

Minutes of the Newberry Opera House Foundation Board

Date: 11/17/2021

Time: 4:30pm

Location: South State Bank

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Pope, Luke McCormack, Steve Wilson, Susan Wessinger, Peggy Barnes-Winder, Jack Shields, Robert Matheson, Joe McDonald, Beth Hipp, Les Hipp, Foster Senn, Matt DeWitt.

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

Board Members Not in Attendance: Morrie Scherrens, Maddie Dillion, Al Pressley, Keith Avery, Liz Rivera.

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 October 27, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously on motion of Peggy Winder (which was seconded by Steve Wilson).

Finance Committee: Susan Wessinger gave the Finance Committee's report. It was suggested that the Audit Committee seek bids for audit services for the Newberry Opera House Foundation and the Chair of the Audit Committee, Steve Wilson, will begin this process as soon as possible. Also, it was brought up that the 990 is ready to be filed and it is required that all Board Members review the 990 and accept it before it can be signed and submitted. The Director sent emails to all Board Members and approval of the 990 was unanimously approved without objection. No negative emails were received against acceptance of the 990 and having it finalized.

Conversations: The Chair introduced, per the agenda, three topics for discussion as follows:

1. CPST Amphitheater Submission: It was discussed enthusiastically that we wanted to apply well in advance of the March 30, 2022, deadline. The Chairman plans to file the application for the amphitheater for the CPST early next week before Thanksgiving. There was discussion that we will submit the application jointly with both the City of Newberry and County of Newberry as it was believed this would show joint support. It was also discussed that next Monday, November 22, the Executive Director and the Chair would present our application to City Council and to County Council at their regular meetings on November 22.

2. WC Fiber Channel Update: The City Manager, Matt DeWitt, discussed the fact that we have the opportunity to have a TV channel from WC Fiber. It would be a simulcast on the internet. Previously, there was a channel that was used by Newberry College. It was also pointed out that Newberry College has a production studio. There was discussion that Anderson County utilized a TV channel and the Director would check with Anderson County to see how that process worked. It is hopeful that we could use the Newberry College production studio if and when use the TV channel.
3. Concert Truck: There was a very positive discussion by the Chairman and Board Members about obtaining a concert truck as a means of outreach to all communities in Newberry County to present entertainment to Prosperity, Whitmire, Silverstreet, Pomaria, Little Mountain, and other areas that are underserved by the arts. It was also discussed that Anne Smith check with the concert truck that came to Newberry from Baltimore three months ago to get ideas for utilizing the truck.

Old Business:

- Masks & Staff: The Director reported that the Newberry Opera House is vigilantly looking at patterns of Covid, etc. to see if we need to alter or amend our mask policy. She will continue doing this monthly.
- Board Reserved Tickets: Molly presented a form to use for keeping track of tickets that are offered to special guests for purposes of increasing support, obtaining sponsors, and educating the citizens of Newberry about the Newberry Opera House. She also had a series of criteria for distribution. For instance, we would not give free tickets to shows that are sold out. A suggestion was made, but no action was taken, on the fact that one of the committees should perhaps suggest the names of persons targeted for these tickets from the list of potential corporate donors in the community (for example, Samsung, Komatsu, Pioneer Foods, etc) and the Director could contact those persons with an invitation.
- Gift Card Policy Recommendation: The Director had presented a gift card policy at the October meeting. A motion to accept that gift card policy was made by Luke McCormack and seconded by Les Hipp. The vote carried and the policy on gift cards was adopted.
- NAFA Document Feedback: Joe McDonald gave an overview of his report on NAFA documents that were distributed at the October meeting. The membership was very appreciative of the NAFA Committee's work and the committee will continue to increase the Newberry College/NOH partnership, as well as the partnership between the Newberry Opera House and the Newberry County School District as this is critical to our young people.

- Strategic Reports:
 - NAFA: There was additional discussion about NAFA and specifically that Al Pressley would get high school students involved with the Newberry Opera House. The NAFA committee would engage the music and drama departments as well as the school district to engage students. These talks will continue and school children will be present at the Nutcracker performance.
- Guild: Beth The November 7th Oyster Road was a big success. The Board Members acknowledged the Guild for going out of the way to make the Oyster Roast successful.
- New Business: None

Adjournment: With there being no other business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Pope