

**WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

DATE: Wednesday, August 10, 2011
TIME: Noon
LOCATION: Wheeler Second Floor Lobby
PRESENT: Board Members: Ron Erickson, Chairperson
Brian O'Neil, Vice Chairperson
Richard Cohen
Bruce Fretz
Tom Kurt
Luke Seamans

Absent: Matthew Loden, Ex-Officio

Guests: Jeff Pendarvis, City Asset Manager
Steve Bossart, City Asset Manager

Staff: Gram Slaton, Executive Director
Heather Larson, Sr. Manager – Operations
Lauren Pierce, Marketing Coordinator

RECORDED BY: Lauren Pierce, Marketing Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Erickson called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

II. APPROVAL OF July 13, 2011 MINUTES

Erickson called for the motion to approve the minutes of July 13, 2011. Fretz called for the motion to approve the minutes; Cohen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board reviewed the Financial Report for July 2011. Slaton pointed out to the Board that the revenues have been low, which is expected during the construction.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The third MountainSummit: Mountainfilm In Aspen festival is being cited by Aspen Barbeque event producer John Speers as the reason why his event cannot take place, which is unfair. Mr. Speers was given a number of options by the Special Events Committee for relocating his event but declined to accept any of them. The reason that we could not approve his event as written was because it had been relocated since the application was filed, and would have encroached on the Wheeler as close as the south side of the intersection of Hyman and Monarch, including periodic live bands and open-pit barbeque smoke. We felt that would have been unnecessarily detrimental to our festival and voiced that concern; however, to say that the Wheeler is to blame for the event's cancellation is remarkably convenient and does not accept a number of common responsibilities associated with Special Event production.

- The Wheeler's Operations Manager position, which Heather Larson will be leaving on September 14, has received about 120 applications, over 90 of which were passed along as meeting minimum qualifications. Out of that 90, I found 21 that I felt were possible good fits for the Wheeler and Aspen, and last Friday we began the pre-interview process with a preferred nine from that 21. We expect to have the process concluded by the end of this month, and maintain a target for having someone aboard by the end of September at the latest.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Election of Board Officers for 2011

Fretz nominated Ron Erikson to remain serving as Board President. Fretz also nominated Brian O'Neil as Vice President and Richard Cohen as Secretary. The Board unanimously agreed to the nominations, voting them into office. The positions will be held through the calendar year.

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on Basement/First Floor Remodel

Bossart expressed the City Asset Management is pleased with the team members and how the project is progressing. Phase one has come in under budget. City Council approved the release of the remaining funds for the project. Many allowances were undecided at the time of the initial request, such as the money needed to fix the sloping sidewalk around the building that causes water damage to the basement. The constructors are working towards a December 1st deadline.

Update on Direction from City Council

- City Council had its annual retreat on July 26 and 27, out of which the Wheeler was assigned a goal of completing a comprehensive review of its operation and present (and anticipated future) subsidy levels, for Council's input and re-establishment of appropriate subsidy levels. This directive basically takes the work that we were already doing and torques it slightly to be an even more comprehensive and stand-alone document for future Councils as well as Wheeler Executive Directors.
- Ahead of the Council retreat, Ron, Richie, and Gram met with new City Councilman Adam Frisch to review the 20-year long-range plan, which is already obsolete. Many thanks to Ron and Richie for conveying our mission and story so well.
- Wheeler staff is targeting sometime in November to go before City Council with this assignment, which will take up a good portion of at least one work session. The idea is to get the annual budget meetings and approvals out of the way, and find a more quiet time with Council before we reach the end of the year. It will be important to present a unified front and further diffuse this portrayal that is being born out in the media that the Wheeler Executive Director is acting as some kind of rogue agent without proper authority or controls, as well as to assert that the direction the Wheeler has pursued since my arrival has been not only the direction from City Council in 2005 but also one that this board supports.

VII. MEMBERS COMMENTS

None

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

IX. OLD BUSINESS UPDATE

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Erickson called for a motion to adjourn. Fretz made the motion to adjourn, and Cohen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2011, IN THE WHEELER SECOND FLOOR LOBBY.