

**MINUTES OF THE MARATHON COMMUNITY THEATER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – March 17th, 2009.**

The meeting was called to order by Claudia McEwen at 6:00 pm. Present were Loretta Geotis, Paul Buckley, Mike Edwards, Alicia Merel, Sylvia Rickett, Suzanne Terpos, Arnie Steinmetz, Rita Irwin, Lauren Spinelli, Paula Pettorini, and Pat Robenolt. C.J. Geotis, Fred Hundhammer, and Marianne Benvenuti. Kathryn Rummery, Gail Burnett and Tom O’Neil were absent excused. Kay March-Adorno was absent.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve with some changes, seconded and passed.

Minutes: Motion to approve, seconded and passed.

VP of production – Alicia mentioned the need to discuss a vote from last meeting. The matter refers to Tah-Dance, the dance recital that was approved for June, and the fact that to date, no one has stepped forward to direct the production of the OWO fundraiser. The question was raised whether the dance program could be moved to the regular time OWO occurs, being further developed, possibly with the addition of some singing, to become the OWO for this year. There was lengthy discussion resulting in maintaining the Tah-Dance recital as approved and the need to attempt to locate someone willing to take on the fundraiser. This issue will be discussed again at the next meeting.

New Business: Lauren announced that Cheryl submitted her resignation as our bookkeeper effective April 14th. She has stated that she will be available to help us select and train a replacement. We are looking at opportunities to recruit from in-house and or outside of the organization (accountants, CPAs, etc). Everyone’s participation in recruiting the best possible candidate is a priority at this point. The Exec. Committee will be working on this, with Lauren as lead to resolve this matter.

Finance: Lauren reported the need to discuss issues of personnel and finance with the Executive Committee before the budget is finalized (a meeting for this has been scheduled). The Finance Committee has prepared a first draft of the budget 2009/2010 which they are reviewing. If you have input, please bring it forward as soon as possible. Marianne mentioned that the budget cannot be finalized before the slate of shows is set. Alicia explained that this area has been addressed in the past by taking an average of the last 3 years. This is one area where minor adjustments can be made once all the shows are set. Financial statements were passed out. There was one additional payment made on the mortgage this month. Please email Lauren if you have any questions. Rita asked whether ideas for projects to be included in the capital improvement section should be sent to Lauren – yes.

Playreading: Alicia reported that they are scheduling a meeting, and getting closer to the final selection of plays to be presented to the board.

President's Report: The Executive Committee will be meeting next week at Lauren's request.

Staff Report:

General Manager:

1 BOX OFFICE REPORT

- a) Body count for February is 656.

2 OTHER STUFF

- a) Per my report to the general membership last week, this year's sales have stayed in line or above the past year or two despite the economy.
- b) The Henry Flagler performances were very successful and a big hit with our patrons. We brought in a new group of people to the theatre. We sold \$8020 in tickets and netted \$2000.00 plus the sales tax amount on the tickets.
- c) The Florida Keys Watercolor Society reception was again a huge draw. Approximately 180 people were in attendance. We made close to \$300 in concessions and they sold three paintings.
- d) I want to thank all my volunteers who helped with our booth at the Seafood Festival. Reports are it was bigger and better than ever with 15,000-17,000 people in attendance. A special thank you to Paul, Arnie and CJ for the heavy lifting and sweaty transport of booth items. And thank you to George Steinmetz for the use of the tent.
- e) I have *Company* flyers to distribute as well as *Rumors* flyers. Please take a few and put them up wherever possible.
- f) Marianne Motches will be hanging the art in the gallery for the *Rumors* production.
- g) I have the application for the TDC grant in hand and will begin working on that immediately. Also have the Bricks & Mortar grant in hand. The TDC workshop will be meeting here on Monday, March 23 at 10 a.m.
- h) If you turn it on, please turn it off. If you unlock it, please lock it, if you open it, please close it, if you take it out, please put it back, etc. If you are the last one in the playhouse, please check in the cinema to see if Bob or someone is still over there so you know who is responsible for setting the alarm.
- i) Reminder: *Directors/Producers – The schedule book is full almost every day with rehearsals, etc. Please don't forget to consult with the GM and VP of Production in your rehearsal schedules, cast information, meetings, use of rooms etc. Check in with me to make sure we are not duplicating scheduled time slots. And, please be considerate of those who are rehearsing and in meetings, regarding noise and interruptions. Thank you.

As always, if any board member has any questions or concerns – please feel free to contact me directly in the business office at 743-0408 or via email at gm@marathontheater.org. Loretta Geotis, MCT General Manager.

Committee Reports:

Committee reports were abbreviated since most members had left for rehearsal.

VP Production: Above.

Playreading: Above.

Finance: Above.

By-Laws: None.

Stage Committee: None.

Historical: None.

Building: Paul reported that the emergency lights would be tested on the following day. They are expected to be in working order.

Membership: Suzanne mentioned some disappointments about how there were only 25 people attending the General Meeting. Where are all our members? Are there any ideas to bring people in? Alicia mentioned that most people don't join the theater to come to meetings, but to do activities. Claudia mentioned that, as discussed at the board retreat last year, we have gone from member driven to board driven, and some changes (such as the general meeting) might be due. She suggested we might be due for another retreat/workshop. Marianne mentioned the possibility of having a planning meeting for OWO – sometimes simply getting people together will provide the means for conversations, which might become ideas for themes.

General Membership Meetings for 2009
March 11th/ June 3rd/ September 2nd/ December 2nd

Nominating: C.J. reported the same as at the General Meeting. There was some discussion about board size, with the conclusion that the by-laws provide some latitude, which we are well within. Lauren mentioned that maybe we should discuss changing the by-laws requirements for quorum, with a lower quorum necessary for the “in season” times when board members are at rehearsal and cannot be present for all votes.

Cinema: The committee is meeting regularly, with Bob in attendance.

Entertainment: Pat would like to pick a date for the Pampered Palms. June 13th has been suggested, with all in favor.

Props/Costumes: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Above.

Other: None.

Good of the Order: Gail is absent because of her mother's (expected) death. MCT has already sent flowers. "Company" is doing well!

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Rickett, Secretary