



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES



MARCH 22, 2012

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 12:03 pm, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon, 649 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC.

**PRESENT:** Rob Haynes  
Michael Noon  
David Secunda  
Karen Wilson  
Iris Woo

**ABSENT:** Charles Arrata, Leave of Absence  
Karole Sutherland, Leave of Absence

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Elizabeth Ball  
Rae Ackerman, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres  
Todd Ayotte, Deputy Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres  
Richard Newirth, Manager Director, Cultural Service Group

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Meeting Coordinator called for nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board for the 2012 term. Accordingly, the following were elected by acclamation:

- Rob Haynes - Chair
- Karole Sutherland - Vice-Chair

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*At this point in the proceedings Rob Haynes assumed the Chair.*

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**Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Michael Noon  
SECONDED by Iris Woo

THAT the Minutes of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting of February 23, 2012, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## Leave of Absence Requests

Leaves of absence requests were approved for Charles Arrata and Karole Sutherland for this meeting.

### 1. Introduction of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board

The Chair provided an overview on the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board, which included the following:

- Role of the Board;
- Overview of the Vancouver Civic Theatres; and
- Structure - Key Staff.

There was also a brief discussion on the role of the Council Liaison.

### 2. Financial Update

Rae Ackerman, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, provided a brief financial update to the end of February 2012.

### 3. Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company/City of Vancouver

Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services, provided an update on the recent closure of the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company and, together with Mr. Ackerman, responded to questions.

In discussion, members expressed concern regarding communication issues and the status of upcoming scheduled productions. It was also noted that there are three other resident companies who use the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre space.

MOVED by Rob Haynes  
SECONDED by Michael Noon

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board agrees it was wise of the City of Vancouver not to have entered into a public dialogue with protesters concerning the closure of the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company;

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board is appalled that there was no clear communication issued to the press so the citizens of Vancouver clearly understood that the Playhouse facility was not closing and that there are three other important resident companies, and other members of the arts and cultural, and multicultural communities that will continue using the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre space.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Michael Noon  
SECONDED by Rob Haynes

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board commends the expertise of Rae Ackerman, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, for arranging for the City of Vancouver to take over the presentation of *God of Carnage*, which would otherwise have been cancelled due to the closure of the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 4. Vancouver Playhouse Theatre (Facility) General Discussion

Mr. Ackerman explained the process in regard to future bookings during the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre's current season.

Mr. Newirth responded to questions regarding changes in the cultural grants program.

#### 5. Licensee Relations

Karen Wilson provided an update as follows:

- Jeff Alexander, President and CEO, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, is confirmed to attend the April meeting; and
- Ballet BC has been approached in regard to attending the May meeting.

In discussion, it was noted that there is a need for improved signage to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's Box Office. Ms. Wilson agreed to follow-up.

#### 6. Vancouver Civic Theatres Board Feedback of Facilities

Iris Woo reported on comments received in relation to staffing and service issues during recent performances at the Queen Elizabeth and Vancouver Playhouse Theatres. Mr. Ackerman agreed to follow-up on these matters.

#### 7. Strategic Plan Update - Rob Haynes/Todd Ayotte

Todd Ayotte, Deputy Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, provided an update on the Strategic Plan, noting Kathleen Speakman, Consultant, is currently conducting informant interviews and focus groups on the engagement plan are being organized. Mr. Ayotte also proposed a date for the Board's focus group of April 12, 2012.

In discussion, the Board agreed to the April 12, 2012, date and enquired on whether Board members could be involved in any of the other focus groups. Mr. Ayotte agreed to follow-up.

The Board requested Mr. Ayotte ensure Karole Sutherland, Vice-Chair, who is on the strategic plan steering committee, be more involved with this process.

**8. Orpheum 85th Anniversary - All**

Councillor Ball provided an update on potential sponsors for the Orpheum 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, noting the Mel Sayjack Foundation and the Development Disabilities Association would like to meet with Board members and staff.

**9. New Business**

None.

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: April 26, 2012  
TIME: Noon  
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon  
649 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC

The Committee adjourned at 1:36 pm.

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