



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES

MAY 24, 2012

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, May 24, 2012, at 12:05 pm, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon.

PRESENT: Rob Haynes, Chair
Charles Arrata
Michael Noon
David Secunda
Karole Sutherland
Karen Wilson
Iris Woo

ALSO PRESENT: Rae Ackerman, Director, Civic Theatres
Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services
Amanda Tipper, Intern, Vancouver Civic Theatres

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Charlene Imai, Meeting Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Iris Woo
SECONDED by Charles Arrata

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2012, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Resident Companies: May Guest

Rob Haynes, Chair, thanked Karen Wilson for her effort in arranging for the attendance of each of the resident companies to make presentations to the Board. Mr. Haynes then invited Ms. Wilson to introduce the May guest, Emily Molnar, Artistic Director, Ballet BC.

Ms. Molnar provided an update on the status of Ballet BC and its relationship with the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, noting Ballet BC is now in a positive and strengthened position, with increases in both new subscribers and ticket sales.

Ms. Molnar noted some concerns and responded to questions from Board members.

The Board thanked Ms. Molnar for her presentation, and Ms. Molnar left the meeting.

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At this point in the proceedings, the Chair asked Board members if there were any leaves of absence to be requested.

Michael Noon requested leaves of absence for the Board meetings to be held June 21 and July 19, 2012.

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2. Financial Update

Rae Ackerman, Director of Civic Theatres, provided a financial update on the first quarter and projection to year-end.

Mr. Ackerman then responded to questions.

3. Vancouver Civic Theatres Board Feedback on Facilities

Iris Woo submitted comments regarding maintenance issues in the Orpheum's West Coast Energy Hall, and Mr. Ackerman advised staff will be following up.

Mr. Ackerman responded to various questions from Board members, including the inspection of the theatres for maintenance issues prior to performances, and the status of the liquor licence for the Orpheum Annex.

4. Licensee Relations

Karen Wilson advised she had no report at this time, and sought the Board's direction as to whether she should continue asking the resident companies to present to the Board. The Board unanimously supported the continuation of presentations from the Theatres' resident companies.

5. Strategic Plan Update

Karole Sutherland provided a brief update, noting a draft of one of the deliverables of the Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Steering Committee a couple of weeks ago.

Discussion ensued regarding the Strategic Plan, and Mr. Ackerman advised an internal draft report is targeted for late July.

6. Vancouver Playhouse - Facility Discussion

Mr. Ackerman provided an update on the status of the Vancouver Playhouse facility, and advised he will be submitting a proposal to the Board at the next meeting. The Chair requested Mr. Ackerman to forward the proposal to Board members in advance of the June meeting, to give them an opportunity to review it. Mr. Ackerman agreed to do so.

Messrs. Ackerman and Newirth also responded to questions.

7. "God of Carnage" - Final Report

Rae Ackerman provided a final report regarding the Vancouver Civic Theatres taking on the presentation of "God of Carnage" in the Vancouver Playhouse.

Council should note that, although the financial outcome of the VCT presenting "God of Carnage" might be perceived as disappointing; this was far outweighed by the fact that the credibility of the City and the Vancouver Civic Theatres was maintained and the expectations of subscribers were honoured.

Mr. Ackerman advised letters of thank you and appreciation have been received from audience members in support of the Vancouver Civic Theatres.

8. Orpheum 85th Anniversary

Rob Haynes advised he will be meeting with Jeff Alexander, VSO, on May 30th, to discuss a proposal for the VSO, in conjunction with the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame, to present headliners at a concert with the VSO, as part of the anniversary celebration.

Mr. Haynes stated he will report further at the next meeting.

9. New Business

- (a) There was discussion regarding the progress of tenancy in the former VSO office.
- (b) It was announced that Rae Ackerman, Director of Civic Theatres, will be retiring on August 3, 2012. Celebration details to follow.

MOVED by Karole Sutherland
SECONDED by Michael Noon

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting

DATE: Thursday, June 21, 2012
TIME: 12:00 noon
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon

The Board adjourned at 1:28 pm.

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