



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES

JUNE 18, 2020

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 12:16 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Christopher Ball, Chair
Diane Brown
Ann-Marie Copping
Adrian Fischer
Anna Hagan
Wendy Soobis, Vice-Chair
Donna Wong-Juliani
Janice Wu

ABSENT: Mike Vulgaris

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Dominato, Council Liaison
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director of Cultural Services
Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres
(*Staff Liaison*)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

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

Leave of Absence Requests

None

Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2020

MOVED by Donna Wong-Juliani
SECONDED by Diane Brown

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board approve the Minutes from the meeting held February 20, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Chair's Comments

The Chair commented on the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and thanked staff for their efforts in responding to these challenges.

2. Council Liaison's Comments

Councillor Dominato provided an update on the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to date. Comments included the following:

- the City is confident with the provincial approach to mitigating the spread of the pandemic;
- the current focus is on budget mitigation and the local economy, including housing, arts and culture, and the Downtown Eastside;
- a COVID-19 Recovery Committee has been convened to tap into the expertise and knowledge of a wide-range of organizations;
- Advisory Committees continue to be supported through technical means; and
- the Vancouver Plan will be available next week with a focus on short-term mitigation.

3. Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) Report

The Vice-Chair provided a brief report on the June 2, 2020, meeting. Comments included the following:

- discussion focused on health and safety during the pandemic; equity, diversity and inclusion in public spaces; and the importance of arts and culture;
- concern was expressed on the impacts the pandemic has had on the arts and culture community and how the ACAC can provide support;
- the Public Art Program will continue with funding from reserves only;
- VSB updates included the reopening of schools and playgrounds with health and safety protocols in place, as well as the return of the School Meal program in the Fall; and
- VCT updates included theatre closures, staff impacts, initiatives such as the Restart Plan and collaboration efforts to continue serving the community such as the partnership between the Vancouver Food Bank and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

4. Cultural Services Update

The Managing Director of Cultural Services provided an update on recovery efforts in relation to the arts and culture sector. Comments included the following:

- some staff have been deployed to the Emergency Operations Centre and there have been temporary layoffs;
- new investments are on hold and there is a hiring freeze;
- grant funding has been reallocated to response and recovery; and
- a COVID-19 Recovery Committee has been created to focus on short and long-term recovery, and will include a review of the non-profit sector and community engagement.

5. Discussion / possible motion regarding VCT tenants

The Chair updated the Board on feedback received from VCT tenants who are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic and sought input from staff on ways to address the matter and whether there are any opportunities to provide support.

In discussion, staff reviewed initiatives currently underway to support businesses in their recovery efforts, including the reallocation of public space for seating and the issuance of temporary patio permits to help with physical distancing requirements. The Board agreed to monitor the outcome and revisit the matter if necessary.

6. Discussion on future meeting guests and meeting schedule

The Chair suggested the Board invite user groups to future meetings to provide updates on how they are coping during the pandemic. The Board agreed to discuss potential guests following the meeting.

7. Finance Report/ Annual Budget 2021-2022

The Director of Vancouver Civic Theatres provided an update on the May 2020 financials and related impacts as a result of the pandemic and responded to questions.

8. Director's Report

The Director of Vancouver Civic Theatres reviewed the report and responded to questions.

9. New Business

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Diane Brown
SECONDED by Ann-Marie Copping

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board adjourned at 1:50 pm.

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Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, July 16, 2020
TIME: 12:00 pm
PLACE: Webex online