

Community Players of Salisbury
BOARD MEETING
January 5, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Dasher, presiding, Kate Adkins, David Allen, Sammy Barnes, Bobbie Calloway, Charlie Linton, Darrell Mullins, Rusty Mumford, Kel Nagel, Tom Robinson, Shelbie Thompson

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jake Brittingham, Cass Dasher, Gary Finley, Debbie Nagel, Susan Robinson

GUESTS PRESENT: Betsy Metzger, Jessica Windsor

NOTE: Some of the names listed above were not on the sign-in sheet but in the Recording Secretary's memory, were present. If that is inaccurate, or if someone was inadvertently left off, apologies.

President Dasher called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Rusty Mumford/Tom Robinson moved to approve minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting. Motion passed

Treasurer's report was accepted as distributed.

President's Report: President Dasher reported as follows:

- Received an E-Mail from Matt Hatfield who has decided to step down from the CPOS Board and his position as Publicity Committee Chair. President Dasher thanked Matt for his service. The remainder of Matt's term is through the end of June, 2022. That committee will be discussed as part of New Business.

Committee Reports

- Facilities: No Report
- Grants:
 - Gary Finley reported as follows:
 - We received a grant of \$3,500 from the Maryland State Arts Council. The grant is considered a "Creativity Grant." Gary contacted the State Arts Council and asking for clarification as to what these grant funds can be used.
 - MSAC replied that grant funds can be used for general operating expenses, show-related expenses, administrative expenses, artist fees, materials/supplies and rent. Grant funds cannot be used for expenses such as re-granting, capital expenses, scholarships, political contributions, etc...
 - We are in the queue for an "Organizational" grant and are waiting to hear about that.
 - Invited MSAC representatives to a performance of "The 25th Annual Spelling Bee."
 - MSAC would like to interview us as part of that application process. He has members who have already volunteered; we are to let Gary know if anyone else wants to be involved.
 - In applying for grants, we should continue to work on diversifying our audiences by providing free tickets to ethnic groups.
 - Charlie Linton reported that we have received a \$200.00 "community needs" grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. The grant was requested by Foundation Staff Member, and CPOS Board Member, Shelbie Thompson.
- Lifetime Achievement Award: No Report
- Membership: Cass Dasher is processing applications.
- Newsletter: Rusty Mumford reminded us that the deadline for submitting newsletter content is the 15th of each month
- Nominating: No Report
- Patrons: Kel Nagel reported as follows:
 - We have 2-3 new patrons

- 5-6 patrons have requested codes for upcoming productions
- Production: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:
 - 12 plays and 6 musicals have been submitted
 - Director's Pitch Meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 2:00 pm. Board Members should attend.
- Publicity: As Interim Committee Chair, Shelbie Thompson reported that posters, billboards and messages to media outlets are being developed for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."
- Scholarship: Melissa Dasher, on behalf of committee chair, Lynne Bratten, reported as follows:
 - As of January 2, 2022, scholarship application materials have been distributed to schools.
 - The application deadline is March 12
 - Sent information to Rusty Mumford for upcoming newsletter.
- Social Media: Shelbie Thompson reported as follows:
 - Things are going well for "Spelling Bee." There have been consistent Facebook posts with head shot and rehearsal photos.
 - Working on publicizing auditions for "Senior Follies."
 - Overall, engagement levels were low in December. Should be higher in January.
 - The primary platforms we are using are Facebook and Instagram.
- Tickets/Season Tickets: Rusty Mumford reported as follows:
 - 57 tickets have been sold for "Spelling Bee."
 - 23 Patron's tickets have been claimed.
 - We should consider opening the Box Office at Nutters one evening per week during rehearsals.
 - The ticket form is in the upcoming newsletter.
 - Perhaps we should consider going back to mailing ticket forms.

