

Minutes of the Newberry Opera House Foundation Board

Date: 9/30/2021

Time: 4:30pm

Location: South State Bank

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Pope, Luke McCormack, Al Pressley, Steve Wilson, Keith Avery, Susan Wessinger, Peggy Barnes-Winder, Jack Shields, Robert Matheson, Mattie Dillon, Joe McDonald, Liz Rivera, Foster Senn.

NOH Employees in Attendance: Molly Fortune, Anne Smith, Megan Shealy.

Board Members Not in Attendance: Morrie Scherrens, Les Hipp, Beth Hipp, Matt DeWitt.

Call to Order: Chair Jack Shields called the meeting to order at 4:30pm and noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes: The minutes of the August meeting were approved unanimously on Steve Wilson's motion (which was seconded by Mattie Dillon).

Old Business:

- Audit Report: The audit was presented by Greene Finney and the Audit Committee. On motion of Tom Pope and a second by Peggy Barnes-Winder, the audit report was approved unanimously.
- Executive Director Report: There was discussion about Covid and the fact that some patrons who have expressed interest in having a mandatory mask policy. It was agreed that we would encourage the wearing of masks, but would not have a mandatory mask policy.

There was discussion about programming to date:

- budgeted tickets sold for quarter versus actual to date;
- lessons learned;
- upcoming quarter;
- expectations (October/December);
- discussion about having two tickets assigned to special guests at each show (either potential donors, government officials, etc); and,
- discussion also about shows that are losing money and the utilization of SVOG for refunds.

- Development Committee: Anne Smith, Development Director, gave her report and noted upcoming events such as October 26 – “Cross that River” which is a free community event in conjunction with Dufford Diversity Week at Newberry College.

The current giving for fiscal year 2021-22 as of 9/24/2021 is \$ 102,811 (17% of the goal of \$605,500 budgeted).

Grants: The NOH has received several grants which will help because ticket sales are lagging due to the lingering effects of Covid.

There is not yet a date set for establishing a new lifetime wall of donors and discussion on this will resume at a later meeting.

- Finance Committee Report: The report was given by Megan Shealy and also Susan Wessinger, Finance Chair. There was a presentation of the quarterly budget to actual year-to-date results and also review and research results from the endowment and Greenwood Capital accounts.
- Overall Committee Update: Our Chair, Jack Shields, gave a review of the current committee composition and also discussion about possible by-law updates to accommodate new committees, which are:
 - Audit Committee: Steve Wilson, Chair;
 - Capital Committee: Les Hipp, Interim Chair
 - Amphitheater
 - Capital Needs & Assessments of the NOH
 - Branding & Economic Development: Keith Avery, Chair; This committee is working on the following “Beyond the Tower” messaging, brand creation, and awareness
 - Economic Impact Assessment
 - NAFA: Joe McDonald, Chair; There was discussion about expanding NOH’s reach in to the communities to the arts and connecting Newberry’s art organizations together; and,
 - Jack announced that Robert Matheson is the Program Chair. He also announced that Luke McCormack is chairing the Gift Card Ad Hoc Committee.

Adjournment: With there being no other business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Pope