

Ouachita Little Theatre

Board Minutes, July 16, 2020

Members Present: Rudi Timmerman, John Byers, Bill Hays, Lamar Austin, Jackie Biard, Jane Buttermilk, Gayle Krahn, Julie Ulmer

Members Absent: Amanda Baker, Robby Burt, Jessica Kropp, Judy Kropp

Guest: Beth McMillan

The meeting was called to order by President Rudi Timmerman at 5:30 PM. Jane moved that we accept the minutes as written, John seconded, and the motion passed.

Bill gave **the financial report**. There is only \$20 left in the PayPal account which is no longer needed. Bill made a motion that we close that account and move the \$20 to the operating account. Lamar seconded it, and the motion passed. The amount totals for each account to date are as follows:

- \$11,067.43 in the Union Bank (Building Account)
- 3813.89 is in the Arvest Bank (Operating Account)
- 3745.23 in First Financial Bank (Concessions)
- 3260.07 is in the JOLT Account

Regarding other financial matters, Rudi informed the board that he personally covered the cost of the ACCI cleaning which was \$2000. ACCI donated the seat cleaning. Rudi would be happy to accept any donations that anyone would like to make toward the intense cleaning that made our lobby and auditorium safe to breathe with clean air. Donations will be made through the theater and reimbursed to Rudi. We are looking into the practicality of having the disinfecting fogger being sprayed once a month. Price will be negotiated by Rudi and he will inform the board by email. It is expected to be in \$200-\$250 range for each use. Also, Bill informed us that he has paid the yearly dues of \$358.25 to ASCAP which is necessary to cover legal usage of music or other recordings we use in the theater.

There were no individual committee reports as there was nothing in particular to report.

Next on the agenda was **whether or not to open the office**. Different scenarios were discussed, including staffing the office with a locked door that would only be opened if the person knocking on the door was wearing a face covering. For the time being, we will leave the office locked and unattended.

We discussed the timing of **“BIG”** rehearsals/show production dates but there is no feasible way to make decisions on that presently, so it will remain tabled until such time the theater can open effectively enough to have the show.

Still waiting on word on the **CARES grant** for COVID relief applied for earlier this summer.

What is being planned: We discussed at length how we can entertain our patrons and gain some revenue for the theater. Entertainment solutions included more online videos like “Name That Tune”. We are still open to workshops.

We are actively looking into the practicality of performing small shows while respecting social distancing guidelines. Robby sent word that he would have interest and access to perform

some live readers theater. Deni and Tim are working on a play that could be performed at the resort and theater in the future with a small cast.

Scotty Jenkins has already committed to doing a readers theater style performance of “**Twelve Angry Jurors**” which would fit in well with the guidelines and provide actors with a medium to explore facial and voice expressions with limited movement around a large table structure. The plan is to sell 50 tickets per show (largest crowd the Governor’s guidelines will allow in an enclosed space) for three performances. Hopefully, if we can reserve the rights to film, we will be able to make it available for a fee to the general public by streaming it online. The board agreed to encourage him to develop this concept and shoot for performances sometime in late August. Sets, costumes, and rehearsals will be low key and on a small scale. Details such as ticket sales will need to be decided before the next meeting and sent out via email by Rudi.

Movie Night went well July 8. People wore masks, respected social distancing, and genuinely seemed to have fun together and were glad to “get out.” We made a combined total of \$100 with concessions and donations, minus the cost of concessions. “JAWS” is the selected feature for August 12. There seems to be a bit of a buzz, and Julie is trying to create a lot of publicity to bring more people in for the screening. It is the 45th anniversary of the film. Lorraine and Beth have been working on a shark mask and showed us a prototype; it is delightful, and hopefully we can use them for more publicity and possibly a fund raiser for the evening. Bandanas will also be stenciled with “OLT” on them and made available to sell by next movie night.

Bill made a motion to adjourn, John seconded it, and we adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Ulmer