



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES

JUNE 21, 2012

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on June 21, 2012, at 12 noon, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon.

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

ABSENT: Michael Noon (Leave of Absence)

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Charlene Imai, Meeting Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Karole Sutherland
SECONDED by Iris Woo

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 2012, were approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Leave of Absence Requests

There were no Leaves of Absence requested at this meeting.

2. Resident Companies: June Guest

Karen Wilson introduced and welcomed Jim Smith, Producer, and Jason Dubois, Technical Director, DanceHouse.

Mr. Smith provided background on the DanceHouse Series, a program of Seismic Shift Arts Society, a provincial non-profit and federal charity formed in June 2002. The DanceHouse Series was launched in 2008. Mr. Smith's presentation included the Series mandate, community engagement, co-presenters, audience trends and funders.

Mr. Smith submitted items for consideration by the Vancouver Civic Theatres which were addressed by Rae Ackerman, Director of Civic Theatres, and Board members.

Following discussion, Messrs. Smith and Dubois responded to questions.

Rob Haynes thanked the presenters for attending the meeting and informing the Board of the DanceHouse Series, following which Messrs. Smith and Dubois left the meeting.

3. Financial Update
4. God of Carnage Financial Update

Rae Ackerman provided a brief financial report to May month-end, noting the God of Carnage presentation resulted in a loss. In response to questions regarding the parking garage, Mr. Ackerman advised revenues were climbing in the last few months.

Staff then responded to questions from Board members regarding future God of Carnage-type situations, including lessons learned.

5. Vancouver Civic Theatres Board Feedback

Iris Woo advised she had nothing to report at this meeting.

Mr. Ackerman responded to a concern regarding sound issues during the recent presentation of "Pam Ann" at the Vancouver Playhouse.

6. Licensee Relations

Concern was expressed about the delay in communicating to the licensees (resident companies) Mr. Ackerman's upcoming retirement.

It was agreed Ms. Wilson and Mr. Haynes would work together to send letters from the Board to the licensees advising them of Mr. Ackerman's retirement and celebration.

7. Strategic Plan Update

Karole Sutherland, together with Todd Ayotte and Richard Newirth, provided an update on the status of the Strategic Plan, and the next steps in the process.

8. Vancouver Playhouse Facility - Future and Plans

Rae Ackerman reported on his meetings with existing theatres users regarding the Vancouver Playhouse, noting bookings would be taken as they come in.

Discussion ensued regarding possible visions for the Vancouver Playhouse.

MOVED by Karole Sutherland
SECONDED by Iris Woo

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board supports and encourages the Vancouver Civic Theatres staff to find a vision for the current Vancouver Playhouse.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Orpheum 85th Anniversary

Rob Haynes advised he had met with Jeff Alexander and senior staff of the VSO, and was informed the VSO would like to get behind the 85th Anniversary celebration but that they want to secure a headliner(s) to donate their time. A preference for contemporary music was indicated.

Mr. Haynes also advised that during his Orpheum tours, he mentions the upcoming 85th Anniversary celebration.

10. Staff Transition - Interim Planning

In preparation for his upcoming retirement, Mr. Ackerman has been meeting with Todd Ayotte, Deputy Director, and Diane MacDonald, Audience Services Manager, to pass along to them as much of VCT's operational history as possible.

Upon Mr. Ackerman's retirement, Mr. Ayotte will be the interim Director of Civic Theatres.

11. New Business

- (a) Karen Wilson offered to prepare packages of upcoming events held by the theatres' licensees and distribute them to Board members and staff.
- (b) Rae Ackerman advised that on June 25, 2012, the Vancouver Heritage Commission will consider the approaches to replicate or repair the "Orpheum" blade sign.
- (c) Mr. Ackerman also advised the Canada Council for the Arts has announced a paradigm shift in the arts and culture funding model; from serving the needs of artists to serving the needs of Canadians, as well as focusing more on distribution and less on production.

MOVED by Karole Sutherland
SECONDED by Charles Arrata

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting

DATE: Thursday, July 19, 2012
TIME: 12:00 noon
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon

The Board adjourned at 1:35 pm.

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