

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

DATE: Wednesday, November 16, 2011
TIME: Noon
LOCATION: Wheeler Chorus Dressing Room
PRESENT: Board Members: Ron Erickson, Chairperson
Brian O'Neil, Vice Chairperson
Richard Cohen
Bruce Fretz
Tom Kurt
Richard Stettner

Absent: Matthew Loden, Ex-Officio
Luke Seamans

Guests: Randy Ready, Assistant City Manager
Steve Bossart, City Asset Manager

Staff: Gram Slaton, Executive Director
Amy Kaiser, Sr. Manager – Operations
Lauren Pierce, Marketing Coordinator
Rose Bennett, Sr. Manager- Finance

RECORDED BY: Lauren Pierce, Marketing Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Erickson called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

II. APPROVAL OF October 12, 2011 MINUTES

Erickson called for the motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2011. Fretz called for the motion to approve the minutes after a few minutes of review; O'Neil seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board reviewed the Financial Report for October 2011. Bennett pointed out that October was a very slow month in terms of events, which is reflected in the report. Slaton mentioned the RETT did well in October, bringing monies into the Wheeler. When asked if City Council is going to focus on the Wheeler, Slaton explained that City Council has named the Wheeler one of their top ten goals for the year and they will be looking at the Wheeler in January.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Slaton took a minute to introduce Richard Stettner, the new Board member as of this past Monday night. Richard is the general manager for the Limelight Lodge and has already shown a great curiosity and positive interest in the Wheeler. Slaton is sure that he will be a great asset for us, both as a board member and as a member of the business community with the vision to integrate the Wheeler into a substantial partnership role.

- Ticket sales have been good through the initial push of the October on-sale. The stand-out sellers right now are the Trombone Shorty performance on December 27, and Yes vocalist Jon Anderson on February 4.
- The second Aspen Laff Festival is set and secured, running February 22 – 25. Sirius XM will be returning as a radio sponsor, broadcasting live nationally throughout the festival. We are also in discussions now with Fathom Entertainment about a video recording for pay-per-view distribution. Clearly, people like what we're able to create here at the Wheeler and want to be a part of it. Now we just have to get the local community to support it!
- The Wheeler is using November as a month to give staff extended downtime as the Wheeler remodel is closed up, and even Slaton will be taking a vacation at the end of the month for nine days. This has been a much-appreciated break and he believes the downtime couldn't have been planned better, as this has been the least-populated November he can remember in the seven Novembers here. The Wheeler should be able to charge into a very busy December in good running order, pending any stress or complications from the move back in to the building.

Cohen asked Slaton for an update on the status of the restaurant space of the remodel. Slaton explained that there is concern that the selected restaurant vendor may be resistant to better incorporate the Wheeler as a parent architectural entity into its design, as was expected of the vendor selected through the RFP process and subsequent interviews.

V. ACTION ITEMS

None scheduled

VI. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on Basement/First Floor Remodel

Bossart was happy to tell the board that the remodel is on time and under budget. He believes that this is due to the fantastic teamwork and communication of all the parties working on the project. Bossart explained that the staff will be moving back into the building on November 28, 2011. The construction team will be handing over the gallery space to the tenant in a day or so. The ADA lift in the restaurant space has been shipped and is on its way. The construction team will be pouring the concrete of the front stairs to the restaurant space on Thursday, November 17, 2011.

VII. MEMBERS COMMENTS

None

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

IX. OLD BUSINESS UPDATE

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Following a tour of the First Floor/Basement Remodel, Erickson called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012, IN THE WHEELER SECOND FLOOR LOBBY.