

2020-2021
Trumbull New Theatre Annual Corp Meeting
June 29, 2020
M I N U T E S

PRESENT: M. Lucas, L. Bennett, B. Bunker, R. Sinesio, H.K. Bowers, P. Miles, A. Limperos, J. Ewing, D. Nuhfer, R. Nuhfer, P. McGinnis, C. Cassidy, P. Latham, E. Sebben, D. Butler, T. Gilbert, G. Butler, J. Sakonyi, E. Wason

- **Welcome & Call to Order** – The Trumbull New Theatre Annual Corp Meeting was called to order by board president M. Lucas at 7:05 PM.
- **Approval of Agenda** – R. Sinesio moved to accept the agenda, P. Miles seconded. Motion carried
- **Reading / Approval of 2020 Annual Minutes** – L. Bennett moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as posted/signed, B. Bunker seconded. Motion carried.
- **2020-2021 Treasurer’s Report** – L. Bennett reviewed the report from 2020-2021 and asked for questions. There were none.
- **Appointment of Three Members to Approve 2020-2021 Minutes** – P. McGinnis, A. Limperos, and C. Cassidy volunteered to sign and approve the minutes from 2020-2021.
- **Appointment of Four Election Tellers** – B. Bunker, A. Lucas, K. Bowers, and A. Limperos volunteered as election tellers.
- **Nominating Committee Report** – L. Bennett reported that the three nominees for the Board of Trustees are Connie Cassidy, Jim Ewing, and Patience Miles. Their bios were in the most recent Curtain Call. All are longtime members of TNT, and we thank them for their willingness to serve. Art Smallsreed is running for Endowment Committee unopposed for another term. We thank Art as well.
- **Roll Call of Dues Paid Members / Ballot Distribution** – L. Bennett called the roll and the Election Tellers passed out the ballots. L. Bennett called for nominations from the floor. R. Sinesio nominated Patty Latham, who accepted the nomination. T. Gilbert moved that nominations be closed, B. Bunker seconded. Motion carried.
- **Election of Trustees and Nominating Committee** – R. Sinesio volunteered and will assist the Treasurer and the First VP in nominations during the 2021-2022 season.
- **Introduction of New Members** – M. Lucas acknowledged our two new members, who were not present but they are welcome: Hannah Corbett and Anna Granny.

- **Remembrance of Passed Members** – M. Lucas remembered and spoke kindly of the members we have lost this year - Ted Kromer, Susan Cohen, Tom Gent, Tom Shaffer, Agnes Martinko, Lynda Welke, and Brenda Culver.
- **2020-2021 Budget** – L. Bennett called everyone’s attention to the budget in the printed report. She reported that there is a slight change; the board has agreed to pursue package houses, and we will discuss details during the board meeting.
- **Annual Committee Reports** – In the interest of saving paper, reports will be included in the final copy of the Annual Report and will be available online. K. Bowers reported from the floor that the House and Grounds Committee are having a clean up day next weekend
- **Announcement of 2021-2022 Season** - L. Bennett called attention to the playreading committee report and announced our 2021-2022 season.
- **Acknowledgement of Retiring Trustees** – M. Lucas acknowledged T. DeNicholas and K. Lane, who have served the board well. We thank them for their contributions to the theatre.
- **Announcements of Nominating Committee and New Officers** – L. Bennett announced the new board members; they are J. Ewing, P. Latham, and P. Miles. Art Smallsreed was elected by affirmation to serve on the Endowment Committee.
- **President’s Report** - M. Lucas gave her report for the 2020-2021 season, listed below.

Much like for the entire world, the 2020-2021 Season was one full of challenges, nail biting moments, and learning experiences for TNT.

After much thought and restrictions in place, we performed Wait Until Dark and World Goes Round in partnership with the Robins Theatre. In May, the show Looking was brought home to our own stage to wrap up our short season. TNT was the only local theatre performing and thanks to the cooperation of directors, cast, and crew, we were able to accomplish this safely.

Even though there was not the excitement of a full season of shows, there were many things happening behind the scenes. Here are a few of those things:

Following accusations of misconduct within local theatres, a Code of Conduct has been created to clearly inform our actors, crew, and volunteers of the expectations of Trumbull New Theatre. The document is presented by the Board Liaison for the show at the beginning of the rehearsal process and will be signed upon acceptance by each person involved.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds, the TNT Scholarship has been postponed this year but we will resume that award at next year's meeting. We are looking forward to seeing more young people involved in the coming season.

With the increasing cost of, well, everything, we have decided it is necessary to increase the ticket prices for this season by \$3 per ticket with a comparative increase to our season tickets. After much consideration, the Board has also agreed that it is not in the best interest of the theatre to continue offering a Scope Performance. It was brought to our attention that theatre licensing agencies would view what we consider a final dress rehearsal as a regular performance, requiring a payment of royalties. We are disappointed to discontinue this outreach and opportunity for our actors to have a live audience before Opening Night. We plan to revisit this topic this season to see what adjustments can be made.

There are many moving parts to operating a theatre and it could not be done without our many volunteers. Thank you to those of you who donate your time, your money, and your energy into making our theatre great. Many things we notice and recognize, but there are many behind the scenes efforts. Please know your work is appreciated and that we could not exist without you. We are currently looking for incentives for our current and incoming members, if you have any ideas you'd like to see implemented, please bring it to our attention. Continue to invite your friends to the theatre, tell them about auditions, and entice them to set sessions with the promise of donuts. We are nothing without our volunteers and the sense of community and friendship built within these walls and extending into our lives is unmatched.

We are beyond excited for an amazing season of shows with variety from Shakespeare, to familiar classics, to comedies, and an area premiere. Thank you for your support, for sharing your gifts, and your time. We cannot wait to see you all back at the theatre.

- **Open Floor for the Good of the Order** – L. Bennett reported that the one act shows are going well. Three shows are in rehearsal. Our three directors are Andy Pavarnik, Bob Spain, and Josh Crank. The one acts are all original, by Terry Shears, Mike Hill, and Andy Pavarnik. The fourth one act was dropped due to casting issues. The cost will be decided after the membership meeting by the board, but there are no royalties.

L. Bennett also reported that *Clue* auditions went well and she has a cast. This information will be shared with T. Gilbert and put in the Curtain Call. M. Lucas reported that we are having auditions for *Something Rotten* on July 9th-10th.

P. Miles reported that our season is going to be fantastic and thanked Deb Nuhfer for all her help in securing the rights (and moving rights, as the case may be).

L. Bennett reported that we will have one tier for the season ticket holders this year, largely adjusted because of COVID (the refund process was difficult). This may be revisited next year. Also, comp tickets were discussed for cast and crew and the board will decide how to proceed.

Also of note - the ticket prices as discussed will need to be voted on by the board again because they were wrong initially.

- **Adjournment** – B. Bunker moved for adjournment at 7:39 pm, A. Limperos seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes Approved:

Connie Cassidy _____

Ali Limperos _____

Peg McGinnis _____

Signatures on File