

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

DATE: Wednesday, May 11, 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  
Rose Bennett, Sr. Manager - Finance  
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 APRIL 13, 2010 MINUTES**

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

**III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board reviewed the Financial Report for April 2011. No concerns were expressed.

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

- The Wheeler has completed its move into the basement of the Aspen Daily News building, a week in advance of the May 15 deadline. Staff used the occasion to also do a comprehensive clean-out of equipment and materials that had been accrued over 27 years, not only in the basement but in all areas of the Wheeler including the plenum over the audience chamber.
- Tuesday, May 24, from 5pm to 7pm, the Wheeler will host ACRA's monthly networking event, and you are all welcome to attend. Lauren Pierce will give you more detail on this.
- We believe that we have struck a deal with Bentley's so that they will be out of the Wheeler as of Tuesday, June 7, at 5pm. Our understanding is that Valley Fine Art has expressed a similar interest in being out early, and may accept this same day or

slightly after (to take advantage of Food & Wine). This would allow the demolition team to move directly from the Wheeler basement to the lease spaces and further advance our construction schedule.

**V. ACTION ITEMS**

Election of Board Officers for 2011

This item was continued to the July 13th meeting.

**VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Discussion with Michele Kiley – Fiercely Local*

Kiley regretfully confused the dates and did not show up to present to the Board.

*Update on Basement/First Floor Remodel*

Bossart expressed the City Asset Management is pleased with the team members and how the project is progressing. City Council approved an initial expenditure of the \$2 million renovation of the Wheeler Opera House for demolition work that will better inform the final cost of the project. The only delay has been in the selection of the restaurant space lease. In turn, this caused a delay in the architects drawing of the restaurant space.

Slaton pointed out to the Board that, as presented projected, the Wheeler is currently over the \$2 million budget for the remodel. Over 25% is for the HVAC work alone. Slaton would like to see the project back under the \$2 million budget before returning to Council.

Cohen expressed his concern for the structure of the building, recalling the 1984 remodel. During the work to the roof of the Wheeler the east facing wall bowed. Slaton reassured Cohen by reminding the Board of the 1999 and 2006 Structural Analysis. Pendarvis also reassured Cohen and the Board and explained that they plan on having a structural engineer present through the entire project.

**VII. MEMBERS COMMENTS**

None

**VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None

**IX. OLD BUSINESS UPDATE**

None

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Seamans request that the Wheeler premier a new film; Seamans could not recall the title. The film could be a benefit for the Chris Klug Foundation and speak directly to high school athletes. Seamans will discuss this further with Slaton.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Erickson called for a motion to adjourn. O'Neil made the motion to adjourn, and Seamans seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm.

**THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011, IN THE WHEELER SECOND FLOOR LOBBY.**