

KING'S THEATRE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 7:00pm

MINUTES

Present: The following Board Members were in attendance: John Bottomley, Janet Larkman, Sheila Duggan, Andi Rierden, Jane Borecky, Lawrence Garner, Sharon Moody, Flora Hall, Sue Ashdown, Holly Sanford. In addition, members of the King's Theatre Society were also in attendance, for a total attendance of 35.

Regrets: Wayne Currie

1. Call to Order (John Bottomley, Chair, Board of Directors)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. A welcome was extended to those in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda (Simon Bonnington). **Seconded** (Matt Dubois). **Motion carried.**

3. Minutes of Proceedings of King's Theatre Society Annual General Meeting, March 27, 2017, for the year ending December 2016. These Minutes were approved at the Board meeting on April 18, 2017.

4. Business Arising from Minutes

None

5. Minutes of Proceedings for 2017 AGM

Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2017 AGM at the first subsequent Board meeting. (Susan Bonnington). **Seconded** (Matt Dubois). **Motion carried.**

6. Report of the Chair (John Bottomley)

The year 2017 was one of change and development. In order for this to happen, many factors were involved.

Thanks were extended to Community members who acted as patrons, donors, sponsors, volunteers and as members of the Board and its Committees. Without this help, the Theatre would not be in such a positive position.

The staff deserve great credit for the manner in which they embraced the many changes in both personnel and approaches that characterized the year. They rose to the challenges.

Our volunteers continue to provide vital services in a pleasant, positive manner.

Peter Mansour deserves special mention for the countless hours he dedicated to developing and maintaining King's Facebook presence. Facebook plays a vital role in helping the Board move towards the achievement of our strategic goals.

New staff: A new General Manager, Janet Larkman, was appointed in March. She had been acting in this position since December 2016. She has already put her stamp on the operations of the theatre. There have been significant changes in staffing that posed both challenges and opportunities. A team of individuals was developed to fill the roles of house manager, sound and light technician, projectionist and box office manager. At least two individuals are now trained to fill each of these roles.

Attendance is up! Nearly 16,000 seats were sold – up 77% over 2016. Average attendance at live shows is 60% of capacity – for all shows it is 50% of capacity.

Revenues are up! Total revenues were almost \$375,000. Up 50% over 2016. Operating revenues were over \$253,000 – up 62% over 2016! Despite the significant increase in revenue generated by ticket sales, the theatre is still dependent on fundraising and sponsorships .

Fundraising, Memberships and Sponsorships are all up: The Tournament of Kings was a great success; Memberships more than doubled over 2016 (Thanks Flora!); We have enjoyed great support from local businesses. Home Hardware is a major sponsor. Hutchin's Pharmasave sponsors the concert for the Tournament of King's weekend.

We have great community partners whose successes add to the bottom line at King's Theatre: The Annapolis District Drama Group, King's Shorts, The King's Theatre Foundation, the King's Film Society and The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal. Their successes help our bottom line.

The 2016 Strategic Plan called for King's to consciously work with local communities which have not historically been closely involved with the Theatre. Live Shows and Fundraisers (Susan Crowe and Friends) have had content that encouraged members of both the Mi'kmaq and Afro-nova-scotian communities to participate and to perform. Special presentations were made for AWEC students thanks to funding from AIRO and Bill and Nancy Smith. Reel-art cooperation with ARCAC continues. \$7,000 (plus many food donations) was raised for the Food Bank by two events: a Benefit Concert put on by the O'Brian family and a simulcast of the play "*Fortune*".

Numerous upgrades have occurred during the year. The ceiling is now insulated for the first time! This has had beneficial results both in terms of patron comfort and size of our utility bills.

Velma's was renovated and dedicated to the memory of this "spirit" of the Theatre.

7. Report of the Theatre Manager (Janet Larkman)

The format for this report included an informative and entertaining slide show. This was an attempt (very successful according to feedback at our gathering in the Lobby directly after the AGM!) to make the presentation more interesting to all present. The Report of both the Chair and the Theatre Manager included highlights from each of the standing committees and Associated Groups, whose reports are attached and are also on the Website for all to view at their leisure.

The Theatre Manager expressed the fact that she was enjoying working with the staff and the Board as well as interacting with patrons.

In 2017 the Theatre was open for 145 events, an average of 2.78 events per week. An increase of 32% over 2016. There were 56 Live Performances and 89 Film Screenings.

Attendance was up 75% over 2016 and 46% over the average for the previous five years.

Average attendance at all events in 2017 was approximately 109 compared to 81 in 2016.

Highlights from the Live Shows and Films were presented by a Slide Show. Special thanks were extended to The Annapolis District Drama Group, the King's Shorts Festival of Ten Minute Plays, and The O'Brien Family, all of whom provided first-rate entertainment and raised funds for the Theatre as well as for the Food Bank. The King's Theatre Foundation has also provided money to kick-start specific campaigns and has transferred to the Theatre a percentage of money derived from growing investment income, as determined by Foundation Board Members in accordance with regulatory requirements.

The new schedule for the rest of the year was unveiled. It includes such highlights as:

Carry the Lost, Don't Dress for Dinner, Hamlet, Rawlins Cross, a Neil Diamond Tribute by Jay White, Xara:Rise, Theresa Malenfort, King's Shorts, Paul O'Brien, Steven Page and Kevin Fox, Susan Crowe, David Myles (Golf Tournament Concert), Teresa Malenfort & John Campbell John, Jim Cuddy Trio, Leahy, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Coco Love Alcorn and more! Check our Playbill!

