

Arena Theater Board of Directors

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order: Michael called the meeting to order
2. Roll Call: Attendees – Michael, Shauna, Harm, Mark V, Tim, Mitch, John M, Paul, Jess, Dagmar, Phil, Kat G, Lisa, Stephen, M, Lauren S, blake, Rod, Carol W, John (?), Susan
3. Privilege of the Floor/Correspondence/Suggestion Box: nothing
4. Approval of Minutes from March 29, 2023 board meeting: Unanimous approval by vote from Board

CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS: Kat, Mark, John, Tim, Jess, blake

ANNUAL REPORTS:

5. President's Report; Michael spoke to the success of our recent fundraisers and how these things can't happen without a working Board. With great power comes great responsibility. We are a working Board and there are expectations to pitch in, be present, attend, be on committees to help keep our theater viable, profitable and alive.

6. Treasurer's Report: Paul reported we survived the pandemic with the help of grants and community support. For the future we have raised ticket prices, added beer and wine to the snack bar, but we are still operating in the red and will end this year in the red. (10330)

He reported the financials by program. We do have 80K in savings, 10,00 of that will go to cover losses for this fiscal year.

We needed to focus on earning and profit for this fiscal year 23/24.

7. Standing Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee: Lisa reported that our memberships numbers are fluctuating and we have not recovered from the loss of members during the pandemic although we are seeing a steady but slow growth.

March of 2022 – 503 individual memberships

Feb of 2023 - 378 individual memberships

March of 2023 – 441 individual memberships

Membership is the life blood of the theater and it is necessary to see them come up. We have adjusted member benefits. Film Club is no longer part of the membership package and has proven to be successful. Lisa has been working on contacting lapsed members to try and get them to rejoin our membership rolls. 1400 this year.

76 people signed up as Film Club members for the 6-month program run. They were part of the film selection process and this seemed to bring in more members.

b. Fund Development Committee: Mitch reported that although last year was a struggle, we did hold two very successful events. The Pizza party and the Starlight Cocktail event each raised about 5000 dollars

Spring Fundraiser Letters are in the last stage of editing (to include the lower prices for members for live events to be on the latter part of the agenda, see item 9)

We are in process of applying for a grant for the cinema program

Mitch stressed that volunteers are always needed, for ticket taking, events, etc.

c. Programming Committee (includes cinema, live, SoS, telecasts, publicity, and film club) Cinema: Blake reported we continue to show first run films and Phil does his best to mix it up so we are showing a diverse line up. We are also showing special one-night films. Overall attendance has been down, people are still reluctant to go out. All masking restrictions have been lifted for all showings.

Music on film program is being well received and attendance has been good.

Live shows are back and we are having near sell outs for every show. Blues on the Coast is doing great and Tommy Castro is on track to be another sellout.

Telecasts – Opera - has 30 season subscribers for the season and walk ups are boosting attendance

NTL – still going but the saving grace is that we now have underwriters to cover losses

Exhibition on Screen - doing well, Vermeer was well received and had a good turnout

Film Club – six-month season was successful, 76 persons joined for the season

d. Personnel Committee – we were able to maintain our pre-pandemic staff and current staff are exemplary and see that things get done. No new hires at this time.

e. Facilities Committee – new carpeting, new stairway lighting installed. Motion sensor lights installed in the balcony for our patron's safety. All overhead lighting changed out to LED, cost effective and less maintenance due to fixture life. Sewer line was dug up and repaired, so problems we had in the back of building should be resolved (no more eruptive situations to quote Tim). Floors in the dungeon were replaced due to ongoing leakage and a new sump pump installed which seems to be working to end this recurring problem. New ice machine working great. Future projects – replace catwalk between theater and My Mexican Restaurant and paint interior walls of office and yellow room.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Discuss letter of recommendation for Lauren Sinnott's grant proposal, Paul – Lauren gave an overview of the project concept and showed picture of two other large murals she has done in the area. At this time there is a grant that must be submitted by Friday Suggested to create and vote on an Action Item – Mitch proposed, Harm seconded. Board Vote unanimously supported writing a letter of recommendation for Lauren to submit with her grant proposal. Paul and Mitch (?) will assist.

Kat – brought idea of a deep cleaning to the Board. Tim feels that our staff does a pretty good job of keeping the theater clean. Michael suggested creating a "Task List" to aid in this project. Mitch suggests we agenda this item for next meeting. Shauna will add to agenda.

9. Vote on Spring fundraising letter- Mitch, Spring Fundraiser Letter has been sent out to Board and edited the one change that needs to take place will be announcing reduced event ticket prices to Members and it will be ready to go to printer. Mitch proposed, Harm seconded. Unanimous Board vote to approve edited and proceed.

10. Next meeting date—Wednesday, May 31