

MINUTES OF THE PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT BOARD MEETING
Saturday, April 25, 2020

Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

Present: Steve Ives, Kathy Plummer, Sheila Rauch, Chris Nowak, Gerry Singer, Claudio Marzollo, Byron Stinson, Bob Rhodes, Board Member Emeritus

Not Present: Terry Turner, Jack Goldstein

Also Present: Amy Dul, Executive Director, Nancy Swann, Artistic Director

The Philipstown Depot Board Meeting was called to order by Steve Ives, President at 9:40 AM on Saturday April 25, 2020. This meeting was held online using Zoom technology.

Steve Ives welcomed Bob Rhodes to the meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made, seconded and passed.

Steve Ives reported that Jack Goldstein has found it necessary to take a break from outside activities for a month. At the recent finance committee meeting, Jack suggested that with the Corona Virus safety pause that is mandated by the state at this time, it is impossible to imagine what the coming weeks will bring for implementing a normal budget. He suggested we continue to use the existing budget until the end of the year when we may be able to see more clearly the prospects of returning to normal theater business. A motion to continue to use the existing budget until the end of the year was made, seconded and passed by the board.

Steve Ives and Amy Dul reported on the various Corona Virus Crisis Funds that are available and actions that we have taken. Claudio Marzollo spoke of the importance of getting assistance for payroll now in case the pause in running a working theater goes longer than anticipated. As some of our employees are independent contractors and some are town employees, and as there are differing funds for those categories, and different qualifications, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) fund applications are complex. Byron

Stinson noted that Independent Contractors are meant to apply on their own.

Regarding unemployment benefits, Byron noted that they are available only if your pay has stopped; not if your pay is cut. NYState employers can apply to set up a plan and he asked if the town would do this for the Rec. Dept., or more narrowly for the Philipstown Depot Theater. Is the town a participant in a PPP program with the state? At this time, the Federal government is offering an additional \$600 per week to supplement the state's payment to an individual. Steve Ives and Amy Dul will arrange to speak with the town supervisor, knowing already that the town will wait until May 15 to decide what they will be doing for other employees.

The board discussed the situation with our Working Capital Fund and The Technical Improvement Fund. The areas we had hoped to address this year are: Lighting, Curtains, Booth Upgrade, Kids Playbill, Exterior Lighting, Showcases outside on the three windows, and Stairway. Claudio Marzollo moved that we continue to research and develop plans for the improvements but that the board restrict spending on expensive purchases at this time while allowing for spending on programming. The motion was seconded and passed.

Chris Nowak volunteered to take care of some of the smaller improvements.

Amy Dul reported on the activities and commitment of the staff in putting up the "Remotely Depot" spot on the website where local actors have contributed short pieces. These offerings of talent have been widely viewed and commented on and many have sent in voluntary donations.

The staff continues to meet by Zoom once a week. Board members were invited to attend any time.

Amy attended a four hour Marketing and the Arts Webinar and heard many ideas of what to do and what not to do in this time of crisis and social distancing.

At this time the Rec. Dept. is postponing a decision on Kids Summer Activities. Our staff is supporting a plan to do our summer kids shows virtually, then record, edit, and put online.

Steve Ives reported that Depot Docs is hoping to do a test version of Remote Depot Doc experience and based on that to possibly go ahead with a May 8 showing of Crime and Punishment with Q&A.

Amy complimented Haldane School for posting the dress rehearsal of the Fiddler on the Roof production that was cancelled in late March because of the restrictions on social gathering. It was suggested that we could do a similar post using a portion of an archived video. Other ideas for posting were suggested including play readings and Ned Rauch's Ned Talks idea.

Amy Dul requested that Byron Stinson ask the auditors to begin preparations for our tax return and audit.

Amy encouraged board members to send any ideas for virtual programming to her at any time.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved by the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Plummer, Secretary

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