Thanks are extended to our Government partners; both Municipal, Provincial and Federal.

Our Business Partners are also thanked. Many of these partnerships helped support the entire Canada 150 Program and enabled access to such incredible performers. These partners include Home Hardware, Guardian Hutchins Pharmacy, Scotia Bank, Armstrong Law, Fairway Insurance, The Bailey House Bed and Breakfast, Tradewinds Realty, Searidge Foundation, Old Town Pub, Assante.

Special Project Sponsors include King's Theatre Foundation, Bill and Nancy Smith and many others who are mentioned in the handout.

The many volunteers (41 Adult volunteers, 8 Student volunteers) were thanked, as was special volunteer, Corinne Frantel. Corinne is a 30 year Volunteer at the Theatre! The volunteers who provide food for Special Events and those who work to make the Tournament of King's such a successful event were also thanked.

8. Financial Reports (Val Stackhouse)

Lawrence Garner on behalf of Val Stackhouse

8.1 Report of the Treasurer

8.2 Audited Statement of Financial Position, December 31, 2017

These documents were presented to the membership. There was a question from Lesley Crysler regarding Canada 150 funds. This was addressed by explaining that the funds for Canada show up as Grants, not as Earned Revenue. Matt Dubois requested that the Film Society Restricted Funds be entered as a separate line item.

Motion to accept the Audited Statement of Financial Position, December, 2017. (Matt Dubois)

Seconded. (Bill Smith) . **Motion Carried.**

8.3 **Motion** that Morse Brewster be appointed as the auditor for 2018. (Simon Bonnington)

Seconded. (Matt Dubois) **Motion Carried.**

8.4 Budget for the year ending December 31, 2018.

9. Reports of Standing Committees

These reports are posted on our website and the main points were highlighted by the Chair and General Manager in their reports.

9.1 Facilities (Wayne Currie)

ACOA Funding has ended as exterior, interior and technical upgrades have been made to the Theatre.

9.2 Fundraising (Sharon Moody, Chair)

9.3 Governance (John Bottomley, Chair)

9.4 Human Resources (Sharon Moody, Chair)

9.5 Membership (Flora Hall, Chair)

9.6 Marketing & Programming (Sheila Duggan, Lawrence Garner, Co-Chairs)

9.7 Nomination (Andi Rierden, Chair)

9.8 Outreach (Wayne Currie, Chair)

9.9 Special Events (Sue Ashdown, Chair)

9.10 Tournament of King's (Roy Stagg, Chair)

9.11 Volunteers (Sue Ashdown, Chair)

10. Reports of Associated Groups

These reports are also posted on our website. There were, however, two oral reports.

10.1 Annapolis District Drama Group (Wayne Currie, Chair)

10.2 King's Film Society (Andi Rierden, Matt Dubois, Co-Chairs)

In 2017, the KFS celebrated its 25th year of presenting high-quality films to audiences in the Annapolis Royal area. This began in 1992 with the 35mm screening of *Truly, Madly, Deeply* with Alan Rickman and Juliet Stevenson. The People's Choice Film for 2017 was *Wierdos*.

The journey has seen many changes as the age of digital projection was ushered in. (2012) This past fall saw partnerships formed with ARCAC and the Town of Annapolis Royal.

The revenues of King's Film Society totalled \$37,620.

10.3 King's Shorts Festival of Ten Minute Plays (Verilea Ellis, Chair)

10.4 King's Theatre Foundation (Suzan Hebditch, President)

The *King's Theatre Foundation* was established in 1995 for the purpose of creating an endowment - an investment fund - which would address the future financial stability of the theatre. The capital fund created by gifts to the *Foundation* ordinarily cannot be distributed and must be held for long-term growth, unless otherwise specified by donors and consistent with regulations and *Foundation* by-laws. A contribution out of the fund's growing funds, derived from investment income, is given to the Theatre each year.

To that end, the *Foundation* has been in a position to offer: a kick-start, matching campaign for the digital projection equipment; the purchase of simulcast software that allows for Stage-to-Screen events and the Metropolitan Opera performances; a matching opportunity that saw the purchase and installation of heat pumps in the Theatre; and most recently in 2017, funding for the renovation of the Concession area, which was renamed in honour of Velma Keevill.

At year-end, the Foundation's net assets amount to \$212,503. You are encouraged to consider the Foundation in your will and/or your planned giving. In this way you contribute to the long-term viability of King's Theatre.

11.0 New Business

1.1 Election of Directors for 2018

The following people offered to serve on the Board and were nominated to serve for an initial two-year term:

Keith Crysler
Diane Clapp
Lois King
Ernie Cassidy

Other nominations were called for from the floor three times. As no one came forward, the nominees were put forward to serve on the board.

Motion to accept the proposed slate of officers to serve on the King's Theatre Society Board of Director's (Matt Dubois) **Seconded**.(Bill Smith) **Motion Carried**.

The retiring Board members, Sue Ashdown, Val Stackhouse, and John Bottomley were thanked for their service and the new members were welcomed to the Board.

12.0 Discussion

The expanding area from which the Theatre was drawing its increasing number of patrons (Canning, Bridgewater, Yarmouth) was discussed and Simon Bonnington asked if this was due to the Canada 150 Program. It was suggested that the Canada 150 may have been partly responsible for this, but that the incredible increase in new members included many who had never been in the Theatre, those who were returning after a lengthy absence and those from diverse groups to whom our programming was speaking.

13.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. (Matt Dubois)

Following adjournment, the membership was invited to the lobby for refreshments and conversation.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Moody
Secretary
King's Theatre Society Board of Directors