

Opera House Board Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:00 am via Zoom

Present: Mary-Carel Verden, Bill Brehm, Paul Lawrence, Mayor Tim Swadley, Lisa Reeves, Jon Lewis, Jim Borling, John Buetel, Jill Patterson

Absent: Jim Borling

Staff: Victoria Flynn, Julie McDougall

1. The meeting was called to order by President Verden--10:03 am.
2. Motion to approve February 16, 2021 Minutes by Lewis, second by Lawrence—10:04 am.
3. Director’s Report by Brehm—10:05 am.
 - a. Welcome to our new Board member Jill Patterson who is replacing Genevieve Wilberg.
 - b. We’ve wrapped everything up with the ticketing system. Things are falling into place.
 - c. We’ve begun hosting the Thursday night live-stream event, “Almost Live”. It is showing great numbers for an online event.
 - d. The fall schedule will be packed and will include concessions.
 - e. We’ll need to boost staff hours. Julie will become full time House Manager.
 - f. Bill is working with NIVA to reach the application process for the Shuttered Venues Operating Grant.
 - g. “Almost Live” has brought in significant sponsorships and donations.
 - h. There was a SOHFA meeting on March 23, 2021 which looked at the viability of Catfish. Decision whether to host the festival has not yet been made.
 - i. The Arts Council is planning to host Art Walk on the last Saturday in September.
4. Financial Report by Brehm—10:32 am.
 - a. The Opera House is in pretty good shape.
 - b. About 80% of patrons have held on to their tickets throughout 2020 and into 2021.
 - c. Main St. businesses could use the boost from Opera House events.
 - d. We would like to bring in food carts for big shows. We may have to apply for a Special Events license.
5. SOHFA Report—10:40 am.
 - a. The decision regarding Catfish will be made by the end of May.
 - b. A new grant application was submitted for furnishings on the first floor.
 - c. The liquor license is still in process, but is waiting on insurance information from H.R.
6. Lewis moves to adjourn, Lawrence seconds—10:47 am.

Next meeting 4/20/2021

Respectfully submitted, Victoria Flynn 4/13/2021