

MINUTES OF THE PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT BOARD MEETING
October 3rd, 2020

Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Present: Steve Ives, Claudio Marrzolo, Chris Nowak Kathy Plummer, Peter Weed, Sheila Rauch, Byron Stinson, Gerry Singer, Jack Goldsein

Not Present: Terry Turner

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

A motion to approve the minutes was proposed, seconded and approved by all.

Building Issues

- Executive Director, Amy Dul, reported that Gentech came to do the yearly check up in September, instead of January, at her request and found that a nest of mice was responsible for the generator's erratic behavior over the summer
- Margaret O'Sullivan called to say they were going to work on a chronically leaky gutter.
- The stage left door has pulled away from the frame and needs reframing.

Steve Ives brought up the very useful "superb" report submitted by Peter Weed about various options for air filtration in the theatre. The general consensus was that we should do this even though the main problem is social distancing, and filtration won't affect that. We should find out what Equity requirements are.

Amy continued with a report on the Patio Pop-ups which begin this evening, October 3rd. #1 and #3 are sold out; we have to work on marketing #2 and #4.

Claudio Marzollo mentioned that the Town Board has approved socially-distanced in the Rec gym, and we might think about how we could use that. Steve wondered if we might think about heated tents on the patio, but others mentioned the problem of air circulation. Perhaps we could have a tent on the Landing.

Board Development

Steve reported that he had met with Caitlin Chadwick who was involved in the Flipside series, and proposes her as a new member of the Board. Caitlin hopes to develop a mentor program for set building which everyone agreed would be a boon for the theatre. Her membership was proposed by Claudio Marzollo, seconded by Sheila Rauch and approved unanimously.

Diversity Workshop

Steve will try to set this up for late October. The session takes 2 hours; we will try to pare down agenda issues and have our Board meeting a half hour before the session. The charge is \$1000.

Executive Director

Amy asked if she could attend the 2-day Boot Camp by Compact with the Tom O'Conner Group.

The cost is \$198 and would replace the Theatre Communications conference she attended last year. The Board enthusiastically gave her permission.

We are trying to set up a meeting with HVSF about potential collaboration. We're in the process of fixing the dimmer fuses.

The audit is in the review stage prior to getting the taxes done.

Steve mentioned that this period is a good time to get things done. From Chris Nowak: how might we use the attic (and install good attic stairs) and how might we rethink the dressing areas. Let's continue our effort to see if we can screen National Theatre productions.

Amy reminded us that we have addressed our audio and video concerns, but we haven't done anything about lighting. We might be able to get Donald Kimmel in to consult.

Artistic Director

- Nancy Swann reported exciting news for Remotely Depot. Terry Sandler who runs the theater program for the middle and high schools in Peekskill, is really enthusiastic about participating, There are kids who have taken a gap year who would welcome the opportunity, and others in school who need to fulfill outreach requirements.

- Maia Guest and Lisa Sabin suggest the musical, "Next to Normal" for May.

- Christine Bokhur proposes “On the Verge” about 3 Victorian explorers. She also suggested “Mama Mia” in concert.

- Aery Theatre would like to present 3 or 4 juried pieces to be voted on by the audience. This could be remote.

All these will be discussed by the Program Committee and presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Annual Appeal

Mona has let us know that nonprofits are pretty much in agreement that appeal letters should drop before election day. There can be reminders in December. Amy is having sticky notes made up that can be added to the letters as lift notes. We should let her know what letters we want. Our appeals will go out October 14, 15, 16, 17; this is after the HVSF letters go out.

Depot Docs

Steve reported technical problems for the last Doc as well as difficulty selling tickets. His group has decided not to carry on with the remote form. Jack Goldstein asked Steve to rethink that for one more effort around the holidays, and Steve said he’d ask his group.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Rauch