Old Business

- "Spelling Bee":
 - Jake Brittingham (Director) and Shelbie Thompson (Producer) reported as follows"
 - The show is going very well.
 - Covid has become an issue as currently 6 members of the cast have tested positive. Concerned that Covid will spike during the week of the show.
 - Concerned that Wor-Wic may not allow us to perform during a Covid spike. As of today, Wor-Wic is not planning to close.
 - Perhaps we should consider alternative venues?
 - We are currently 2 ½ weeks from tech week.
 - Contacted MTI to inquire about streaming rights; streaming rights are not available. However, MTI is willing to reschedule performance dates.
 - Recommend that we consider pushing performance dates.
 - Let's proceed and see what happens.
 - Decision deadline is January 15th
 - Check with Wor-Wic to see if we can change performance dates if we decide to postpone.
 - Kel Nagel commented that we our agreement with Wor-Wic that during performances the audience must be socially distanced.
 - Rusty Mumford commented that we have to be careful in rescheduling performance dates. We should not lose "Senior Follies" in the process.
 - Debby Nagel questioned whether or not we could do the show in our facility.
- The "Twain Show": Melissa Dasher shared an email from Matt Bogdan reporting as follows:
 - Auditions will be held on Thursday and Saturday of this week.
 - Some venues are already booked.
- Diversity Statement: Melissa Dasher shared the suggested revised diversity statement as follows:

- Community Players is committed to celebrating an inclusive culture of creativity by welcoming actors, technicians, designers, musicians, and production team members from varied backgrounds with regards to race, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, physical & mental ability, and religious & political beliefs.
- Kel Nagel moved and Tom Robinson seconded that we accept the revised statement. Motion passed.
- Usher Badges: Debbie Nagel has contacted Minute Man Press regarding a price for new usher badges. She is waiting for them to get back to her with a price. Melissa Dasher reported that she had contacted EtchArt. They can do badges for \$11.00 each. In addition, they are willing to barter for a program ad.
- Other Old Business: Charlie Linton clarified information regarding matching funds during "Giving Tuesday."

New Business

- Board Appointment: Melissa Dasher shared an email from Sharon Benchoff who moved that Cass Dasher be appointed to complete the Board term vacated by Matt Hatfield. Tom Robinson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Musician Fees: Darrell Mullins expressed concern that recruiting musicians has become very challenging and wondered if the stipend we pay is adequate. This problem impacted "All Together Now" and "Spelling Bee," which still does not have a musical director. Suggested that we perhaps should increase stipends.
 - Charlie Linton clarified that our current stipends, for musicians only, is \$75.00 per performance as well as for Player's Night.
 - Jake Brittingham suggested that if a production requires more than we currently pay, the director should include that budget in the Director's Pitch to the Production Committee.
 - Susan Robinson emphasized that we should pay all musicians the same rate. In addition, she suggested that the rehearsal accompanist should also be the musical director. She further questioned whether or not it was fair for a musician to have to commit so far in advance of the production.
 - Melissa Dasher suggested we find out what other area groups are paying musicians.
 - Shelby Thompson moved and Kate Atkins seconded the motion that we increase the stipend to \$100 per musician. After considerable discussion, the motion was amended as follows: "Directors should negotiate with musicians and if a higher stipend is needed, the director should bring that request to the Board." The amended motion was moved by Shelby Thompson and seconded by Bobbie Calloway. Motion passed.
- Senior Follies: Melissa Dasher read an email from Sharon Benchoff with the following:
 - Auditions have been announced.
 - Pete Cuesta will serve as Producer.
- 85th Season Fundraiser/Concert: Shelby Thompson suggested that we produce a "Thank You" concert consisting of songs from shows we have done throughout the years. She likes this idea but is not able to lead that project.
 - Rusty Mumford suggested that we stage the concert at our facility as a benefit for members and then at another venue as a fundraiser. He is willing to direct the concert if another person will serve as co-director. Anyone interested should contact Rusty.
 - Melissa Dasher suggested that we invite former cast members. Also, perhaps we should consider waiting until the summer.

Other New Business

- We received a letter from Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis who responded to a letter sent praising Deputy First Class Jennifer Hall for her valuable assistance during our November production of "Noises Off." Sheriff Lewis commented that Deputy Hall is a valued member of the agency. He further commented that she, and her supervisor, received a copy of the letter. Further, the letter will be placed in her personnel file.
- Bobbie Calloway commented that we should start focusing our grants on making our facility a true performance venue. Tom Robinson responded that there is a plan in the works to accomplish that goal.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm. Submitted by Darrell Mullins, Recording Secretary.