

STAGE-M General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2019
9:00AM

Present: Aaron W., Sarah K., Jerena K., Diane N., Larry M., Chris L., Emily A., Philip H., Lisa B., Gordon M.

Absent: Laura T.

- I. Call to Order at 9:00 am
- II. Approval of 03/09/2019 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Approved
- III. President's Report/Correspondence
 - A. Thank you note from St. Peter's for donation to their fundraiser
 - B. College of Pharmacy is looking for actors to be standardized patients
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Balance \$26,034.25
 - B. Good transition to Quickbooks
 - C. Income taxes are being done by Kyle Marr
 - D. Working on getting STAGE-M credit card
 - E. Continuing to get donations and ads
 - F. Will move other CD into Edward Jones account as soon as we can
- V. Constitution/Bylaws Review
 - A. No report
- VI. Standing Committee Reports:
 - A. Budget Committee – Philip Himebaugh (TABLED until December)
 - B. Education Committee – Chris Lamar
 - a. Sent out scholarship information about a week ago to MOISD. Have not heard back from anyone yet. Applications should be mailed to STAGE-M address.
 - b. Middle school students can apply for fine arts camp scholarship

- c. Due date is April 19th, Big Rapids HS has awards ceremony in early May
 - i. Will this be enough time? Yes, it should be enough time to put the name on certificate.
- d. Senior scholarship should be awarded to someone who has theatre in mind after graduation.

C. Election Committee – Gordon Mallett (TABLED)

D. Facilities Committee – Jon Taylor

- a. Jon is picking up truck for strike tomorrow.
- b. Priced new locks for scene shop, should be ready in next month. We are going to electronic keypad locks with 4-6 digit codes.
- c. Chris L. is addressing water situation.

E. Fundraising Committee – Sarah Kirby

- a. We need a committee!
 - i. Chris and Aaron are interested. Diane can help with ads.
- b. Sarah would like to do a Carol Burnett style variety show for a fundraiser this fall – set up as Gala/Dinner Theatre event
 - i. Silent auction

F. Membership Committee – Lisa Bondarenko

- a. Aaron and Lisa need to meet. No report.

G. Program Selection – Laura Taylor

- a. Laura absent, Aaron reported. We have a new actor in The Hollow, Morgan LaVere, who has directed several shows. He is very interested in directing Agnes of God. Currently Aaron is slated to direct. Lisa made motion to have Morgan direct Agnes of God. Emily seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Will announcement next season with new membership/season tickets system. Plan to announce next month.

H. Publicity Committee – Aaron Wilkinson

- a. Issues with printing program covers. They are ready now.
- b. Issues with TIXX line.
 - i. Millie is burnt out from TIXX lines. Does not want to do it next season. We pay ~\$800 a year for the phone. Can we eliminate TIXX lines and increase ticket sales either online or through stores – including Artworks who can take phone sales and credit card sales.

1. Sarah motioned to get rid of TIXX line. Emily seconded. We need to make sure we advertise this well so people know we are phasing this out. Message on TIXX line stating that after Little Shop we will not be doing this any more. Friendly amendment: Sarah changed motioned that we begin to phase out TIXX line through the end of this season and will not be available for the 2019-2020 season. Emily seconded. We will place announcement in our membership letter. The majority of people who use TIXX line are members. Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Online sales are increasing by show, right now ~30% of our sales are from online. Visitor's Bureau hasn't sold a ticket (it is a new venue), but they publicize us well. TIXX line sales are really down.
 1. Next season – members/season ticket holders will receive unique coupon code for online ticket sales to get the discount.
 - iii. Website traffic is way up. Facebook traffic is way up.
- I. Newsletters will resume with Little Shop. Jerena has very graciously volunteered to pick up newsletters from copy center and take newsletters to post office.
- a. Article about season ticket/membership change to go in next newsletter
 - b. TIXX line announcement

VII. Old Business:

A. The Hollow – Aaron Wilkinson

- a. Is in production. Attendance has been low, 61 both nights (Friday/Saturday). We are tracking types of tickets sold at each venue.
- b. Audiences seems to be enjoying the show.
- c. Strike is Sunday.

B. Little Shop of Horrors – Philip Himebaugh

- a. Reached out to MTI about Audrey II puppet rentals. Have not heard anything yet.
- b. Auditions are May 17th/18th (Friday/Saturday evening) at 6 PM in basement of church.
- c. Will have production meeting after The Hollow.
- d. Still need rehearsal pianist. Jeanna is on the case.
- e. Seems to be a lot of excitement around the show.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Aaron gave his work schedule for the rest of the Saturdays.

- B. Would like to re-form Production Bylaws Committee
 - a. Re-form Production rules
 - b. Establish set salaries for staff positions
 - c. Committee to establish director/staff guidelines and responsibilities
 - i. Emily, Philip, Gordon, Jerena, and Sarah will be on committee.
 - ii. Aaron will chair committee.

IX. Adjournment at 9:54 am