

Opera House Board Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, Dec 11, 2018 – 10:00am

Present: Mary-Carel Verden, Bill Brehm, Jim Borling, Gen Wilberg, Paul Lawrence, Jon Lewis

Absent: John Beutel, Tass Johnson, Mayor Tim Swadley, Victoria Flynn

Staff: Nicki Dowland

1. The meeting was called to order by President Verden at 10:05am.
2. Motion to approve 11/13/18 minutes by Lewis. Passed unanimously.
3. Director's Report presented by Brehm:
 - a. Shows have been going well, especially Suzy Bogguss and the Lone Bellow. Playtime Productions and Festival Choir had some of the largest crowds we've seen for those particular, local groups.
 - b. Booking has begun for the 19/20 season.
 - c. Brehm is exploring the use of video recording as a value-added product to help reduce the guarantees that get offered to some artists in the future.
 - d. City offices appear to be moving to the McFarland State Bank building as proposed. There will be more discussions about the potential for the Opera House to use those spaces. Some of the offices are already open, and may be used as soon as the start of the spring 2019 shows.
 - e. A set of 12 folding chairs and a cart have been donated by the Grieg Male Chorus.
 - f. Members of the Stoughton City Council are looking for a business plan for the Opera House. Staff intends to work with SOHFA in collaboration to offer that at an upcoming Council meeting yet to be determined. The timing is good as it provides an opportunity to include uses for the spaces opening up by the exiting City Hall staff.
 - g. Lawrence suggested that the Opera House board to be involved in decisions about potential uses of City Hall spaces.
4. Financial Report presented by Borling:
 - a. The first half of the season is almost all in the books.
 - b. Memberships are ahead of last year
 - c. Profit/Loss totals look a lot like last year at this time.
 - d. Motion by Lewis to except the report at 10:47am. Motion approved unanimously.
5. SOHFA update presented by Lewis:
 - a. Deb Piper, the current SOHFA president is stepping down due to other obligations.
 - b. SOHFA is actively recruiting board members. Lawrence offered to join.
 - c. A current project being researched is the replacement of the strip lights in the aisles.
6. Motion to adjourn by Lewis at 11:08am; approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicki Dowland