VCT venues be used for arts and cultural-related events. Following discussion, the Board expressed support for VCT staff to recommend the organization pursue an alternative and more suitable venue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Ann-Marie Copping
SECONDED by Donna Wong-Juliani

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, December 12, 2019
TIME: 12 pm
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon
630 Hamilton Street, Vancouver City Hall

The Board adjourned at 1:47 pm.

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