



White Heron Minutes August 23, 2016

Present: Ivy Scricco, Lynne Bolton, Beth Ann Meehan, Carolyn Durand, Robin Hammer, Marcus Fuller, Anne Marie Bratton, Cary Hazlegrove

On Phone: Bob Doran, Harriette Fox, Melissa Hale Woodman and Michael Kopko

Absent: Vanessa Noel, Grant Sanders, Schuyler Tilney, and Kim Frisbie

The meeting was called to order by Ivy Scricco at 9:05 am.

Ivy Scricco called for a motion to approve the agenda. Cary Hazlegrove made a motion and Marcus Fuller seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Ivy Scricco called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 30th meeting. Cary Hazlegrove made a motion and Marcus Fuller seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

BUDGET

Michael Kopko reported that as of August 23rd the theatre company is in the black. He will have final numbers for the season for the November meeting.

BUILDING

Michael reported that the elevator will be installed between September 15th with completion by November 11th. He said that because of the rush to be open by July 25th, there are a number of unfinished issues that will be resolved once the season closes. He added that the amount of work done by interns and the technical director was remarkable. He said now that the building is complete he and Lynne have been receiving calls daily from people interested in our space and that their goal is to keep their eye on the mission and to say no when necessary.

TICKET SALES

Michael reported that ticket sales on average has been double last season. He added that the building has made a huge impression and the buzz has been great.

DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS INSURANCE

Michael reported that we have a boilerplate D&O Insurance in place and that we can refine it going forward. At the June meeting we had talked about an anti-discrimination/anti-harassment clause that was in the version we looked at that meeting and it was suggested by a Board member that we eliminate that, because of its vague nature, we eliminate that clause until we could look at it more closely.

Carolyn Durand said that she wanted to add that the issue of noise during Olympia Dukakis' performance of 'Rose' on June 25th seems to have become a non-issue. Because of the comments made by our patrons, it came to light that their music was not to be amplified. So now that they have made that adjustment, it seems to no longer affect our Monday performances.

Cary Hazlegrove added that we may want to put something on the stair to lessen the noises when patrons move around during a performance.

Michael added that some patrons have suggested reflective tape on the treads.

Chairman's Report

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Ivy Scricco reported that, out of necessity, our priority till now has been our building and art. However, it is now time to focus on the Capital Campaign. Ivy reported that she and Lynne will be in touch with Board members as the first and important step is to have 100% Board participation. As Kacey Foster's skills were not in line with what we need at this time, Lynne, Michael and Ivy are currently working to find not only a Development Director, but also a grant writer.

There was some discussion about the difference between The Theatre Workshop of Nantucket and White Heron Theatre. Bob Doran summarized it that we are a regional theatre and that we will stay true to our mission and support them in theirs. Michael added that if there is someone who does not understand, we suggest that they attend both theatres and decide for themselves.

Artistic Director's Report

UPDATE ON 2016 SEASON

Lynne Bolton reported that we had a great season. She said that we were sold out on a number of nights.

We sold out both nights of 'Napoli, Brooklyn' which was commissioned by the Roundabout Theatre in NYC and will be produced on Broadway.

Olympia Dukakis had a great experience performing this season. She is interested in producing a play at our theatre with her brother Apollo.

She went on to say that she and Michael have fielded many calls from artists who would like to do the same. She said it is a good problem. Having said that, what we have done, a company of actors working in repertory theatre is something currently unique for artists and is extremely desirable for many.

Lynne discussed extending our season into the shoulder seasons, more specifically to piggyback on the already established festivals (book, wine, etc.).

She added that we will need producers to financially back this programming.

She went on to report that Sundance has asked to change the dates. She said

that she thinks they may be a bit nervous. They have never done anything for the public before. They have asked if it can be postponed until January. Philip Himberg, the Artistic Director of Sundance, was scheduled to direct "Carry It On", the show that we pulled from our season. We did pay out the contracts.

Lynne reported that she and Michael are considering programming a piece for Thanksgiving and Christmas Stroll, 'The Santaland Diaries' to be directed by Michael Kopko. Michael added that they are discussing reduced ticket prices Thursday night of both of those weekends.

Lynne finished by saying that one of things that we will work on for next season is a liquor license to create a café-like setting; people enjoy lingering after the shows.

Meeting Dates

Ivy reminded everyone to please put the future meeting dates in their calendars.

Other Business

There was some discussion about the Monday night event at the Whaling Museum. Carolyn Durand said that after hearing from some of our attendees after the Olympia Dukakis performance they seem to have reduced the amplification.

Ivy Scricco adjourned the meeting at 10:30am.