

Minutes of the Arena Theater Board of Directors' Meeting  
September 27, 2023

Call to Order President Beattie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Present in person- Beattie, McFarland, McMurtry, Sussman, Andersen, and Vanderwoude  
Present online- More, Crutcher, Curbelo  
Absent None  
Guests Kat Gleason and Lisa Jaokimides via internet

Privilege of the Floor, etc: Todd Orenick from the Pacific Community Charter School addressed the board concerning their interest in returning to the Theater to produce their annual show. The school did so from 2002-2019 and stopped due to COVID. They would use the stage a few days a week plus a full week prior to the May 22-23 performance. This fits neatly into the mission of the Theater and would not interfere with any other activities in the building. It was unanimously agreed that permission should be granted for this request.

Kat Gleason suggested we produce some Arena Theater merchandise to raise funds and visibility. She seemed willing to assist in this effort. More later.

Lisa mentioned that she has purchased Halloween candy to be distributed to children during the Halloween on Main Street event in October. She asked if anyone would like to help defray the cost of the candy (\$100) which she has spent. Also, board members are welcome to join her in front of the Theater to help pass out candy.

Approval of the Minutes Mark moved and Paul seconded a motion to approve as submitted. Unanimous agreement.

President's Report President Beattie is looking forward to the Pizza Party Fundraiser.

Secretary's Report Secretary McFarland discussed the proposed By-law amendments with board members. After some discussion, in addition to the change already proposed, a 72-hour time was added for board consideration of any internet vote. A vote on the amendments will come later in the meeting under Old Business.

Treasurer's Report Sundance went over numbers previously sent to board members. He pointed out that the loss of memberships is virtually the same as the more frequently discussed losses taken by cinema. We need more members.  
The recent \$15,000 grant we received is going in the checking account. That is where the money for most everything else comes from anyway.  
The idea of cutting the Friday movie from October to March was discussed at length. Ideas were brought forth. One was to have two Film Club showings if that seemed financially wise. The board is certainly open to new ideas to continue using the big screen.

Standing Committee Reports **Membership** We need more members. Rod suggested we pitch people at the movies for memberships. Mark pointed out that October would be a good time to start as we will be cutting the Friday movie as a budgetary measure. He also thought a table at the Film Festival and other events might be useful.  
In January Shauna and Lisa will be working on getting lapsed members back. **Fund Development** Rod has visited the Oz site and is satisfied with conditions. Details were discussed. A Google doc of a volunteer list will be produced by Shauna and made available to all to find spots to help. Look. **Programming** *cinema* Dagmar recited the coming shows. "Stop Making Sense" is coming to Music on Screen. About 50 people showed up for "Pee Wee Big Adventure". A good showing. "Rocky Horror Picture Show" is coming but no date set. *Film Festival* Shauna reports that we have received over \$9400 in sponsorships and a \$2000 grant for the Nov 10-11 event. Hal Kelley made a poster and T-shirts have been made. *Live* the August Blues show tanked and we lost \$600. September 3 Monday Night Music went well. That program is doing good. The final Blues show is on October 14 and Object Heavy will play on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Blake will;push publicity and Lisa highly recommends the band and hopes board members will encourage attendance. *Science on Screen* This program is done for now and will no longer appear on agendas. Telecasts October 21 is an opera and Jon Sandoval will present Gustaf Klimt on Exhibition on Screen. Publicity Dagmar has placed an article in the ICO about

the pizza party. 40 posters were printed and board members took some to distribute. Printing is becoming a problem. Diane Hilmer is no longer printing our posters and our office printer is inadequate. We need something better for the office. Discussion ensued about possible alternatives such as leasing and Blake mentioned that the Tech Center has a printer they don't use. She will send specs to our office for review. *Film Club* 49 people have signed up and 11 more are needed to meet our goal. Shauna feels confident this will happen. Mark will occupy a table at Film Club to encourage membership. **Personnel** did not meet. Facility Tim reports all is well. New decorative lights are now in the front window and the roof over the south deck will be replaced in coming months.

#### Old Business

Having already discussed the By-laws amendments during the Secretary's report, Sundance moved and Tim seconded a motion to accept the By-laws amendments as amended (to add 72 hour waiting period for voting). Passed unanimously.

A discussion took place about the cutting of the Friday movie. Arguments were made back and forth with the common desire to continue being a "movie house" as old timers once referred to the Theater and the stark reality that people simply do not attend movies as often as they once did due to streaming and other entertainments. Finance committee member Sundance said that the decision is a "tough one", but we are losing about \$14,000 a year on cinema and memberships are not making up the difference. Indeed membership is stagnant or slightly diminishing. Sundance moved and Paul seconded a motion to cut Friday showing until April leaving the possibility open to show on Friday for blockbusters, along their release is complicated by the writers and actors strikes. During discussion of the motion Lisa felt that our mission statement references showing movies. No copy of the mission statement was available to verify this assumption. Mitch, Paul, Mark, Tim, Sundance and Michael voted in favor of the motion. Rod and Susan voted no. Blake abstained. Motion carried.

#### New Business

There was a discussion as to whether or not we should establish a minimum number of attendees for in-person meetings. Mitch felt this was a bad idea as it would tend toward not meeting in person. Michael thought that board attendance was part of the job. Tim also felt meeting in person was more effective and useful. No decision was made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The board reconvened for a closed session.